

## **ABSTRACTS:**

Allen, David. "‘With a Bible in My Hand’: The Preaching Legacy of W. A. Criswell." *CTR*, 2003, N.S. 1(1):3-17.

Gives a brief biographical sketch of W. A. Criswell (1909-2002), long-time pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, followed by analysis of his preaching style and legacy. Criswell's legacy is five-fold: emphasis on study time in the morning for pastors, preaching without notes, the expository method of preaching, premillennialism, and an unswerving commitment to the inerrancy of the Bible. ADS

Patterson, Paige. "The Imponderables of God." *CTR*, 2003, N.S. 1(1):19-36.

Surveys the life of W. A. Criswell in the areas of personal characteristics, contribution in preaching and theology, churchmanship, premillennialism, education, media, denominational service, community service. Concludes with narrative of Criswell's last decade and a detailed timeline of important events in his life. ADS

Wells, C. Richard. "W. A. Criswell: A Modern Athanasius." *CTR*, 2003, N.S. 1(1):37-47.

There are many parallels between the ministries of W. A. Criswell and Athanasius. Both men of action, Athanasius defended the deity of Christ at Nicea in the fourth century and Criswell fiercely defended the inerrancy of the Bible in the twentieth. Both were apologists for the faith, pastoral yet scholarly, leaders among the defenders of the faith. History should remember Criswell as a modern-day Athanasius. ADS

Caner, Ergun Mehmet. "The Mourner's Bench: The Call to Decision by Dr. W. A. Criswell." *CTR*, 2003, N.S. 1(1): 49-55.

The exhortation to decision was essential to Criswell's homiletical and evangelistic method. This is a result of his belief that preaching, ministry, and evangelism are for the purpose of calling men and women to a relationship with Jesus. The Sandy Creek tradition, of which Criswell was a part, included vibrant music, passionate preaching, and a call to surrender to Jesus. ADS

Cooper, Lamar E., Sr. "Pathos, Ethos and Logos: The Preaching of W. A. Criswell." *CTR*, 2003, N.S. 1(1):57-70.

Criswell (1909-2002) was the pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas for over fifty years. He grew up in a small town in Texas but early on dedicated himself to study and preaching. His pathos was seen in his preaching style, pastoral practices, and prayer life. The ethos of his ministry was his courageous stand on the inerrancy of the Bible. He published numerous books of topical and expository sermons, in addition to his Criswell's Guidebook for Pastors, The Criswell Study Bible and Why I Preach That the Bible is Literally True. ADS

Garner, Rick. "The Rhetoric of W. A. Criswell: Implications for Preaching." *CTR*, 2003, N.S. 1(1):71-82.

Preaching's fundamental assumptions changed during the ministry of Dr. Criswell. For centuries, homileticians were taught that the logical presentation of biblical facts, augmented with argumentation and rhetorical devices, would suffice for Christian preaching. Recent developments in communication theory have moved many away from this rhetorical model. The emphasis is now on drawing the audience in and identifying with them. Evangelicals must reevaluate their preference for preaching in the classical rhetorical style and realize that it is not the style of speaking that matters but that the scriptures are expounded. ADS

Bates, M. Todd. "Logic and Argumentation in Homiletics." *CTR*, 2003, N.S. 1(1):83-93.

All preachers use logic and argumentation in their sermons, either intentionally or unintentionally. Sermons would be much more persuasive if the preacher were able to use argumentation and logic well. Jesus used them well in his disputes with Pharisees, and the pastor must be able to understand Jesus' argument in order to communicate it to the people. The preacher also must use argumentation and logic well as he presents the scriptural message by structuring the sermon logically, anticipating rebuttals, and determining a logical application for the passage. ADS