

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Valley Forge Christian College Branch Campus
Phoenixville, PA
January 23-24, February 27-28, March 19-20, 2004

HOMB 531 METHODS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING
(3 Credits)

Dr. Ronald S. Hall

Spring 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An emphasis on the nature, method, variety and importance of preaching from the Bible. Emphasis will be placed on the practical implementation of theory by requiring full development of a series of sermons.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following objectives will govern the focus of this class for pre-session, session and post session work:

1. Strengthen one's foundation concerning the priority of biblical preaching through responsible use of Scriptures.
2. Solidify one's theology of preaching.
3. The student will be engaged with the use of tools and methods in sermon preparation and delivery, with the purpose increasing effectiveness.
4. Analyze current preparation and preaching practices on the part of the student and set a specific course to enrich and expand those approaches.
5. Extensive practice both in the class sessions and outside of class sessions to responsibly handle various genres and relate them more effectively in our contemporary culture.
6. To observe and evaluate effective and ineffective preaching of others.
7. In session preaching by the student to apply the skills and tools be acquired.
8. To equip the student to develop series sermons. This is designed to directly help the student in the local church.

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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Hall, Ronald. *Biblical Preaching: Preparing and Designing Life Changing Messages*. (Purchase copy from Dr. Hall at first session), 2003. Cost: \$21.00

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001.

Mathewson, Steven. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2002.

McDill, Wayne. *The Moment of Truth: A Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1999.

Wells, Richard and A Boyd Luter. *Inspired Preaching: A Survey of Preaching Found in the New Testament*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

Wiersbe, Warren and David Wiersbe. *The Dynamics of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.

METHODOLOGY

This course will include hands on work for sermon preparation with observation, evaluation and application of the principles being learned through reading, class projects and personal work. The class will include lectures, full open dialogue and interaction with the tools available and student preaching. Since this course will be held in the Storm Research Center on the Valley Forge Christian College Campus, the student will be able to access a variety of tools that will enrich the learning process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Be sure to bring all class textbooks to each class.

Session # 1: Friday, January 23 > 6-10pm
Saturday, January 24 > 8am-6pm

A. Pre-Session

1. Read in its entirety *Inspired Preaching: A Survey of Preaching Found in the New Testament*. Write a 3-4 page, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection paper to hand in at the first class. The paper must cover the following:
 - A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - Which parts of the book have served to strengthen your theology of preaching? Identify at least 3 and elaborate.

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- How does the book serve to strengthen your sermon preparation?
 - What sermon series ideas have emerged as you have been processing this book?
 - Evaluate the book positively and negatively.
2. Read in its entirety *The Dynamics of Preaching*. Write a 3-4 page, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection paper to hand in at the first class. The paper must cover the following:
- A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - Identify and clearly describe 3 significance items that stand out from the book
 - Identify and clearly describe 3 personal preaching weaknesses that you see in yourself in light of the book's content. What specific steps can you take to improve in those areas? What is your plan for implementation?
 - Evaluate the book positively and negatively.
3. Bring a recent manuscript of sermon preached to the first class. Prepare 2-3 written pages as follows: how did you prepare the sermon – prayer, time, tools used, reason text chosen, what did you try to accomplish in the sermon, what would you do differently if you were to approach the text again and what was the response to the message? You must hand this in and be prepared to present your work to the class during this first session.

B. Session

1. Attendance and participation at all class sessions is required.
2. Be prepared for quality dialogue with the class concerning your recent manuscript and approach to the sermon as noted in pre-session work.
3. Complete assigned project packet work during session.

C. Post-Session

1. Write a two-page reflection on the most practical tools from the first session that you can put into practice immediately and a specific plan on how you will utilize those tools. Turn in at second session.
2. Start quality preparation for sermon to preach at next session drawing upon insights gained from the first session and your class reading.

Session # 2: Friday, February 27 > 6-10pm

Saturday, February 28 > 8am-6pm

A. Pre-Session

1. Read in its entirety *Biblical Preaching: Preparing and Designing Life Changing Messages*. Write a 3-4 page, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection paper to hand in at the second class. The paper must cover the following:
 - A statement that the workbook has been read in its entirety.

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- Identify and clearly describe 3 significance items that you need to work on in your preparation – Part 1 of Workbook. What is your plan for implementation? Be specific.
 - Identify and clearly describe 3 areas that you need to work on in relation to either modeling, visualizing, launching, landing, or communicating – Part 2 of Workbook. What is your plan for implementation? Be specific.
 - Evaluate the workbook positively and negatively.
2. Read in its entirety *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Write a 3-4 page, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection paper to hand in at the second class. The paper must cover the following:
- A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - What parts of the book have helped you most in considering the communication of the truths of the Bible in terms that can be culturally grasped today? Identify at least 3 and elaborate.
 - Reflect on three specifics that help you focus yourself in sermon preparation?
 - Identify and clearly describe 3 areas of weakness that you see in light of the book's content that you need to have in mind when approaching sermon preparation and delivery. What specific steps can you take to improve in those areas? What is your plan for implementation?
 - Evaluate the book positively and negatively.
3. Come prepared to preach a 20-minute sermon in session using the following procedure:
- The sermon must be a biblical, exegetical sermon utilizing 3-6 verses of a passage of the student's choice. However, do not use a narrative passage. A narrative passage will be required for the next class.
 - A full manuscript must be turned in at the time of preaching, which reflects literary, historical-cultural, lexical-syntactical, contextual and thematic study. A quality manuscript will be required that follow the instructions found in the workbook starting on page 188. Failure to follow the format will result in at least a 1-letter grade deduction on the sermon.
 - See page 199-201 on the system that will be used to evaluate your sermon. This will aid you in preparation.

B. Session

1. Attendance and participation at all class sessions is required.
2. Be prepared for quality dialogue with the class concerning required reading for this session.
3. Preach your 20-minute sermon in class. Each sermon will be openly discussed in class.
4. Complete project packet and class work assigned during sessions.

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C. Post-Session

1. Write a two-page reflection on the most practical tools from the second session that you can put into practice immediately and a specific plan on how you will utilize those tools.
2. Start quality preparation for the narrative sermon to be preached at last section. You will need to prepare in light of reading *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Also, draw upon insights gained from the first and second session.

Session # 3: Friday, March 19 > 6-10pm

Saturday, March 20 > 8am-6pm

A. Pre-Session

1. Read in its entirety *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Write a 3-4 page, Double-spaced, 12 size font reflection paper to hand in at the third class. The paper must cover the following:
 - A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - Identify and clearly describe the most helpful aspects of the book in relation to preaching narrative passages. You should have 3-5 items.
 - How has this book motivated you to prepare more *biblically-focused* narrative sermons?
 - Evaluate the book positively and negatively.
2. Read in its entirety *The Moment of Truth: A Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Write a 3-4 page, double-spaced, 12 size font reflection paper to hand in at the third class. The paper must cover the following:
 - A statement that the book has been read in its entirety.
 - Summarize the focus of the book in 2 solid paragraphs.
 - Identify and reflect upon 5 specifics that will strengthen your communicate of truth in our culture. At the end of each specific that you identify and describe – layout an implementation plan for yourself.
 - Evaluate the book positively and negatively.
3. Come prepare to preach a 20-minute narrative sermon in session using the following procedure:
 - The sermon must be a narrative passage of the student's choice.
 - You will need to utilize the guidelines found in *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*
 - A full manuscript must be turned in at the time of preaching, which reflects literary, historical-cultural, lexical-syntactical, contextual and thematic study. A quality manuscript will be required that follow the instructions found in the workbook starting on page 188. Failure to follow the format will result in a minimum 1-letter grade deduction.

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You will also incorporate specifics found in *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*

- See page 199-201 on the system that will be used to evaluate your sermon. This will aid you in preparation.
4. Video tape one of your sermons. (Cassette tape allowed only if you have no one to video tape you.) Then, using the *Sermon Critique Form* evaluate yourself and turn this in at the third session. Do an honest evaluation of yourself as if you were in the audience listening to the sermon being preached. Being hard on yourself or easy on yourself will not impact your grade. This is a growth experience for you. You should be able to identify ways in which you can do better.
 5. Do a *Sermon Critique Form* for a preacher of your choice from a service you attend or Videotape.
 6. Lay out a planned sermon series, that would be 8 – 10 weeks in length, from a book of the Bible or portion of a book. It could be a narrative series. You are not required to write out the entire sermons but rather evaluate the book (or portion) and come up with a solid series plan. It should be at least 6 pages of work. Specific instructions will be given in class.

B. Session

1. Attendance and participation at all class sessions is required.
2. Be prepared for quality dialogue with the class concerning required reading for this session.
3. Preach your 20-minute narrative sermon in class. Each sermon will be openly discussed in class.
4. Complete project packet and class work assigned during sessions.

DUE DATE: Work is due at each session as described above. There is no required work for the class after the end of the third session.

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GRADING PROCEDURE

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| 1. Class Project Work – | 5% |
| 2. Reflection Papers on 6 Class Textbooks - | 40% |
| 3. 2 Class Sermons & Manuscripts - | 30% |
| 4. Sermon Critique of Self - | 5% |
| 5. Sermon Critique of Another Preacher | 5% |
| 6. Sermon Series - | 10% |
| 7. Three Specified Reflections: | 5% |
| Session 1 on Sermon Process | |
| Practical Tools from Session 1 | |
| Practical Tools from Session 2 | |

DUE: All course work must be submitted by April 23, 2004.

NOTE: A change of grade fee (\$15.00) may be assessed on all work submitted past the due date, even when a professor has granted an extension. Late work may be penalized at the discretion of the professor.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(See Workbook – pages 202-207 for a more extensive listing)

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- Berlin, Adele. *Poetic and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*. Sheffield: Almond, 1993.
- Bisagno, John. *Principle Preaching: How to Create and Deliver Sermons for Life Application*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 2002.
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- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.
- Henderson, David. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1998.
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- Kaiser, Walter C. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1981.
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- Loscalzo, Craig. *Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World*. Downer Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- MacArthur, John and the Master's Seminary Faculty. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Dallas, Texas: Word Publishing, 1992.
- Mathewson, Steven. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2002.
- Mawhinney, Bruce. *Preaching with Freshness*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 1997.
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- _____. *The Twelve Essential Skills for Great Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.
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- Montoya, Alex. *Preaching with Passion*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 2000.
- Olford, Stephen. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
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- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching, second edition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 2001.
- Vines, Jerry. *A Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1986.
- _____. *A Practical Guide to Sermon Preparation*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1985.
- Wells, Richard and A Boyd Luter. *Inspired Preaching: A Survey of Preaching Found in the New Testament*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 2002.
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