

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM/BNT 623 Exposition of Acts

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Fall 2006
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A detailed expositional study of the book of Acts. The course will focus on exegetical and interpretive methods for NT narrative, with specific application to the text and message of Acts. In addition to narrative-by-narrative analysis, special attention will be given to the speeches in Acts, and to the role of biblical theology in preaching.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the historical and cultural background of Acts.
2. Explain distinctive biblical-theological themes in Acts.
3. Understand the unique characteristics of narrative as a genre.
4. Exegete and interpret passages in NT narrative, and specifically Acts.
5. Demonstrate competence in biblical-theological method.
6. Develop and preach messages from Acts that are TRUE to the biblical text, CLEAR and well organized, INTERESTING to listen to, and RELEVANT to the listener's needs.
7. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

MacArthur, John. *Acts 1-12*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.

MacArthur, John. *Acts 13-28*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996.

Marshall, I. Howard. *The Acts of the Apostles: an introduction and commentary*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1980.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of the Structure of Acts
 - a. Acts in Canonical Form and Context
 - b. The panels
 - c. The advance of the Spirit
 - d. Peter and the Jews
 - e. Paul and the Gentiles
- II. Narrative Genre
 - a. Structure
 - b. Literary Conventions
 - c. Expository Methods
- III. Exposition of Acts
 - a. Introduction
 - i. Author, Date, Audience, Origin, etc.
 - ii. Purpose (in the light of biblical theology)
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Unique Theological Contributions
 - ii. Biblical-Theological motifs
 1. Historical-Grammatical Exegesis
 2. Redemptive-Historical Synthesis
- IV. Two Rounds of Preaching
 - a. Student Sermons
 - b. Related Assignments

CHAPEL

- * Convocation, August 31 @ 10:30 a.m.
All students are strongly encouraged to attend (class will begin at 11:45a.m.)

METHODOLOGY

1. The course will utilize lectures, discussion, readings, written assignments, and student preaching (with critiques and video review).
2. The first part of the course will focus primarily on lectures and discussion of the text of Acts, including hermeneutical methods.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **First Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 15-minute expository message from a speech in Acts. **There are two primary reasons for learning to preach without notes. First, preaching without notes demands a higher level of “ownership” (spiritual and intellectual saturation) of the material. Second,

- speaking without notes promotes a stronger connection with the listeners, which in turn maximizes the impact of preaching.
- a. A full sentence, homiletical outline (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) is due to the professor by noon of the day before the student preaches. Late work will receive a full letter grade deduction. Exceeding the time limit will also result in a full letter grade deduction.
 - b. A full manuscript (roughly 10 pages) of the sermon is due to the professor by noon of the day before the student preaches in class. This manuscript should reflect the actual content of the message. It should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper.
 - c. Each student will prepare a one page homiletical outline (with homiletical proposition) of the entire (all the verses) passage the student chooses in Acts. This outline will be distributed to the class and professor at the time the sermon is delivered.
 - d. Each student will review his/her DVD and return a 2 pp. self-critique of the sermon to the professor within one week after his/her preaching date.
 - e. The student is required to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment.
- 2. Second Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 15-minute expository message based on his/her exegesis of a narrative preaching unit in Acts.
- a. Full sentence, exegetical, theological, and homiletical outlines (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) are due to the professor by noon of the day before the student preaches. Late work will receive a full letter grade deduction. Exceeding the time limit when preaching will also result in a full letter grade deduction.
 - b. A manuscript (roughly 10 pages) of the sermon is due to the professor by noon of the day before the student preaches in class. This manuscript should reflect the actual content of the message. It should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper.
 - c. Each student will prepare a one page homiletical outline (with homiletical proposition) of the entire (include all the verses) passage the student chooses in Acts. This outline will be distributed to the class and professor at the time the sermon is delivered.
 - d. Self-critique due one week after preaching date based on review of DVD.
 - e. The student is required to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment.
- 3. Class Participation.**
- a. Students are expected to participate in discussion, thoughtful peer critiques, and with logistics (e.g., video camera operation).
 - b. Faithful attendance.

- c. Professor reserves the right to adjust grade for outstanding participation.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Preaching is an art and therefore evaluation is partly empirical but also partly subjective. The “sermon” grade will be based on my subjective evaluation and the level achieved in (1) Accuracy (to text and to audience), (2) Clarity (of homiletical proposition throughout), (3) Interest (compelling delivery), and (4) Relevance (concrete images; developmental questions).
2. The final grade will be based on the following percentages:
 - 10% On-Time Reading
 - 60% Sermons (including manuscripts and outlines)
 - 20% Self-Critiques
 - 10% Class Participation
3. Grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12.

Bibliography printed separately for distribution to class.