

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM/BNT 624 Exposition Preaching in Epistles: Romans

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A detailed expositional study of Paul's letter to the Romans. The course will focus on exegetical and interpretive methods for NT epistolary literature, with specific application to the text and message of Romans. In addition to verse-by-verse analysis, special attention will be given to preaching from Romans.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the historical and cultural setting of Romans.
2. Explain characteristic theological themes in Romans.
3. Understand the unique characteristics of the "epistle" as a genre.
4. Exegete and interpret passages in the NT epistles, and particularly Romans.
5. Develop and preach messages from Romans (and other epistles) that are TRUE to the biblical text, CLEAR and well organized, INTERESTING to listen to, and RELEVANT to the listener's needs.
6. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.

TEXTBOOKS

Any Logos Bible Software package. (Professor will tell students how to obtain software at a discount on the first day of class). *Some books can be bought through *Libronics* at a substantial discount. <http://www.logos.com/>

Bruce, F.F. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000 (paperback ed.). ISBN: 0802847781 List Price: \$26.00

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Romans*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. ISBN: 0801021499 List Price: \$54.99

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form* (expanded edition). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000. ISBN: 0664222641 List Price: \$19.95

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of Paul's Thought
 - a. Christ: the Center
 - b. Paul's Use of the OT
 - c. Jew-Gentile Debate
 - d. Grace and Law
 - e. Spirit and Flesh
 - f. Creation-New Creation
- II. Epistle Genre
 - a. Structure
 - b. Literary Conventions
 - c. Expository Methods
- III. Romans
 - a. Introduction
 - i. Author, Date, Audience, Origin, Destination
 - ii. Particular Task
 - iii. Structure
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Unique Theological Contributions
 - ii. Biblical-Theological Analysis
 1. Historical-Grammatical Exegesis
 2. Redemptive-Historical Synthesis
- IV. Round of Preaching
 - a. Student Sermons
 - b. Related Assignments

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 Romans.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading.** Use Schreiner's and Bruce's commentaries for the entire text of Romans. Submit a statement of completion by the last day of class. The student *will sign a statement of completion in class on December 1, 2010* (the week *before* finals). *No partial credit will be given. All reading must be completed by due date to receive credit.*
2. **BNT Students Only: Exegetical paper.** Write a 15-20 page exegetical paper on a passage in Romans (see the paper guide on student portal). A hard copy of this assignment is due to the professor in class on **December 1, 2010** (the week *before* finals week).
3. **HOM Students Only:** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 12-minute expository message based on the exegetical paper. *(There are two primary reasons for learning to preach without notes. First, preaching without notes demands a higher level of internalization, focus and clarity [unity, order, progress of thought, and precision with

words]. Second, speaking without notes promotes a stronger connection with the listeners, which in turn maximizes the goal of preaching which is life change and growth in following Christ.) Exceeding the time limit will result in a full letter grade deduction.

- a. **November 10, 2010 Preaching Assignments Due**. Submit in class a hard copy of the following:
 - i. **Exegetical, Theological, and Homiletical Outlines and Propositions**. Each student will prepare a one page exegetical outline with proposition, a one page theological outline with proposition, and a detailed homiletical outline (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) with proposition.
 - ii. **A full manuscript** of the message (roughly six pages, double spaced). The manuscript should reflect the content of your actual delivery and read like a preached message, not like an academic research paper.
 - b. The student is to provide each member of the class with the homiletical outline of the sermon on the day it is preached.
 - c. Each student will review the video of the sermon posted on the student portal and submit to the professor by **noon on December 10, 2010** a hard copy of a **two-page (double-spaced)** self-critique.
4. The student is required to preach in class on the dates assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of at least one letter grade for that assignment, barring emergencies.
 5. A **hard copy** of all work must be submitted **in class** on the date due. *Updated and revised work is not accepted after due date. Late work is not accepted.*
 6. **Participation**. Each student is expected to prepare for the class by attending regularly, arriving promptly, treating colleagues considerately, completing reading assignments, participating in peer evaluations, preaching and submitting sermons on schedule, assisting with logistics, and entering into discussions. The professor reserves the right to adjust the total grade on the basis of class 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:
 - HOM Students:
 - 20% On-Time Reading (partial credit will *not* be given)
 - 80% Romans Sermon

BNT Students:

- 20% On-Time Reading (partial credit will *not* be given)
- 80% Exegetical Paper

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

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Contemporary Homiletical Communication

- Carson, D. A., ed. *Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Post-Moderns*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Galli, Mark and Craig Brian Larson. *Preaching that Connects: Using the Techniques of Journalists to Add Impact to Your Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Johnson, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Loscalzo, Craig A. *Evangelistic Preaching that Connects: Guidance in Shaping Fresh & Appealing Sermons*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995. BV/4211.2/.L674
- _____. *Preaching Sermons that Connect: Effective Communication through Identification*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Miller, Calvin. *The Sermon Maker: Tales of a Transformed Preacher*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Exegesis and Hermeneutics

- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Old Testament in Contemporary Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1973. BS/1171.2/.K27
- _____. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981. BS/476/.K34
- Klein, George L. (ed.). *Reclaiming the Prophetic Mantle: Preaching the Old Testament Faithfully*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992. BS/1191.5/.R43
- Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.
- Williamson, Lamar, Jr. *Preaching the Gospel of John: Proclaiming the Living Word*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004.

History

- Dargan, Edwin Charles. *A History of Preaching*. Reprint. [Volume III by Ralph G. Turnbull (Baker, 1974)] Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1970.
- Brilioth, Yngve. *A Brief History of Preaching*. Trans. Karl E. Mattson. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965.
- Wilson, Paul Scott. *A Concise History of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.

Illustration

- Chapell, Bryan. *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.
- Flynn, Leslie B. *Come Alive with Illustrations: How to Find, Use, and File Good Stories for Sermons and Speeches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988.
- Macpherson, Ian. *The Art of Illustrating Sermons*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1964.
- Wiersbe, Warren W (ed.). *Developing a Christian Imagination: An Interpretive Anthology*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1995.

Lectionaries and Guides

Abingdon Preaching Annual [annual editions; var. eds.]

Methodology

- Berkley, James D., ed. *Leadership Handbook of Preaching and Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Bodey, Richard Allen (ed.). *Inside the Sermon: Thirteen Preachers Discuss their Methods of Preparing Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990. BV/4211.2/.I57
- Davis, Henry Grady. *Design for Preaching*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1958.
- Hamilton, Donald L. *Homiletical Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992. BV/4211.2/.H27
- Olford, Stephen F. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- Perry, Lloyd M. *Biblical Preaching for Today's World*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1973.
- Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.
- _____. *Biblical Sermons: How Twelve Preachers Apply the Principles of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.

Theology

- Barth, Karl. *Homiletics*. Trans. G.W. Bromiley and Donald E. Daniels. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.
- Kinlaw, Dennis F. *Preaching in the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Francis Asbury Press, 1985.
- Marcel, Pierre Ch. *The Relevance of Preaching*. Trans. Rob Roy McGregor. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1963.
- Mounce, Robert H. *The Essential Nature of New Testament Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1960.

Theory/General

- Abbey, Merrill R. *The Word Interprets Us*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1967.
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Websites

[list begun by AGTS alum, Dr. D. Tucker, VFCC]

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esermons.com	preacherstudy.com	sermonlinks.com
georgewood.com	preaching.com/preaching	sermonmall.com
homileticonline.com	preaching.org	sermonnotes.com
lectionary.com	preachingsummit.org	soulsunami.com
mtsm.org/preach.htm	preachingtoday.com	textweek.com
mumac.org/ppcss.html	sermoncentral.com	todayspreacher.faithsite.com