

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HOM 529 Communicating the Message

Stephen Lim, D.Min.

Fall 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive course dealing with essential and creative elements in the development of sermons. Attention will be given to all aspects of preparation and composition and to each part of the message. The theology and history of preaching, contemporary perspectives, methods, development of resources, and sermon analysis will also be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a biblical and historical understanding of preaching, including the role of the Holy Spirit in the communication of divine truth.
2. Understand the changing audience in the contemporary world.
3. Appreciate contemporary insights on preaching and the factors in effective communication.
4. Comprehend basic and alternative methods of preaching—including expository, narrative, topical, inductive, application, and seeker-sensitive.
5. Gain increased competence in the essential elements of sermon preparation.
6. Improve the impact of the voice in public communication.
7. Develop the systematic practice of collecting resources—including illustrations, outlines, and content.
8. Develop the ability to critique messages, so as to maximize effective factors and minimize ineffective ones in sermon preparation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Duduit, Michael, ed. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1992

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

Turpie, Bill, ed. *Ten Great Preachers: Messages and Interviews*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.

Selected readings will be distributed during the course.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Galli, Mark and Craig Brian Larson. *Preaching That Connects*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

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

BASIC OUTLINE

1. A Biblical and Historical Understanding of Preaching
2. Understanding the Audience in a Changing World
3. Contemporary Insights and Perspectives on Preaching
4. Factors for Effective Communication
5. Methods and Styles of Preaching
6. Developing Resources for Sermons
7. Foundations for Preaching
8. Discerning and Planning Messages
9. Preparing the Message
10. Refining the Message
11. Developing the Voice
12. Delivering the Message

METHODOLOGY

This course will employ class discussion, exercises, and assignments, peer critique groups, sermon analysis, audio and video presentations, student presentations, and lectures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. For each of the required textbooks, write a two page typewritten critique, evaluating its strengths, weaknesses, and areas and points of special value to you.
2. Collect 5 *contemporary* illustrations per week during September and October.. Illustrations may come from personal experiences. Indicate the source of each. Use a uniform system of organization—either using index cards or computer files. Submit a total of 20 illustrations on **Friday, September 27**, and another 20 on

Friday, October 25. No more than 20 percent should come from collections in books, magazines, or the Internet.

3. Using the form provided, outline and evaluate one sermon per week during September and October. These may come from church, chapel, tape, television, or radio. Submit a total of 4 outlines and evaluations on **Friday, September 27**, and another 4 on **Friday, October 25**.
4. Practice readings 7 minutes a day, 5 days a week for six weeks, from October 28 to December 5. Submit time log of days practiced on **Friday, December 6**.
5. *Utilizing the principles and ideas from your reading, write out **in full** the following messages:*

25-30 minute *topical* message for *seekers*.

25-30 minute *narrative* message from the OT or NT

25-30 minute expository message from the OT or NT (the one you *didn't* select for the narrative message)

Use a 12 print font with 1 inch margins all around. Double space, except for quotes, which should be single spaced. One page usually equals 2 _ minutes when preached.

These messages should be accompanied by a **complete outline**, preceded by the **following information**:

Creative title

Topic

Intended Audience

Purpose

Essential point (stated in a short, simple sentence)

Need addressed (Itch)

Solution offered (Scratch)

On both manuscript and outline, indicate **illustrations** and **applications** with a **bold heading**.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading analysis	10%
Collection of illustrations	2%
Sermon outlines & evaluation	2%
Voice practice	2%
Voice exam	4%
Topical, seeker sermon	20%

Narrative sermon	20%
Expository sermon	20%
Midterm exam	20%

Class participation will be considered for the final grade, if the student is between two grades.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (Attached)

SPECIFIC DATA: Syllabus prepared by Stephen Lim, June 5, 2001

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Preaching

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. Preaching from the Old Testament. *Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press. 1989.*

Allen, Ronald J., Barbara S. Blaisdell, and Scott B. Johnstone. Theology for Preaching: Authority, Truth, and Knowledge of God in a Postmodern Ethos. *Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997.*

Allen, Ronald J. Preaching the Topical Sermon. *Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.*

Bartlett, David. Between the Bible and the Church: New Methods for Biblical Preaching. *Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.*

Bodey, Richard Allen, ed. Inside the Sermon: 13 Preachers Discuss their Methods of Preparing Messages. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1990.*

Brown, H.C. Steps to the Sermon (revised). *Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1996.*

Bryson, Harold T. Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching Through a Book of the Bible. *Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1995.*

Buttrick, David. A Captive Voice. *Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.*

_____. Homiletic: Moves and Structures. *Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1987.*

Chapell, Bryan. Christ-Centered Preaching. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994.*

_____. Using Illustrations to Preach with Power. *Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.*

Craddock, Fred. Preaching. *Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985.*

Duduit, Michael, ed. Handbook of Contemporary Preaching. *Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1992.*

_____, ed. Communicating with Power: Insights from America's Top Communicators. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.*

Duffett, Robert G. A Relevant Word: Communicating the Gospel to Seekers. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1995.

Elliot, Mark Barger. Creative Styles of Preaching. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000.

Eslinger, Richard L. Intersections: Post-Critical Studies in Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1994.

Freeman, Harold. Varieties of Biblical Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Word Publishing, 1987.

Greidanus, Sidney. Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

_____. The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Henderson, David W. Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1999.

Johnston, Graham. Preaching to a Postmodern World: A guide to Reaching Twenty-First Century Listeners. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2001.

Hybels, Bill, Stuart Brisco and Hadden Robinson. Mastering Contemporary Preaching. Portland OR: Christianity Today Inc., 1993.

Lewis, Ralph. Inductive Preaching. Westchester, IL: Crossway Publishing, 1983.

Long, Thomas. Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1989.

_____. The Witness of Preaching. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989

Loscalzo, Craig A. Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

_____. Evangelistic Preaching that Connects: Guidance in Shaping Fresh and Appealing Sermons. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

_____. Preaching that Connects. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Lowry, Eugene. The Sermon: Dancing on the Edge of Mystery. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997.

_____. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.*

Lowry, Eugene. Doing Time in the Pulpit: The Relationship Between Narrative and Preaching. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1985.

MacArther, John Jr. Rediscovering Expository Preaching. Dallas, TX. Word Publishing, 1992.

Massey, James Earl. The Sermon in Perspective: A Study of Communication and Charisma. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1976.

McDill, Wayne. The 12 Essential Skills of Great Preaching. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Miller, Calvin. Marketplace Preaching. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995.

_____. *The Empowered Communicator: 7 Keys to Unlocking an Audience. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1994.*

_____. *Spirit, Word, and Story: A Philosophy of Preaching. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1989.*

Olford, Stephen F. Anointed Expository Preaching. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman. 1998.

Perry, Lloyd M. and Charles M. Sell. Speaking to Life's Problems: A Sourcebook for Preaching and Teaching. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1993.

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

_____. *Biblical Sermons: How Twelve Preachers Apply the Principles of Biblical Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989.*

_____. *Making a Difference in Preaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.*

Stott, John R.W. Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.

_____. *The Preacher's Portrait. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1975.*

Turpie, Bill, ed. Ten Great Preachers: Messages and Interviews. Grand Rapids, MI: BakerBooks, 2000.

Walker, Alan. Evangelistic Preaching. *Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1988.*

Willhite, Keith and Scott M. Gibson, eds. The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching: Connecting the Bible to People. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998.*

Wiersbe, Warren W. Preaching and Teaching with Imagination. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker. Book House.*

Wilson, Paul Scott. The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching. *Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.*

Sermon Collections

Bodey, Richard Allen. Good News for All Seasons: 26 Sermons for Special Days. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1987.*

Brand, Chad and Clark Palmer. Holiday Sermons. *Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.*

Christianity Today Inc. Today's Best Sermons. (CD-Rom)

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Long, Thomas G. and Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., eds. A Chorus of Witnesses: Model Sermons for Today's Preacher. *Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1994.*

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Wiersbe, Warren, ed. Sermons of the Century. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.*

Illustrations

Fields, Doug and Eddie James. Videos that Teach: Teachable Movie Moments from 75 Modern Film Classics. *Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.*

Larson, Craig Brian. Choice Contemporary Stories and Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers, and Writers. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.*

_____. Contemporary Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers, and Writers. *Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.*

_____. *Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House. Parsons Technology. Bible Illustrator 3. (CD-Rom)

Rowell, Edward K., ed. *Fresh Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching from Leadership Journal*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.