

***PT601 – Expository Preaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***  
**Fall 2010**  
**Shepherds Theological Seminary**  
**Cary, NC**

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**SYLLABUS**

**Course Description**

Catalog Description: “An in-depth study in the development of expository outlines and messages that emanate from a historical, theological, contextual, and grammatical approach to interpreting the biblical text. Enables the student to preach with greater confidence in a variety of settings.”

**Course Objectives and Student Outcomes**

Student Objective #7: “To communicate the Word of God and relate the Christian faith to the modern world.”

This course is designed give the student insight into the techniques of making the truths of divine revelation explicit and relevant; and then allow the student to develop his own, unique skills through actual sermon delivery.

Specifically, completing this course, a student will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate** knowledge of the various types of sermons; this knowledge requires a recognition of the various elements of a sermon.  
The student shall also be able to demonstrate knowledge of the helpful materials and publications available on the subject of sermon preparation and delivery.
2. **Explain** the basic principles of sermon construction and delivery and be able to articulate these principles in writing.  
Special emphasis will be placed on the student’s understanding of the proposition of the sermon. The student shall understand the necessity of following these principles in the formulation of every sermon he preaches hereafter.
3. **Apply** the principles of proper sermon construction of an expository sermon to a passage

of Scripture. The student shall be able to apply his understanding of a sermon proposition in the preaching passage.

4. **Analyze** the proposition and main points of his sermon  
Through that analysis, the student will be able defend the question “is this what the passage is saying?” He shall be able to analyze whether he has “majored on the majors and minored on the minors” in the scripture passage.
5. **Synthesize** what he learned by the construction and delivery of an expository message to the class.
6. **Evaluate** sermon construction by offering a constructive critique of each sermon his fellow students preach.  
The student will evaluate whether the preacher has followed the principles of sermon construction in the construction and delivery of his expository sermon.

**Textbooks** (required reading)

Braga, James. *How to Prepare Bible Messages*. Multnomah, 2005 (reprint).

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Second edition: Baker Books, 2005. (Used as a text over two semesters.)

Piper, John. *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*. Baker, 1990.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Baker, 1980.

Robinson, Haddon W. and Craig Brian Larson, editors. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching: A Comprehensive Resource for Today's Communicators*. Zondervan, 2005. (Selected items will be read; at least half of the book during this semester.)

NOTE: A total of **1200 pages must be read**. A reading report is due the last day of class.

**Additional Reading** (suggested reading that may be included in the 1000 pages)

Broadus, John A. *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. (A old classic, 1870)

Dever, Mark and J. Ligon Duncan III, R. Albert Mohler Jr., C.J. Mahaney. *Preaching the Cross*. Crossway Books, 2007.

Duduit, Michael, editor. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Broadman, 1992.

- Edwards, J. Kent. *Effective First-Person Biblical Preaching*. Zondervan, 2005.
- Ferguson, Dave. *The Big Idea: Focus the Message—Multiply the Impact*. Zondervan, 2007.
- Grant, Reg and John Reed. *The Power Sermon*. Baker, 1993.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Eerdmans, 1999.
- Henderson, David W. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World*. Baker, 1998.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Baker, 1981.
- Klein, George L. *Reclaiming the Prophetic Mantle: Preaching the Old Testament Faithfully*. Broadman, 1992.
- Liefeld, Walter L. *From Text to Sermon: New Testament Exposition*. Zondervan, 1984.
- Litfin, A. Duane. *Public Speaking: A Handbook for Christians*. Baker, 1981.
- Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Preaching and Preachers*. Zondervan, 1971.
- MacArthur, John. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Word, 1992.
- McDill, Wayne. *The 12 Essential Skills for Great Preaching*. Broadman and Holman, 1994.
- Mohler, R. Albert. *He Is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Moody Press, 2008.
- Ryken, Leland. *Words of Delight*. Baker, 1987.
- Vines, Jerry. *A Practical Guide to Sermon Preparation*. Moody Press, 1985.
- Vines, Jerry. *A Practical Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Moody Press, 1986.
- Willhite, Keith and Scott M. Gibson. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching: Connecting the Bible to People*. Baker, 1998.

## **Examinations**

A midterm exam will be given. This will cover the class notes for the first half of the semester.

### **Sermons and preaching**

1. Each student will preach twice this semester.
2. The first message may be topical or textual; the second message **must** be expository.
3. An outline of the message to be preached will be handed in the period the message is assigned.
4. Messages limited to 20 minutes maximum.
5. Messages will be evaluated (constructively critiqued) in class by the students and instructor.
6. Preaching dates:  
  
#1  
  
#2
7. Prepare sermon outlines (include brief introduction and conclusion, body in full-sentence format) on Mark 5:1-20, and Hebrews 12:1-3. Include a brief introduction and conclusion, and an outline with full-sentence points and sub-points.
8. Additional work (proposition development, brief sermonic outlines, reading in journal articles, etc.) may be assigned on occasions.

### **Course Grade**

Reading – 20%

Mid-Term exam – 20%

Preaching and sermons – 50%

(Each message will count 20% of the semester grade; the two sermon outlines count 10%, i.e., 5 % each)

Class attendance and participation (additional assignments) – 10%

### **Course Outline/Schedule**

#### COURSE INTRODUCTION

## PART I: Understanding the Basics

Basic Definitions

Preaching

The Sermon

Types of Sermons

The Topical Sermon

The Textual Sermon

The Expository Sermon

## PART II: The Mechanics of Expository Preaching, or, The Stages of Sermon Preparation

Stage 1 – Study the Passage and Gather Your Notes

Stage 2 – Outline the Biblical Passage (3-Step process from the text to sermon)

Stage 3 – State the Central Truth of the Whole Message in a Sentence

A Preaching Paradigm: What's the *Big Idea*?

The Subject

The Complement

Stage 4 – Development of Your Sermonic Outline

Stage 5 – Develop an Introduction

Stage 6 – Plan for Oral Clarity

The Process of Explanation

The Pattern of Illustration

The Practice of Application

Stage 7 – The Delivery of the Message

Introduction, Transitions, Application, Conclusion, Invitation

## PART III: The Preaching Context – Then and Now, or, Issues in Preaching Today

Exegeting the Culture

Genre-Sensitive Preaching

Old Testament Interpretation Issues

Tensions in NT Biblical Theology

Preaching Parables

Preaching from the Gospels and Acts

From What It Meant to What It Means