

Biblical Preaching



Faculty Contact

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Please contact me anytime you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Course Description

We begin by studying the substance and benefits of God's choice of preaching as a powerful means of communicating His truth as a central force in guiding His people and saving His world.

The course will examine the lives, integrity, messages, skills and methods of Biblical preachers in Scripture.

Following their lead while thinking of our listeners today, the course will assist students to develop their skills in:

- reading Scripture in its historical context,
- carefully selecting passages to preach,
- thorough exegesis of the Bible texts including their
 - eternal theological significance,
 - genres,
 - linguistics and
 - forms,
- developing appropriate sermon forms, outlines, manuscripts and
- delivery that draw listeners into the world of Bible texts to experience their transforming power in lives today in preparation for living eternally with God.

Course Objectives

Biblical Preaching is a foundational course developing knowledge and skills for life-long spiritual growth and service with God through the following objectives:

1. To know God, Father, Son and Spirit more fully, focusing on how God communicates with people through the intentional expository preaching of His Word, notably preaching the gospel for the salvation and sanctification of souls (1 Corinthians 1:21-25).
2. Increase our appreciation of Scripture's unique nature as living words able to connect us temporal, mortal, finite beings with God who is eternal, immortal and infinite.
3. Learn from Biblical preachers: the prior work of God in their lives, their historical contexts and how they relate to ours, their concern for God's people, the messages God

communicates through them and the skills that make their preaching powerful and effective.

4. Develop a deep appreciation of God's beautiful design of Scripture and the powerful narratives, prophecies and typology that link the Scriptures of Old and New Testaments, notably God's work of salvation in Christ.
5. Prepare sermons from Scripture that say and do what God intends the Bible texts to say and do in their original settings and in ours.
6. Develop technical skills in the selection and preaching of Bible texts through sound historical, linguistic and theological analysis, diagraming, exegesis, interpretation and composition in writing and speaking.
7. Develop skills in the use of primary sources to bring out the power of texts for listeners and enable them to experience the world of the Bible: the original Greek and Hebrew texts, lexicons, grammars, primary historical background texts, atlases, geographies, archaeology, etc.
8. Give attention to the moods and forms of Scripture texts and how they can guide sermon composition and delivery for maximum benefit to our listeners.
9. Develop awareness of and skills in using the self-illustrating power of Scripture that speaks to the exigencies of every generation.
10. Use this awareness to add variety and comprehensiveness to our preaching schedule by relying on Scripture's dynamic internal power and relying less on external secondary sources and illustrations which tend to overshadow and overwhelm Scripture.
11. Learn to read secondary sources critically and be aware of any potential benefits Biblically as well as any pitfalls of contemporary homiletical theory and practice.
12. Prepare effective openings, conclusions and sermon delivery that will truly do justice to the power of the text and its apprehension and remembrance by your listeners. What will they remember in a year or ten years from now?
13. Develop skills in outline and manuscript preparation particularly as they can share the benefits of your diligent research in other methods of communication: Bible classes, print, websites, evangelism, etc.
14. Think of our listeners during sermon preparation and examine the merits and methods of practicing sermon delivery that will enhance rapport with listeners in the preaching moment.
15. In keeping with 2 Timothy 3:14–17 research and plan Biblical expository preaching

schedules in series on weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual bases that guarantee preaching the whole counsel of God from all Bible books as God intends His people to know them and be guided by them.

16. Prepare two sermons for presentation in class that will also benefit your own congregations and others who need to hear what God has to say to them through the texts from which you choose to preach.
17. Develop strong applications that will help our listeners apply their lives to the Biblical texts to fulfil God's will for their lives. Develop skills in embedding applications throughout the body of the sermon as well as in effective conclusions through which people will know what God wants and expects them to do.

Required Readings

The Bible. Scripture readings assigned weekly in the schedule below.

Reading & Assignment Schedule

See Course Assignments on Pages 3–4

Week 1	Course Introduction: Biblical Preaching, Preachers, Texts, Genres, Structure, Skills. Noah, Moses, Torah Texts Part 1: Read Matthew 3–4; 1 Corinthians 1, 15; 2 Timothy 4; Genesis 5–9; 2 Peter 2; Exodus 1–4
Week 2	Moses II, Torah Texts: Exodus 18; Numbers 12; Deuteronomy 1, 4, 5, 6, 31–34, Moses and Jesus, <u>First Covenant (OT) Sermon 1 Text Choice Due</u>
Week 3	Joshua, Samuel, Historical Narrative, Former Prophets: Exodus 17; Numbers 13–14; Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1, 24; 1 Samuel 1–3, 8, 12
Week 4	David, Historical Narrative, Former Prophets, Psalms: 1 Samuel 16; 2 Samuel 11–12, 22; Psalms 4, 18, 23, 51, 110, 118, 131
Week 5	Job, Solomon, Wisdom Literature: Job 1–3, 29, 38, 42; 1 Kings 3–4; Proverbs 1, 8, 10, 24–25, 31; Ecclesiastes 1–3, 12
Week 6	Isaiah, Haggai, Latter Prophets: Isaiah 1, 2, 6, 7–9, 40, 52–53, 65–66; Haggai 1–2; <u>Preach Your First Covenant (OT) Sermon 1</u>
Week 7	Jesus, Gospels: Matthew 5–7, Sermon on the Mount, structure of the sermon, figures, audience, effects
Week 8	Jesus, Gospels II: Matthew 10, 23–25; John 13–17 <u>New Covenant (NT) Sermon 2 Bible Text Choice Due</u>
Week 9	Peter, Acts Historical Narrative, New Testament Letters, Repentance: Matthew 16, 17, 26; Luke 5:1–11; Acts 1–4; 1 & 2 Peter

Week 10	Stephen, Acts Historical Narrative: Acts 6–7 <u>Biblical Preacher and Sermon Presentation Choice Due</u>
Week 11	Paul, Acts Historical Narrative, New Testament Letters: Acts 13, 17; 1 Corinthians 2; Galatians 1–2
Week 12	Timothy, New Testament Letters: 1 & 2 Timothy
Week 13	Hebrews, New Testament Letters, Structure: Exposition, Exhortation, Warning: Hebrews 1–13 <u>Preach Your First Covenant (NT) Sermon 1</u>
Week 14	Matthew, James, New Testament Wisdom, Diatribe: James 1–5
Week 15	John, Jude, Apocalypse: Jude; Revelation 1–22 <u>Biblical Preacher and Sermon Presentation</u>

Course Assignments & Evaluation

Weekly Readings: Biblical Preachers, Texts and Sermon Ideas	30%
First Covenant (Old Testament) Expository Sermon 1	30%
New Covenant (New Testament) Expository Sermon 2	30%
Biblical Preacher Biography and Sermon Analysis Presentation	10%
Bonus: voluntary student journal notebook review	5%

Weekly Readings: Biblical Preachers, Texts and Sermon Ideas 30%

Introduction: The following focus on: 1) Biblical preachers, 2) God’s message through them, 3) suggested sermon titles from one of their passages. Each week at least one day before class read the Scripture texts in the schedule above. By 5:00 p.m. on the *day before class* send the following three items to me by email in one word processing file* that you update weekly in the chronological and Bible book order of our studies:

1. Your brief observations from any aspect of the Biblical preachers’ lives and skills from the Bible texts scheduled for discussion in class, such as, what prior work of God in their lives prepares them for their work, what gifts do they exhibit, what makes them particularly effective as a messenger of God? Minimum 150 words.
2. Your brief observations about features of any portion of the Bible texts that make them particularly effective in communicating the message God has for his preachers to give to His people and the world. Minimum 150 words.
3. Two or three expository sermon ideas from the texts that you suggest would be particularly beneficial for God’s people and/or unbelievers to hear today. You can do this by two or three suggested sermon titles, which can be directly from the text, and the audience(s) you think could benefit from them.

*Your word processor file with your weekly submission can form part of your class journal notebook.

First Covenant (Old Testament) Expository Sermon 1

30%

1. Prepare and deliver an expository sermon on one clearly defined passage (pericope) from any book of the Old Testament.
2. Thoroughly research your sermon text and prepare your sermon with your listeners in mind based on Biblically sound exegesis, historical backgrounds, genre and linguistic features, eternal theological meaning, interpretation/hermeneutics in application, mood and tone of the text, appropriate delivery, etc.
3. In researching your Bible passage, in addition to original Hebrew and Greek texts, examine at least ten primary and secondary resources including lexicons, grammars, atlases, Bible encyclopedias, histories, conservative commentaries, sound scholarly articles etc. and document them in a bibliography for your sermon. If you need help locating quality resources, please let me know. Do not use websites except for those having facsimiles of high quality scholarly resources (books and articles).
4. Approximately 20-25% of your sermon will focus on the application of the message in contemporary life for your listeners. Think of the members of your church family or other important group as your listeners as you prepare and deliver your sermon. Your applications do not have to all be at the end of your sermon. You can embed them throughout the text at points where they are appropriate.
5. Prepare your sermon to be a minimum of 20 minutes long though it can be longer. At an average speaking rate of 150 words per minute, write your full sermon manuscript word-for-word to be a minimum of 3,000 words (not including title page and bibliography). Write your manuscript precisely the way you would like to have your sermon heard that is true to the heart of the Bible text from which you are preaching and the message which you believe God wants your listeners to hear.
6. While this minimum is set for the manuscript you will submit, you can deliver your sermon from an outline or highlighted manuscript if you wish.
7. Listen to your fellow students' sermons in class and provide a brief written response for them including encouraging observations and constructive suggestions for things to include to enhance the content and delivery of the sermons. Send your response to me and your classmates by email.
8. Follow Society of Biblical Literature* (SBL) format for your title page, body of your sermon and bibliography. (*We will review SBL formatting in class.)

New Covenant (New Testament) Expository Sermon 2 30%

Prepare and deliver an expository sermon on one clearly defined passage (pericope) from any book of the New Testament following the requirements above.

Biblical Preacher Biography and Sermon Analysis Presentation. 10%

Prepare a 1,500 word (10 minute) biographical presentation on any Bible preacher of your choice along with a brief analysis of one of their sermons and present your insights to our class. Your paper should be neatly prepared but does not need to follow academic form.

Bonus: voluntary student journal / notebook review 5%

Submit your journal notebook hardcopy or computer file for review the last week of class.

Secondary Literature

While the following books have some value in suggesting methods for understanding and preaching the Bible, you are encouraged to read critically and use only what is in harmony with the Scripture. As secondary literature they are not inspired by God. You are encouraged to examine everything carefully in light of Scripture as the Bereans did:

“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Birston, Paul. *Jesus' Powerful Use of Language for Effective Preaching: A Sample Rhetorical Analysis of His Hyperbole for the Judging Hypocrite in Matthew 7:1–5*. Master's Thesis, Harding School of Theology, 2007.

_____. “A Rhetorical Analysis Template for Preachers, Listeners and Readers of Scripture Texts and Sermons from Them.” Chapel Presentation, Harding School of Theology, 2004.

The Greek New Testament. 4th rev. ed. Edited by Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger. D-Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, United Bible Societies, 1994.

Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

_____. *Preaching Jesus from the Old Testament*.

Tannehill, Robert C. *The Sword of His Mouth*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975.