



Taylor Seminary

## **PW 431 Introduction to Preaching**

October 24-28, 2011

### Taylor Seminary's Mission

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Lyle Buyer  
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**COURSE WEIGHT:** 3 credits

**PRE-REQUISITE:** BI 412 Biblical Hermeneutics or permission from the instructor

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course consists of a study of the foundations and fundamentals of Biblical preaching. Learning how to develop Biblical sermons will be the primary focus of this course. During the course, students will be given an opportunity to preach in class. These sermons will be evaluated by the Instructor and by the class.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Articulate the Biblical commitments that will govern your preaching ministry.
2. Listen to sermons in a way that not only enhances your spiritual growth, but also informs your preaching ministry.
3. Develop a sermon that is faithful to the Biblical text and deliver it effectively.
  - a. Study a passage and identify its main idea and logical flow.
  - b. Develop the homiletical idea of the sermon.
  - c. Develop an outline of the sermon.
  - d. Develop effective introductions, conclusions, supporting material and transitions.
  - e. Employ delivery techniques that bring energy, focus and interest to the idea being presented
  - f. Articulate and apply key principles of oral clarity.

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baker Academic, 2001.

Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds*. Eerdmans, 1982.

Sunukjian, Donald. *Invitation to Biblical Preaching: Proclaiming Truth with Clarity and Relevance*. Kregel, 2007.

## RECOMMENDED READING:

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Baker, 1994.

Duduit, Michael (ed.). *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Broadman, 1992.

Litfin, Duane. *Public Speaking; A Handbook for Christians*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baker, 1992.

Robinson, Haddon and Craig Brian Larson (eds.). *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Zondervan, 2005.

An excellent online resource is <http://preachingtoday.com>. I would recommend a membership to this resource to anyone who preaches regularly.

The Library holdings for Homiletics and Communications are:

- Preaching: BV 4207 – 4235
- Actual Sermons: BV 4241 – 4316
- Communications: BV 4319

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

### 1. Biblical Reflection on Commitments that Guide Preaching (15%)

Read Chapters 1-5 of Stott's *Between Two Worlds*, chapter 1 of Robinson's *Biblical Preaching* and chapter 1 of Sunukjian's *Invitation to Biblical Preaching*. Write a paper (no longer than 6 pages) describing three to five commitments that will guide your preaching ministry. Each commitment should be supported biblically. The paper should demonstrate interaction with the material in the assigned reading. **Due: November 25th.**

Anticipated time required: 8-12 hours

## 2. Reflection on the Sermons of Others (10%)

Choose two sermons from the list (page 8 of the syllabus) that will be made available to you. Listen to these sermons and answer the following questions.

- What do you think was the main idea of this sermon? How was this idea developed?
- Did this sermon challenge or encourage you in your Christian walk?
- Do you think this sermon was effective? If so, what made it effective? If not, why not? What did you learn from this sermon about effective communication (both content and delivery) of biblical truth?
- What contributed to the clarity or lack of clarity in the sermon?
- Comment on any illustrations, or any aspects of the introduction and conclusion that stood out to you in any way. What did you like or dislike about them?

**Due: November 11th.**

Anticipated time required: 4-5 hours

## 3. Practice and Preparation Exercises (20%)

In preparation for the sermon you will be preaching, you will be given opportunity to “practice” and prepare for your sermon by presenting the following in class:

- Illustrating a biblical truth (5%)
- Identifying the exegetical and homiletical idea of a biblical passage (5%)
- Creating an outline for a biblical sermon (5%)
- Designing an introduction for a biblical sermon (5%)

Anticipated time required: 1-3 hours per exercise

## 4. Preparing and Delivering a Biblical Sermon (25%)

Prepare a sermon (10-15 minutes) based on a biblical passage. You will be asked to choose from a list of passages included in this syllabus. This sermon should reflect the principles presented throughout the class. The date on which you are to preach will be assigned on the Wednesday of the class. A sermon manuscript is to be submitted no later than **November 4**. You will be expected to preach from no more than one page (may use both sides) of notes.

- Sermon Manuscript (15%)
- Delivery of Sermon (10%)

Anticipated time required to write manuscript: 10-15 hours

## 4. Evaluation of the Sermons Presented by Your Peers (10%)

You are expected to be present when your peers are scheduled to preach and you will be asked to fill out an evaluation and participate in a constructive evaluative discussion after each is preached. Absence without cause at a class where your peers are preaching will result in a deduction of 5%.

5. Take-Home Exam (20%)

Prepare a sermon on a passage of your choice. You will be asked to submit a video presentation of the sermon and a manuscript along with...

- The subject of the text.
- The complement of the text.
- The exegetical idea.
- The homiletical idea.
- The purpose of your sermon.
- The homiletical outline of your sermon.

**Due: December 2nd**

**PENALTIES:**

It is very true that Sundays come with weekly regularity and you can't get an extension on a sermon that needs to be preached. For that reason, practice exercises and the sermon itself will not be granted extensions except in cases where circumstances present a legitimate conflict. In these cases, the Instructor must be notified one day prior to class (practice assignment) or one week prior to the due date (paper or final exam) and must find the request for extension compelling and valid. Authentic last-minute emergencies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Written assignments are expected to be submitted on or before the date they are due and will be subject to a 10% reduction in grade for each week they are late to a maximum of two weeks, after which they will not be accepted.

**EVALUATIONS:**

Practice and Preparation Exercises	20%
Preparing and Delivering a Biblical Sermon	25%
Reflection on Sermons of Others	10%
Biblical Reflection on Preaching Commitments	15%
Evaluation of Sermons Presented by Peers	10%
Take-Home Exam (Prepared Sermon)	20%

**PREPARATION PRIOR TO THE CLASS:**

Before the start of the class on October 24, please complete the following:

The reading for the first day of class includes Robinson, 17-50, 151-162 and Sunukjian, 9-15; 256-267. We will do the exercises on pages 47-50 in class, so you may want to review these. I encourage you not to check the answers at the end of the book. Given that you will be working on a sermon during the week of class, it will be most helpful to you if you read Robinson's book in its entirety before class begins.

Come prepared to share an illustration (may be a story, object lesson, or current event but cannot be shown as a video) of a Biblical principle on the Monday afternoon of class. You will be asked to have your Bible with you and read the Scripture you are illustrating. You may either give your illustration and then move to your Biblical principle, or you can start with your Biblical principle and then move to your illustration. Your entire presentation should be at least one minute and no longer than four minutes.

As part of the class, each of you will be preparing a sermon you will present at the end of the week. It will be helpful if you choose your passage (from the list on page 7 of this syllabus) and begin to do some preliminary study on this text. There will be some time in class to develop your sermon, but you will need to ensure you have time in the evenings to work on this assignment.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

(This outline is subject to modification)

October 24 Introduction to the Course  
(Morning) The Case for Expository Preaching  
Illustrations

You will be asked to prepare an illustration of a biblical concept for the afternoon class.

October 24 Illustration Practice  
(Afternoon) Understanding Ideas  
From Text to Sermon Idea  
▪ Choosing and Studying a Passage of Scripture

During the evening (or in the time preceding the class), look through the list of passages from which you will be asked to preach. In tomorrow morning's class, you will be asked to provide the passage you have chosen. No more than two students (first come basis) will be allowed to preach on any one passage. Take some time this evening to study the passage you have chosen. In preparation for tomorrow's classes, read Robinson, 51-137 and Sunukjian, 19-26.

October 25 Exegetical and Homiletical Ideas  
(Morning) Developing the Exegetical and Homiletical Idea of Your Sermon  
For the afternoon class, you will be asked to present your preliminary thoughts on the exegetical idea of your passage and the homiletical idea of your sermon.

October 25 Discussion of the Homiletical Idea of Your Text  
(Afternoon) Determining the Sermon's Purpose  
Developing the Idea of a Sermon  
Forms Sermons Take  
Sermon Outlines and Transitions

In preparation for tomorrow's classes, read Robinson 139-182. Tomorrow morning, you will be asked to present your preliminary sermon outline.

October 26    Share the Outline of Your Sermon in Class  
(Morning)    Basic Considerations for Preaching Various Literary Genres

October 26    Supporting Material  
(Afternoon)    Introductions and Conclusions

In preparation for tomorrow's class, read Robinson, 183-224 and Sunukjian, 268-303. For tomorrow morning's class, you will be asked to present an introduction to a sermon that will be assigned in class.

October 27    Share a Sermon Introduction in Class  
(Morning)    Principles of Oral Clarity  
                  Sermon Delivery

October 27    Sermons preached in class  
(Afternoon)

October 28    Sermons preached in class  
(Morning)

October 28    Sermons preached in class  
(Afternoon)

PW 431 PREACHING TEXTS (These are subject to change.)

1 Samuel 17

Psalm 131

Psalm 127

Daniel 1

Mark 4:35-41

Luke 8:4-18

Luke 10:38-42

Romans 12:1-2

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Hebrews 13:5-6

1 Peter 5:1-4

PW431 Sermons for Evaluation (These are subject to change.)

These sermons are available on Preaching Today.com. Preaching Today has graciously made available to each of you a trial membership to this resource. You can access the following sermons by logging on to preachingtoday.com. Scroll down to the media section of the home page (bottom right corner) and click on “audio sermons.” This will take you to a library of over 400 audio sermons online. You can use the search engine provided to search the following sermons by title or by speaker. While the assignment requires that you listen to and evaluate two of the following sermons, I hope that you enjoy many of the other sermons provided in this helpful resource.

Haddon Robinson, *Don't Doubt God's Goodness*, Genesis 3:1-6

Haddon Robinson, *A Good Lesson from a Bad Example*, Luke 12:16-34

Haddon Robinson, *The Disciple's Prayer*, Luke 11-1-4

Donald Sunikjian, *The Shortest Distance Between Two Points is a Zigzag*, Exodus 13:17-22

Joseph Stowell, *Trusting God in Times of Crisis*, Psalm 46

John Ortberg, *Waiting on God*, Romans 8:23-25

Margureite Shuster, *Caution!*, 2 Samuel 6:1-15

Jill Briscoe, *Loving God With All Your Heart*, Luke 10:25-37

Duane Litfin, *Serving a Glorified Christ*, Luke 17:15

Francis Chan, *Living With Jesus*, Philippians 3:1-11

Skye Jethani, *Three Ways to Worship*, 2 Samuel 6:1-15

Andy Stanley, *Paying Your Dues*, Romans 13:1-7