

Syllabus

Instructor:

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I. Introduction to “Experimental Preaching”

A. Introductory questions:

1. What is experimental religion and experimental preaching?
2. What is the difference between “head” knowledge and saving “heart” knowledge?
3. Is there a difference between the terms *experimental* and *experiential*?
4. Why is the experimental dimension of preaching necessary?
5. What are some essential characteristics of proper experiential preaching?
6. How does the offer of grace function in experiential preaching?
7. What is the relationship between Reformed experiential preaching and Reformed piety or spirituality?
8. Why is essential that the called minister be experientially prepared for the ministry?
9. What is the primary difference between preaching and lecturing?
10. What are some of the hermeneutical issues associated with preaching the Scriptures this way (e.g. biographical sermons)

B. Goals of the Course:

1. To understand how the experimental dimension of vital Christianity was preached by the major Reformers, English Puritans and some of the great preachers from each of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

2. Apply what we learn to contemporary preaching
3. Practice the basics of experimental preaching by writing a sermon sketch (outline) on a text which emphasizes the experience of vital Christian truth in the soul and life of the believer
4. Develop a basic grasp of the primary strengths and weaknesses associated with experimental preaching

C. Reading assignments:

1. Adams, Jay. *Truth Applied: Application in Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990. Read entire book.
2. Beeke, Joel R. *Assurance of Faith: Calvin, English Puritanism, and the Dutch Second Reformation*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, ????. *Chapters 4, 6, 8-10, and appendix. (Check)*
3. Bridges, Charles: *The Christian Ministry*. Reprint, London: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1967, 239-282.
4. Davies, Horton. *The Worship of the English Puritans*. Westminster: Dacre Press, 1948, chapter 11.
5. Jennings, John. "Of Particular and Experimental Preaching," in *The Christian Pastor's Manual*. Reprint, Pittsburgh: Soli Deo Gloria, 1991, 47-62.
6. Lewis, Peter. "Preaching from Calvin to Bunyan," in *Spiritual Worship*. Westminster Conference, 1985, 33-50.
7. Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Preaching and Preachers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971, chapters 1-6, 9-11, 16.
8. Logan, Samuel. T. Jr., ed. *The Preacher and Preaching: Reviving the Art in the Twentieth Century*. Phillipsburg: P & R, 1986, introduction and chapters 2, 14.
9. Martin, Al. *What's Wrong with Preaching Today?* London: Banner of Truth Trust, [1968].

10. Miller, Perry. *The New England Mind: The Seventeenth Century*. New York: MacMillan, 1939, chapters 2, 12.
11. Packer, J. I. *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1990. Chapters 1, 6-7, 10, 15, 17-18, 20.
12. Ryken, Leland. *Worldly Saints: The Puritans As They Really Were*. Grand rapids: Zondervan, 1986. Chapter 6.
13. Van der Walt, A. G. P. "Calvin on Preaching," in John Calvin's Institutes: His Opus Magnum. *Potchefstroom: Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, 1986, 326-342.*

D. A paper (25 pages, double spaced, 12pt New Times Roman plus bibliography) on a topic to be assigned during the class lectures. The paper should be sent to me via e-mail attachment in MS Word (those using other formats should ensure a Rich Text format).
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