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:**


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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