

4PT506 – Introduction to Preaching
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Atlanta Campus
2 hours

Robert Leslie Holmes, D.Min., LL. D
Telephone 706-799-4474
Email: rlesholmes@aol.com

From the RTS catalog: This course presents an introduction to the principles and process in the preparation and delivery of sermons.

“Preaching is truth through personality” (Phillips Brooks). If that be true, and it is the professor’s opinion that it is, then we will study the foundation and role of good preaching and explore some types of sermons and delivery methods in hopes of helping each student discern which method best suits their personality. At least two opportunities will be given for each student to preach in class.

It is the professor’s intention that by the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand preaching as an act of worship.
2. Be familiar with a process for preparing sermons.
3. Be familiar with at least one process of preparing preaching in advance.
4. Be prepared to use published worship resources with sound judgment.
5. Skillfully prepare and present written material orally in a way that communicates and motivates.

Course meeting schedule:

Class meets three weekends on Friday evenings from 6.30 until 8.30 and Saturdays from 8.30 until 4.30 at the Atlanta Campus. Meeting dates are September 10-11, October 8-9, November 12-13, 2010 (i.e., the second weekend of each month).

Course readings:

Bryan Chapell, *Christ Centered Preaching (2nd edition)*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.
Robert Leslie Holmes, *When Good Enough Just Isn’t Good Enough*, Greenville: Ambassador International, 2005 (Do not purchase. Professor will gift this book to each student)
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971
John C. Maxwell, *Everyone Communicates, Few Connect*, Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010

Certain practical articles about preaching that will be distributed by the professor in class.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

1. Attendance: 5%
2. Write a two-page paper articulating your theological understanding of preaching entitled: *What is Preaching* – due on or before October class meeting. (10 points)
3. Write a sermon outline from a Bible passage of your choice. Give a brief introduction describing major points, your plan for preaching it, body of the message, and brief practical conclusion (20 points) – due on or before October class meeting.
4. Write a one page review of each of five sermons you have read or heard (live or recorded) during the semester and evaluate each sermon as to its content, strengths, weaknesses, and what you might have done differently – due on or before November class meeting. (20 points total).
5. Develop, write, and preach before the class, a sermon from an assigned passage. (30 points).
6. Final examination (15 points).

Course outline:

First weekend:

Introductions

Orientation to the course

Prayer in preparation for preaching

Communication counts

Preaching as a part of public worship according to our Reformed understanding

The basics of sermon planning, preparation and delivery

Second weekend:

Language of the sermon

The Biblical roots of excellent preaching

Can I preach the Bible with confidence?

Preaching to Post-moderns

First sermons by students

Third weekend:

Second sermons by students

Watch your words.

Holy God! Holy preacher! The preacher's spiritual life; Privately and Publicly!

The preacher's family life!

Final examination