IPT506 SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING  
(Spring 2006)

Instructor: Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas

I Course Description

An introduction to the principles of, and the processes involved in, the preparation and delivery of sermons. Preaching is God’s revealed way of making himself and His saving covenant known to us. It communicates the Bible as no other way of handling it does. It focuses the church as a worshipping, Word-oriented community. Preaching is modelled by Christ and the apostles as God’s way of communication for all time. In this course, we shall look at the guiding principles that constitute reformed preaching through the ages, giving particular concentration on the mechanics of sermon construction. Particular attention will be given on the necessity to proclaim the whole counsel of God biblically, doctrinally, practically, and experientially.

II Course Objectives

To underline the importance of experiential, Calvinistic preaching  
To nurture and cultivate latent preaching gifts  
To maintain a lifelong marriage of devotional habits and preaching skills

III Course Requirements

A. Lectures and attendance

Classroom attendance is for the glory of God and preparation of the gospel ministry. Students therefore are expected to attend class sessions. No student should absent himself from classes in order to fulfill requirements or responsibilities of other classes. Those with absences may be penalized at the discretion of the professor.

If students miss class persistently throughout the regular semester, they may be dismissed for academic reasons. In certain exceptional cases, such as extended illness or family crisis, in which it is impossible for students to complete a semester’s work, they may present a written request for permission to withdraw from all courses. (RTS Catalogue, 2001-03).

B. Reading Requirements (10%)

Primary texts:

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn, Preaching and Preachers  
Logan, Samuel T, The Preacher and Preaching  
Haddon W. Robinson Biblical Preaching (2nd edition)
A 2-paged report on each of these books will be due by March 15

During the course, many other volumes on preaching will be alluded to, and those with lots of spare cash may want to purchase these volumes with discernment.

Secondary (and important!) texts: These are *not* required.

- Adam, *Speaking God’s Words*
- Alexander, JW, *Thoughts on Preaching*
- Bridges, Charles, *The Christian Ministry*
- Martin, Al, *What’s Wrong with Preaching Today?*
- McArthur, Jr, John, ed., *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*
- Perkins, W, *The Art of Prophesying*
- Piper, John, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*
- Spurgeon, CH, *Lectures to my Students*
- Stott, John, *I Believe in Preaching* (UK)
  - Between Two Worlds (US)

C. *Your Sermon Outlines (50%)*

Produce a sermon outline (no more than 2 pages) on the following passages by the date shown. Be prepared to defend your outline in a class discussion.

1. Feb 13  1 Samuel 1  5pts
2. Feb 20  2 Cor. 12:7-10  5pts
3. Feb 27  John 2:1-11  5pts
4. Mar 6  Psalm 100  5pts
5. Mar 20  Mark 10:17-31  5pts
7. April 3  Psalm 95  5pts
8. April 10  2 Timothy 4:6-8  5pts
9. April 17  Romans 5:1-5  5pts
10. April 24  John 3:16  5pts
11. May 1  Preaching Lab
12. May 8  Preaching Lab

*These are to be handed in by 1.00 pm each Monday at the beginning of class. A full point will be deducted for each 24 hour segment after the deadline.*

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The following parts of the sermon should be clearly labelled:
1. A Title
2. The text
3. An Introduction (one or two sentences)
4. The ‘Big Idea’
5. Division of the sermon including sub-points
6. Conclusion
7. Note any illustrations used
8. Ensure that applicatory material is clearly labelled.
9. A list of ALL books and other material (including any internet sources) used in the preparation of the sermon outline.

Please do not e-mail them to me.

D. Lab Sessions

Preaching a Sermon (20%)

On two Mondays, the class will divide into groups for preaching (see schedule).

Class will divide into groups of six (assigned by the instructor at the beginning of the semester). Each of the five listeners will fill out a sermon evaluation form on the sermon they are listening to and hand it to the student preacher at the close of the session. Each student preacher should be in receipt of 5 such evaluations. In addition, each listener is required to submit a detailed OUTLINE of what they heard.

In addition, the student preacher is to write a one page response to these evaluations. Guidance will be given in class as to what is expected.

Summary

On Paper Day, each student should hand in the following:

- The full sermon text
- 5 student evaluations
- 5 student outlines of his sermon
- 1 Personal response to the evaluation

In class Sermon Outline (20%)
On two Mondays (see schedule), the class will be assigned a text/passage. The class will work individually for the 2 hours to produce a sermon outline. Details of how this will look will be given during the course. These sessions will meet in the library!

In the first hour, you will given an opportunity to access whatever commentaries you may need in order to get a “handle” on the meaning of the passage. A note will need to be made of all commentaries consulted. In order to make things fairer, different passages will be assigned to ensure that not everyone is trying to access the same commentary!

In the second hour, on one sheet of paper, an outline of a sermon will be constructed in which the following component parts must be identifiable:

1. A Title
2. An Introduction (one or two sentences)
3. The ‘Big Idea’
4. Division of the sermon including sub-points
5. Conclusion
6. One illustration
7. Two applications
8. A list of commentaries consulted (No Internet access allowed for this assignment)

Each of these will be graded at 10%
Sample sermon outline

Text: Joshua 24:14-25

Title: Covenant Consecration

The historical setting will play a large part on the exposition of this passage. It is Joshua’s last charge. It is one of those occasions where a superficial response would be inadequate. “Count the cost of true discipleship” appears to be the main theme. Note the dialogue of the passage. This may well (though not necessarily) provide us with some kind of outline: Joshua’s command v. the people’s response.

Note that verses 14 and 15 appear to be dominant: Serving the King!

Explanation: Joshua 24 records Joshua’s final charge to representatives of all the people of Israel. His obvious concern before his death was for their commitment to the Lord. Wholeheartedness: the devotion which God deserves and the dedication and service which He demands.

Introduction: Much of our religion is superficial and half-hearted. The problem is always one of commitment. Divided loyalties.

Big Idea: A challenge to re-affirm our decision to serve the Lord (the Hebrew for work, serve, occurs seven times, and the root eighteen times). They must choose: Slaves of Christ or slaves of sin?


2. The decision to be faced. Verse 15 especially. All or nothing. Out and out for the Lord. C.f. the testimony of William Booth (founder of Salvation Army): “There came a day in the life of William Booth when he was determined that God should have everything there was of William Booth.” Note that Joshua is prepared to ‘go it alone’ if necessary, not following the tide. “As for me and my house…”

3. The debt to be remembered. Verse 16-18. The people, faced with the stark choice, find it unthinkable that they should serve someone other than God. They owe their deliverance from bondage to the Lord. How can they possibly serve another?

4. The dues to be paid. “Entrance into covenant life is by grace and free; but the annual dues is everything you’ve got.” Verses 19-23. Covenant obedience. The demands were greater than the Israelites expected! Faith is always to be accompanied by repentance. Especially idolatry. Calvin: “Man’s mind is a perpetual factory of idols” (I.xi.8).

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
May I ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

*I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all.*

**Conclusion:** Let us do the same by vowing our obedience to the Lord.
Class Schedule

February 6  Classroom lectures
February 13 Classroom lectures
February 20 Classroom lectures
February 27 Classroom lectures
March 7  Classroom lectures
March 14 Library Lab session I
(March 20)  SPRING BREAK
March 27 Classroom lectures
April 3  Classroom lectures
April 10 Library Lab session II
April 17 Classroom lectures
April 24 Classroom lectures
May 1  Preaching Lab
May 9  Preaching Lab

Summary Grading for the Course:

- Reading Requirement 10%
- *Your* Weekly Sermon outlines (10 x 5%) 50%
- Preached sermon requirement + completed sheets (see page 3) 20%
- Library Lab sessions (2 x 10%) 20%
**Advanced Students**

Some students have already have a reasonable experience of preaching and I am therefore proposing the following alternative track for these students.

In place of class attendance, the reading report requirement and the preaching lab sessions (final two weeks of class) write a comprehensive paper (20-25 pages) comparing the preaching methodologies of Martyn Lloyd-Jones, John Piper, C. H Spurgeon and Geerhardus Vos.

Attendance at both Library Lab sessions will be required as well as assignments relating to them. Advanced students must all submit the ten sermon outlines on the date specified.

Permission to be considered an advanced student in this course will be given only by the instructor.

**Advanced Student Grading for the Course:**

- Weekly Sermon outlines (10 x 5%) 50%
- Library Lab sessions (2 x 10%) 20%
- Paper 30%
Biblical Words for preaching

(parash) make distinct, declare, translate? Neh 8:7-8

(sakal) wise(ly), understand, prosper Neh 8:7-8

(sekel) understanding Deut 18:20

(nava) prophesy (navia) spokesman, speaker, prophet Deut 18:20

(hazah) look, see, behold, prophesy, provide Amos 7:12

(hozeh) seer. Isa 30:10

(kohelet) speaker in an assembly Ecc 1:1

(kara) call, call out, recite (read). Isa 61:1

(basar) publish, bear (good) tidings, preach, show forth Isa 61:1

(nataph) drop, drip, distil, prophesy, preach Mic 2:6

(keruso) proclaim, make known, preach Rom 10:14-15; 1 Cor. 1:21-23; 2Tim 4:2 (x 70 in New Testament)

(evangelizo) bring the good news, preach the good news Luke 4:18; Acts 8:4

(dianoigo) explain Luke 24:27-32

diermeneuo (diermeneuo) interpret, explain; translate Luke 24:27-32

dialegomai (dialegomai) discuss, debate; address, speak Acts 17:2-3

(paratithmi) commit, entrust; point out, prove Matt 13:31

(logos) something said (e.g. word; saying; message, teaching; talk, conversation; question after) Matt 13:19-23

(rhema) what is said, word, saying Rom 10:17; 1 Pet 1:25

diangello (diangello) proclaim, preach; give notice of Luke 9:60

(katangello) proclaim, make known, preach; teach,
advocate

παρρησιάζομαι (parrēsiazomai) speak boldly or freely

Acts 4:2; 13:5

ἐλέγχω (elegchō) show (someone his) fault or error, convince (someone) of (his) fault or error; show (something) up for what it is; prove guilty, condemn; rebuke, reprove

Acts 9:27-29

ἐπιτιμάω (epitimaō) command, order, give a command; rebuke; scold

Acts 2 Tim 4:2; Tit 1:9; 2:15

παρακαλέω (parakaleō) beg, urge; encourage, speak words of encouragement; request, ask, appeal to; console, comfort, cheer up; invite, summon

Acts 2 Tim 4:2

παραμυθία, (paramuthia) comfort

1 Cor 14:3

διαμαρτύρομαι (diamarturomai) declare solemnly and emphatically; charge under solemn oath; warn (Lk 16.28)

Acts 20:21; cf. 1 John 4:14

ὁμολογέω (homologēō) confess; admit; declare, say plainly; promise; claim (Tt 1.16); give thanks to or praise (He 13.15)

1 Tim 6:12

ὁμιλέω (homileō) talk, converse (nb Homiletics)

Acts 20:11

λαλέω (laleō) speak, talk, say; preach, proclaim; tell; be able to speak; address, converse (with); promise (of God); sound (of thunder)

Mark 2:2; cf 1 Cor 2:6-7

διδάσκω (didaskō) teach

Acts 5:42

ἐπίλυσις (epilusis) interpretation, explanation

2 Pet 1:20

συζητέω (suzēteō) argue; discuss; question

Acts 9:29

ἀπολογία, (apologia) verbal defense, defense

Acts 22:1; 1 Pet. 3:15; Phil 1:7, 16

μεταδίδωμι (metadidomi) share, give, impart

1 Thess 2:8; cf. Rom 1:11; Eph. 4:28