

Preaching Lab III-B
2PT532
Winter-Spring, 2008

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Disclaimer

- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the details contained in this syllabus depending on class size and other factors.

Course Description

- A practicum for the development of skills and confidence in preaching
- 2 hours credit for 3 hours in class each Thursday (2:00-5:00 p.m.) in the Chapel

Course Objectives

- To attain competency in constructing and delivering sermons.
- To become more aware of your strengths and weaknesses in public speaking, identifying ways to maximize your strengths and overcome your weaknesses.
- To develop a greater passion for and excellence in expository, Christ-centered preaching.
- To grow more effective in helping people understand and apply the gospel to their lives.

Course Requirements & Percentage of Final Grade

- Class participation50%
 - Faithful attendance
 - Constructive critique of fellow students
 - Effort & conscientiousness
- Sermon (1)25%
 - Effective use of communication techniques
 - Quality of exegesis and exposition
 - Application to the whole person: Head, Heart, & Hands
- Brief speaking assignments25%

Each student will preach one sermon during the semester. It must be delivered within a 30-minute time limit (including reading of the text). You will preach on an assigned topic. *I need to know the text you choose for this sermon at the second class meeting (February 12).*

The sermon should be Christ-centered and expository. I define "expository sermon" as one in which all the main and sub-points come directly from the text. It must demonstrate that the preacher understands that every text is part of the larger Biblical story of the person and redeeming work of Jesus Christ. It will be evaluated on both content and delivery. Both your fellow students and I will critique your sermons.

If you would like my guidance ahead of time, give me your *main point outline* in writing a week prior to the day you preach. On the day you preach, I require a *full outline or manuscript* of your sermon. Men must wear a tie on the day they preach.

Your sermon will be presented twice during the semester. The first time, you will present only your subject, proposition, and outline to the class. Make this presentation using printed handouts so the class and I can see where you're going with the sermon. After this presentation, the class and I will offer critique and recommendations.

The second time you present your sermon will be your formal preaching assignment.

In addition to the sermon, I will give you several brief (up to 5 minutes in length) communication assignments during the semester. You will be evaluated by your connection to the intended audience and use of communication skills. For each assignment, I want a typed copy of the manuscript, notes, or outline you would use to make the actual presentation.

[*Note:* If you are preaching or presenting your sermon outline on the day one of these brief assignments is due, you are exempt from that assignment.]

There will be no outside reading assignments, tests, or final exam.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Preaching/Learning</i>	<i>Assignments Due</i>
Feb 5	Overview of course Principles of sermon construction	
12		<i>Text for Sermon 1</i>
19		<i>Sermon Intro</i>
26		
Mar 5		<i>Devotional Message</i>
12		
19		<i>Graveside Message</i>
26	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	
Apr 2		
9		<i>Wedding Charge</i>
16		
23		<i>Elders Meeting Devo</i>
30		
May 7		<i>Benediction</i>

COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT #1 – SERMON INTRODUCTION Due Thursday, February 19

The sermon introduction is your opportunity to capture the attention of your hearers and invite them to discover a new application of or insight into the gospel.

The introduction can serve one or more of several purposes. It can:

- ❑ Raise a question that most people ask;
- ❑ Identify a problem that most people have;
- ❑ Clarify the context of a passage of Scripture;
- ❑ Define and illustrate your main point;
- ❑ Help your hearers “see” the Biblical story unfold; or
- ❑ Claim that your text speaks to a current event, crisis, holiday, decision facing the church, need in the community, etc.

In your introduction you are showing your audience that you have a word from heaven. You are saying, “God has something to say to you today through His Word that might just radically change your life. You need to hear this!” Your goal is not to *answer* a question (that comes later) but to *raise or create* one; not to explain or apply the text (that comes later, too) but to take your hearers by the hand and lead them to the text with childlike wonder.

The introduction should be brief and should include a clear statement of your subject.

For this assignment, assume you are preaching on any text from the book of Romans. You are free to think of any occasion or context for your message that you wish. ***Compose an introduction for your sermon.*** When presented orally it should be no more than three minutes long. Be prepared to present your introduction orally to the class and be critiqued. Turn in a copy of your manuscript, notes, or outline.

COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT #2 – DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE
Due Thursday, March 5

As a pastor you will often be called on to give short inspirational messages in a variety of settings. These are great opportunities to communicate the gospel, but they are also challenging because you don't have the luxury of time to develop your points as much as you might like. You have to try to present your message with brevity, creativity, and relevance to your audience.

For this assignment, assume that you have been invited to give a devotional at the monthly meeting of a local high school's FCA chapter. You will be giving a five-minute devotional relevant to the situation and needs of that group of people. In the group are both Christians and non-Christians.

You are free to use any passage(s) of Scripture. Be prepared to share your devotion orally to the class and be critiqued. Turn in a copy of your manuscript, notes or outline.

COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT #3 – GRAVESIDE MESSAGE
Due Thursday, March 19

As a pastor, you will often perform funerals. These experiences will sometimes stretch you to the limit. When someone in your church dies you must drop everything and get involved with the family of the deceased. You must speak and counsel with people (some of whom are not Christians), plan the service(s), and prepare and deliver a short message or two from God's Word.

When you are preaching at a memorial or burial service, it is important that you be pastoral, sensitive to the needs and situation of the family, and drenched in the gospel. What a wonderful yet awesome responsibility, to preach at a funeral service!

For this assignment, assume that a believing member of your church has died and you are delivering a 5-minute message at the graveside. Before you sit a mix of people, including immediate family and friends of the deceased. Assume that among them are at least several unbelievers. You hope to offer comfort as well as a clear gospel presentation.

You are free to use any passage(s) of Scripture. Be prepared to share your devotion orally to the class and be critiqued. Turn in a copy of your manuscript, notes or outline.

COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT #4 – WEDDING CHARGE
Due Thursday, April 9

Every time you perform a wedding you have a tremendous opportunity to preach the Gospel. After all, God ordained marriage as a way of “showing off” the love of Christ for His Bride, the Church. So in preparing a wedding service, you should include a brief charge to the couple that will direct their attention to Christ. This charge can often “double” as an exhortation to people in the audience to commit (or recommit) their lives to Christ.

For this assignment, assume that you are performing the wedding of two of your church members. You have led them through the exchange of vows and rings, and soon you will be pronouncing them husband and wife. Now you are giving them a final charge. Prepare a brief, 5-minute charge that incorporates at least one passage of Scripture and points the couple to Jesus.

You are free to use any passage(s) of Scripture. Be prepared to share your devotion orally to the class and be critiqued. Turn in a copy of your manuscript, notes or outline.

**COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT #5 – ELDERS MEETING DEVOTIONAL
Due Thursday, April 23**

As a pastor, you will probably moderate your church's governing board meetings. These meetings offer you an opportunity to speak to your fellow leaders about issues close to your heart, such as God's call to shepherd the flock, the personal life of the elder, the vision and mission of the church, needs of the congregation, and so on.

For this assignment, assume that you are the pastor and that you are giving a devotional message to open the monthly meeting of your elder board. Prepare a brief, 5-minute message that incorporates at least one passage of Scripture and touches on an issue of significance to church leaders.

You are free to use any passage(s) of Scripture. Be prepared to share your devotion orally to the class and be critiqued. Turn in a copy of your manuscript, notes or outline.

COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT #6 – BENEDICTION
Due Thursday, May 7

One of the privileges of being a pastor is giving the benediction at the end of each worship service. Far from a formality tacked on without thought, the benediction is the opportunity for your congregation to be reminded that they go out into the world in full dependence upon the promise of God's power, grace, and Spirit.

For this assignment, choose two of the many benedictions found in Scripture, memorize them, and give them to the class as you would do if we were your congregation. Concentrate on giving the benediction with appropriate feeling and eye contact.

SERMON CHECKLIST

Preacher _____ Text _____ Date _____

FUNDAMENTALS	√	COMMENTS
The preacher captured my interest right away.		
The introduction presented a relevant question to be answered or problem to be solved.		
The sermon had a single subject.		
The sermon had a simple proposition.		
The sermon outline was simple, clear, and cohesive.		
The points of the outline were stated in universals and complete sentences.		
The preacher's voice was clear, strong, and expressive.		
The preacher used effective gestures.		
The preacher kept a sufficient amount of eye contact with his audience.		
The preacher had command of the English language and rules of grammar.		
HEAD	√	COMMENTS
The preacher was thoroughly familiar with the text.		
The preacher expounded the text in words everyone can understand.		
The preacher substantiated each main point and sub-point by verses in the text.		
The preacher considered the context and genre of the passage.		
The preacher used clear transitions to help me follow the logic of the sermon.		
HEART	√	COMMENTS
The sermon maintained my attention.		
The preacher was passionate about his subject.		
There was a sufficient number of interesting illustrations.		
The preacher made it clear that the gospel, not "trying harder," is the motivating power for life change.		
The sermon built to an appropriate climax.		
HANDS	√	COMMENTS
The conclusion included a summary of the whole sermon.		
The sermon answered the question or solved the problem raised in the introduction.		
The preacher asked for a definite response.		
The preacher gave me practical take-aways from the sermon.		
The preacher led me to see Christ in the text.		

Please note here any distracting mannerisms or habits this preacher should try to eliminate:

