Introduction to Preaching
Spring 2009
Richard (Dick) Belcher, Jr. (rbelcher@rts.edu)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to preaching that lays a foundation for the necessity of preaching for the church. It lays out a theology of preaching as a basis for understanding the role of preaching within God's redemptive program and explores some hermeneutical issues related to preaching. There is also an emphasis on the principles and process of sermon preparation.

Course Objectives

1) To lay a foundation for the necessity of preaching in understanding the theology of preaching.
2) To introduce the hermeneutics of preaching and its significance for understanding the task of preaching.
3) To develop the importance of the preparation of the preacher in preaching.
4) To develop a methodology of sermon preparation by working step by step through the construction of a sermon.

Textbooks

1) Robert J. Cara, "Redemptive-Historical Themes in the Westminster Larger Catechism," forthcoming in the 3rd volume of The Westminster Confession into the 21st Century. This article, which deals with some hermeneutical positions, will be made available to students if the book is not published.

2) Bryan Chapell, Christ-Centered Preaching (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005)

3) D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Preaching and Preachers (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971)


Assignments

1) The assigned reading must be read (see the Schedule for the class).

2) For part of the course there will be a quiz each week which will include memorizing benedictions. The following translations may be used for this memorization: KJV, NKJV, NASV, NIV, ESV.
3) There is one Exam based on the lectures covering the Theological Foundation of Preaching and the Hermeneutics of Preaching. This Exam will be given outside of class sometime in the middle of the semester.

4) Two written sermons are required following the methodology laid out in the course.

a) Students will be assigned a text from Philippians and Amos.
b) On certain weeks assignments will be due from the Philippians texts in light of what is covered in class that week.
c) A condensed version of the Philippians sermon will be preached in class (Introduction, Proposition, one main point with illustration and application, Conclusion), which should last no more than fifteen minutes.
d) When the condensed sermon from Philippians is preached in class the student will hand in that day the Homiletical Outline (Proposition, Main points and subpoints) and the full written sermon.
e) The sermon from Amos is due Wednesday, May 13. The student will hand in a Homiletical Outline and the full written sermon.
f) For students who are not pursuing ordination you will either use the same format and speak to a particular audience (a women's conference or a youth conference), or you will present a Bible Study using many of the same principles.

**Grades**

1) Written Sermons 40%
2) Midterm Exam 20%
3) Preached Sermon 20%
4) Homework Assignments 10%
5) Reading 05%
6) Quizzes 05%