Reformed Theological Seminary- Atlanta
04DM823  Reformed Experiential Preaching
COURSE SYLLABUS
(3 credit hours)

Winter, 2015

Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas
Robert Strong Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology,
RTS Atlanta

January 5 – 9, 2015
(8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

Course Description:
An examination of the nature of “experiential/experimental” preaching in the tradition of the Reformers and Puritans, including examples from the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The course examines the nature of Reformed piety and the kind of preaching that produces it. It will require a study of theological, historical and hermeneutical issues. The course will seek to discover areas in which today’s preaching needs adjustment if it is to achieve the goal of experiential preaching.

Course Objectives
To grasp the nature and goal of experiential preaching, by a thorough knowledge of the tradition.
To discover how, and to what extent, modern views of preaching differ from this experiential model.

Required Readings

______, *Sermons on Genesis*, Chapters 11-20, Rob Roy McGregor (Banner of Truth, 2012), 10 sermons [978-1848711549]


Beeke, Joel, *Quest for Full Assurance: Legacy of Calvin and his Successors* (Banner of Truth, 1999) [978-0851517452]


Elias, John, *The Experimental Knowledge of Christ and other sermons* (Reformation Heritage, 2006) [978-1892777775]. Sermons 1, 2, 9, 11

Goodwin, Thomas, *The Heart of Christ* (Banner of Truth, 2011) [978-1848711464]

Kistler, Don (Ed.), *A Christian Pastor’s Manual: A Selection of Tracts on the Duties, Difficulties and

Lawson, Steven, The Expository Genius of John Calvin (Reformation Trust, 2007) [978-1567690859]

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn, Out of the Depths (Christian Heritage, 2011) [978-1845506469]

______, Preaching and Preachers (Zondervan, 2012) [978-0310331292]

Shepherd, Thomas, The Sincere Convert and the Sound Believer (Soli Deo Gloria, 1999) [978-1877611322]

Sibbes, Richard, The Love of Christ (Banner of Truth, 2011) [978-1848711440]

Various authors, A Passionate Plea for Preaching (Reformation Trust, 2008) [978-1567691078]

Course Requirements:

Reading and Class Participation: Students will participate in in-class workshops discussing particular readings according to the schedule below (30%)

Research Paper (20-25 pages) – a study of a particular preacher (past or present) examining closely the emphasis given to application and spiritual experience. (70%)

Class Workshops:
Tuesday 2-4 Calvin
Wednesday 2-4 Sibbes, Goodwin, Edwards
Thursday 2-4 Elias, Lloyd-Jones

Instructor’s Contact Info:
dthomas@rts.edu
Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 04DM823 Reformed Experiential Preaching  
Professor: Dr. Derek Thomas  
Campus: Atlanta  
Date: Jan 5 - 9, 2015

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<th><em><em>DMin</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
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<td><em>In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.</em></td>
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<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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<td>- Strong</td>
<td>- Requires close examination of both Biblical texts and the integration of Reformed Theology</td>
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<td>- Moderate</td>
<td>- Requires evaluation of preaching from 16th to 19th centuries</td>
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<td>- Minimal</td>
<td>- Requires a methodology of preaching integrating pastoral application</td>
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<td>- None</td>
<td>- Requires handling of the text of Scripture and its pastoral consequences</td>
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<th><strong>Biblical/ Theological Foundations:</strong></th>
<th>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</th>
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<td><strong>Historical/ Contemporary Practices:</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</td>
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<td><strong>Integration:</strong></td>
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<td>Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification:</strong></td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification.</td>
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