Preaching Lab III (02PT532/01)

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary—Orlando

Spring 2015
Preaching Lab III (02PT532/01)
Course Syllabus – Spring 2015

Instructor: Rev. Mike Francis

Office hours: Tuesdays 5:00—6:00 p.m. Other times by appointment.

Contact information: sicnarfekim@gmail.com (386) 747-3517

Communication: I prefer communicating in person, but email is fine, too.

Class meeting: Tuesdays 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Course web page: Will be available through Self Service.

Course Description

This course is intended to further equip the student for Gospel-radiant pastoral ministry through reflection upon, and exercises relevant to, the public ministry of God’s Word. This course will be a preaching lab; thus the student will prepare and preach at least 2 full-length expository sermons, ministering God’s Word to his classmates and the instructor. This course will be a preaching lab, meaning that its goal will be to provide a learning environment in which students will enjoy the freedom to be creative, exploratory, and make a lot of mistakes as they seek to (i) refine the various skills involved in preaching, and (ii) identify the unique voice the Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted to them in the company of His heralds. We will work hard and well together.

Course Objectives

Knowing

- To understand the biblical and theological principles of homiletics
- To understand basic sermon components and their functions
- To understand the fundamentals of sermon preparation and delivery
- To understand the priority and practice of Christ-centered preaching
- To understand the specific challenges of preaching in the present culture

Being

- Increased confidence in preparing and delivering Christ-centered expository sermons
- Deepening commitment to and experience of Christ-centered life and ministry
- Clear conviction of the power and importance of Christ-centered preaching
- Increased sensitivity to cultural issues as they relate to the task of preaching
Doing

- Increased competence in public speaking in general and sermon delivery in particular.
- Increased ability to construct and deliver biblically sound, culturally relevant, Christ-centered sermons.

Course Requirements

A. Preaching Assignments. Each student will preach 1 10-minute devotional and at least two expository sermons of approximately 25 minutes in length. Depending on the final class size, additional opportunities for oral exercises may also be available to the students.

1. Each student will preach his devotional during the 2nd week of class from one of the following texts, at his selection:
   - Matthew 9:35-38
   - Matthew 11:28-30
   - John 5:19-29
   - John 6:37-40
   - Romans 10:5-15
   - Revelation 22:1-5

2. The first expository sermon will be on a passage assigned by the instructor from the book of Hebrews.

3. The second expository sermon will be on a passage assigned by the instructor from the book of Ecclesiastes.

4. Each sermon will be evaluated by the class and instructor with constructive encouragement and critique. Each student will be required to grade himself as well.

B. Criteria for Sermon Evaluation.

1. The sermon will be an expository sermon.

2. The sermon will begin with an introduction that creates interest, identifies a need and leads into the text and topic.

3. The sermon will contain a main idea, thought or proposition that can be clearly stated in a single sentence. (This must be identified in the manuscript).

4. The sermon must contain a clear outline that includes main points expressed in complete sentence statements.
5. Each main point must be clearly demonstrated as derived from the text and must be clearly developed in the exposition.

6. The exposition must display thoughtful study of the Scripture that is faithful to the text.

7. The illustrations must be well chosen and appropriate.

8. The application must be biblical, clear, culturally relevant, and Christ-centered.

9. The conclusion of the sermon must be crafted to bring the sermon to a purposeful ending.

10. The sermon delivery must demonstrate good delivery values and skills, such as dependence on the Holy Spirit, heartfelt passion, and sincerely sacrificial love for his hearers.

C. Required Reading

1. The Work of the Pastor, by William Still
3. Preaching Christ from Ecclesiastes, by Sidney Greidanus

D. Course Grading

- Attendance & participation: 20%
- 1st sermon: 30%
- 2nd sermon: 30%
- Devotional: 20%

Communication

Besides in person and by telephone, students are encouraged to communicate with me via e-mail at sicnarfekim@gmail.com. Course announcements and updates will be made through e-mail. Any students without regular e-mail access must notify me of this limitation. I usually respond to e-mail promptly, however weekly and special events may lengthen the time of response occasionally. It is very important that you keep your e-mail current in the RTS system.

Class Attendance & Conduct

Unless providentially hindered, students are expected to attend class and participate fully in class interaction. Wireless internet access is not to be used for purposes outside the scope of the course while in class except for urgent (professional or personal) matters.

Course Schedule & Materials

A course schedule will be distributed on the first day of class.