

Homiletics

A Course on How to Preach and Teach the Bible

Facilitated By

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Course Syllabus

I. Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce a range of concepts, tools and methods useful for delivering effective biblical sermons and teachings and achieving the desired affects through the power of the Holy Spirit.

II. Course Objectives

As a result of this course, the student will:

- A. Deepen his/her concepts and principles of structuring biblical sermons and teachings.
- B. Grow in his/her ability to properly structure biblical outlines and content to achieve desired results.
- C. Sharpen his/her skill in applying Scripture in a responsible manner to modern day application.
- D. Broaden his/her awareness of tools available for biblical preaching and teaching.

III. Academic Requirements

Be prepared to learn, participate and conduct yourself in a classroom setting.

IV. Evaluation

Student must demonstrate mastery of subject material by passing a 20-question test consisting of multiple choices, fill-in-the-blanks, and true or false statements. A passing grade of 70 percent or higher is required for mastery.

V. Bibliography

In addition to bringing your bible to class, each student will be expected to bring pencil and paper. You will be provided a course outline which allows space for taking notes. However, you may find extra paper extremely useful for additional notes.

VI. Course Length

The course is scheduled to be conducted in a 2-hour time period, or less, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will take approximately three Saturdays to complete the course, which will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. However, due to the nature of the course, student participation, and material covered, the course could very well be completed sooner or later. Please plan accordingly.

Course Outline

1. Introduction to Homiletics
2. Theological Foundation for Expository Preaching
3. The Exposition Method Examined
4. Approaches to Expository Preaching
5. Advantages of the Expository Method
6. The Development of Expository Sermons
7. Conclusion

HOMILETICS

(How to Preach and Teach the Bible)

1. INTRODUCTION: II Timothy 4:1-5

You would have to agree that the work of preaching is the highest and most glorious calling to which anyone can ever be called.

Let me preference this teaching by saying that our mind is built on an orderly fashion. God is an orderly God. We are taught in school to be orderly and critical thinkers. Are we not? Therefore, if we don't present information in an orderly manner, we are going to lose our audience. Have you ever left a service wondering where the preacher was going or exactly what he or she was preaching about? I rest my case!

Haddon Robinson in his book "Biblical Preaching", says "The man in the pulpit faces the pressing temptation to deliver some message other than that of the Scriptures – a political system (either right-wing or left-wing), a theory of economics, a new religious philosophy, old religious slogans, a trend in psychology.

The sad truth is that "true" biblical or "expository" preaching is somewhat rare in today's churches. I'm thinking we can believe that the major reason must be a lack of conviction about its importance.

John R.W. Stott wrote a book titled “Between Two Worlds”. And in it he says this about preaching: “In a world which seems either unwilling or unable to listen, how can we be persuaded to go on preaching, and learn to do so effectively? The essential secret is not mastering certain techniques but being mastered by certain convictions. In other words, theology is more important than methodology.

II. THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION FOR EXPOSITORY PREACHING

Five theological convictions

1. “A Conviction about God”

- a. God is light

- b. God has acted

- c. God has spoken

2. A Conviction about Scripture

- a. We must believe that Scripture is God’s word

- b. We must believe that God still speaks

- c. We must believe that God’s Word is powerful

3. A Conviction about the Church

- a. The church is the creation of God by His word

- b. A 'famine of hearing the words of the Lord'

Jeremiah 5:30-31 says, "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; (31) The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

4. A Conviction about the Pastorate

- a. Feeding
- b. Guiding
- c. Guarding
- d. Healing

5. A Conviction about Preaching

Haddon Robinson (Biblical Preaching) stated that, "The type of preaching that best carries the force of divine authority is expository preaching".

III. THE EXPOSITORY METHOD EXAMINED

1. Basic Definitions

- a. Homiletics - the art and science of saying the same thing that the text of Scripture says.

 - b. Exegesis - means a narration or explanation.

 - c. Hermeneutics - defined as the science of expounding or interpreting what a passage of scripture says.
2. **Sermon** - The word sermon refers to the product of the process of homiletics; exegesis, and hermeneutics.

3. Kinds of Sermons

- a. Topical Sermons - The topical sermon is built around some particular subject or idea.

- b. Textual Sermons - A textual sermon is one based upon a verse or two from the Bible.

- c. Allegorical Sermons - This sermon takes certain Bible narratives and gives them an allegorical interpretation.

- d. Biographical Sermons - This sermon presents a study of the life of a particular Bible character.

- e. The Expository Sermon - An expository sermon makes plain what the Bible passage says and gives good application to the lives of the hearers.

Expository preaching is not merely preaching about the Bible but preaching what the Bible itself says.” Donald Grey Barnhouse states, “Expository preaching is the art of explaining the text of the Word of God, using all the experiences of life and learning to illuminate the exposition.” G. Campbell Morgan says, “Being sure that our text is in the Bible, we proceed to find out its actual meaning, and then to elaborate its message. The text has postulates, implicates, deductions, application.”

- f. The Devotional Sermon

For a sermon to be expository, the following must take place:

- 1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

“Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept (theme) derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through him to his hearers.”

IV. Approaches to Expository Preaching

1. The Running Commentary

2. Bible Reading

3. Pure Exposition

4. Expository Sermonizing

5. Good Bible preaching has several distinguishing characteristics

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

V. Advantages of the Expository Method

A. Advantages to the preacher

1. The preacher learns the word
2. It keeps him out of a rut
3. It guards against using the Bible as club
4. It enables the preacher to deal with passages that might otherwise have been overlooked
5. It helps remove anxiety about what to preach

B. Advantages to the people

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

VI. The Development of Expository Sermons

Note: This is a very subjective matter. There is no one way to prepare sermons!

A. Choose your text

B. Read your text and Meditate on it

Two ways to read:

1. Read carefully, asking:

a. What does it say?

b. What does it say to us today?

2. Read prayerfully

C. Study the text and gather your notes

D. Isolate the dominant thought

A good sermon has structure. John R. W. Stott states, "We face two main dangers when developing a sermon structure.

1. Having too prominent a sermon outline

2. Artificiality

E. Add the Introduction

1. The Introduction

a. Commands Attention

b. Surfaces Needs

c. Introduces Body of Sermon

2. A Sermon should not be opened with an apology
3. Keep the Introduction short
4. Don't Promise more than you can deliver
5. Some place at the opening of the sermon the preacher should read the text.
6. Use Humor carefully

F. Add the Conclusion

1. A Summary

Body – Acts 2:22-36

Note how the body of the sermon is concerned with but one predominant thought—Jesus of Nazareth.

- a. He was "approved of God"
- b. The "miracles and wonders and Signs" were what "God did by Him"
- c. His apprehension and crucifixion were "by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God"
- d. His resurrection was by God—"whom God raised up"
- e. His ascension into heaven was by God—"therefore being by the right hand of God exalted"
- f. He received the promise of the Holy Ghost from the Father that He might "shed forth this"
- g. It is God who has made Him Lord and Christ

Notice too how he clarifies some of the points on which the multitude might be inclined to be skeptical.

- a. If the thought of the Resurrection is new and strange to them, he ties it to scripture written by none other than their great King David himself—verse 25-28, taken from Psalm 16:8-11
- b. If the thought of the exaltation of Christ to the right hand of the Father is new or strange, he likewise quotes from their own scripture—verse 34, 35 (Psalm 110:1)

Here was the great convicting fact:

- a. The dreadful truth that stared the people of Israel in the face
- b. Brought trembling to their hearts
- c. Desired results obtained – 2:37

Conclusion (Acts 2:38-40)