

DMin in Biblical Preaching, Core 1 **PREACHING AS THE WORD OF GOD**

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Course Description

Preaching as the Word of God is an exploration of preaching as an interpretive act through which God continues to speak to God's people. Moving back and forth between *practices* of interpretation with particular biblical texts and *reflection* on those practices, participants discover and assess their own theology of the word and how it informs their preaching.

Learning Goals

This first core course in the Biblical Preaching Doctor of Ministry program challenges students to explore, develop, and articulate their understanding of preaching as the Word of God by engaging the following questions:

- ◆ What do we mean by when we speak of “the Word of God”?
- ◆ How does preaching relate to Scripture?
- ◆ How does Scripture function as “the norm of norms”?
- ◆ What are the most effective ways to interpret Scripture for preaching?
- ◆ How does our reading and studying of Scripture affect our sermon preparation?
- ◆ What demands does our understanding of God's Word make upon our preaching?
- ◆ What do we mean by “biblical preaching”?

By addressing their issues and through their work with each other and the faculty leaders, students will emerge from this course

- ◆ able to articulate their “theology of the Word” in relation to other available options,
- ◆ with a clear sense of the relationship of preaching to the Bible, and
- ◆ with an interpretive lens and developing practice for reading and studying Scripture for preaching.

Procedure

The course will meet for sixteen ninety-minute sessions over five days; the topics governing each day are listed below. Class time will incorporate *presentations* by the instructor, *discussion* of these presentations and the assigned material, and *homiletical exercises* led by student participants (see “Required Work” #3). Note that coursework is not completed until the required sermon and accompanying materials have been submitted to the instructor!

Schedule

June 13	Introduction to Core 1: What do We Mean by “Biblical Preaching” – Preaching as the Word of God 2:00-5:00 p.m.
June 14	The Word of God 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.
June 15	“What Does This Mean?” – Issues of Interpretation 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.
June 16	Is There a Center to Scripture? 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.
June 17	Biblical Authority & Preaching 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Required Work

Including the periods before, during, and after the week of class meetings, this course requires the following five kinds of work:

1. Read and view all required material *prior* to the first class session.
2. Attendance at and participation in all class sessions which reflects comprehension and use of required material.
3. Leading a 25-30 minute homiletical exercise involving either a sermon or significant exegetical work toward a sermon. In these exercises, the presenter receives significant critical feedback on a sermon and peers receive practice in critical reflection on the task of preaching. These exercises should be comprised of *one* of the following activities, shared with the other participants *during* the week of class meetings, and scheduled at the first class session (participant presentations begin on Tuesday afternoon):
 - Videotape of a sermon (or portion thereof) from the student-participant’s congregation that addresses the issues germane to this course;
 - Sermon or a “work in progress” preached in class that addresses issues germane to this course;
 - Report and discussion of exegetical proposal for a future sermon that seeks to incorporate and/or demonstrate central issues of the course.
 - Review of one of the recommended books in relation to an actual sermon recently preached or one currently “in the works.”

Please note! Participants should be completely prepared to present at the *start* of the week. *Last-minute decisions reflect poor planning and lead to weak presentations.*
4. One sermon to be preached and video-taped on September 19.
5. A 1-2 page exegetical report, and 3-5 page reflection paper, on the sermon mentioned in #4, following the guidelines for such papers to be supplied during class.

Bibliography

Required Materials

David L. Bartlett, *Between the Bible and the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hays, *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Paul J. Achtemeier, *Inspiration and Authority: Nature and Function of Christian Scripture*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999.

Recommended Materials

Adam, A.K.M. *What Is Postmodern Biblical Criticism?* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1997.

Campbell, Charles. *Preaching Jesus: New Directions for Homiletics in Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.

Cheney, Emily. *She Can Read: Feminist Reading Strategies for Biblical Narratives*. Trinity Press International, 1996.

Gonzalez, Justo and Catherine Gonzalez. *The Liberating Pulpit*. Abingdon Press, 1994.

Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Fortress Press, 1990.

Lose, David J. *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World* (esp. chap. 5-6) Eerdmans, 2003.

McDonal, Lee Martin, and James A. Sanders. *The Canon Debate*. Hendrickson Publishers, 2002

Mitchell, Henry H. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*. Abingdon Press, 1990.

Ong, Walter J. *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*. Methuen, 1992.

Rose, Lucy. *Sharing the Word: Preaching in the Roundtable Church*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 1997.

Trible, Phyllis. *Texts of Terror: Literary-Feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1984.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *God Sense: Reading the Bible for Preaching*. Abingdon Press, 2001