

# PREACHING THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

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## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides a teaching practice and laboratory to provide students with tools, models, and opportunities for practicing teaching from the Gospels and Acts. It includes viewing online content delivered by the Charles Simeon Trust and participating in discussions on the content, which are then supplemented with additional readings that focus attention on the exegetical demands of this genre, specifically concerning how to study the Gospels and Acts for preaching and teaching.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course:

1. Students will have an accurate grasp of the main characteristics of the Gospels and Acts and understand the specialized opportunities and demands of teaching from this genre.
2. Students will improve the quality of their own study and preparation for teaching by interacting with instructional material from expert practitioners and over preparation on texts from the Gospels and Acts.
3. Students will, by presenting their own work in the context of collegial and critical small group, be better able to identify and improve in skills and strategies relevant to expounding the Gospels and Acts.
4. Students will appreciate the value of offering and receiving constructive feedback.
5. Students will allow the taught Word itself to inform their lives in ways consistent with the reasons the Holy Spirit saw fit to include them in Scripture.

## COURSE FORMAT

This course is divided into four primary components:

1. The first component is the student's viewing of the eight online videos and the completion of the relevant *Study Questions* or *Sermon Evaluation*. These eight videos include five instructional sessions and three sample expositions.
2. The second component is the small group sessions where the student will discuss the assigned *Study Questions* or *Sermon Evaluation* as well as prepare and present two *Sermon Preparation Worksheets* for the assigned passages.
3. The third component is reading all assigned texts and writing one critical book review.
4. The fourth component and capstone project is to prepare and preach two sermons from assigned passages from the Gospels and Acts using the tools, skills, and strategies taught in the course and provide supporting preparation documentation.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

There are four required readings:

- Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*. (704 pages)
- Pennington, Jonathan. *Reading the Gospels Wisely*. (282 pages)
- Stott, John. *The Message of Acts*. (428 page)
- Charles Simeon Trust. *Study Guide on the Gospels and Acts*. (30 pages)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is expected to:

1. Actively view each of the eight online videos and thoroughly complete the relevant *Study Questions* or *Sermon Evaluation*.
2. Prepare, present, and submit two *Sermon Preparation Worksheets* (Texts 1 & 2).
3. Prepare and deliver two recorded sermons on different Gospel texts (as assigned) that employ the tools, skills, and strategies covered in the course (Texts 3 & 4).
  - a. Submit a *Sermon Preparation Worksheet* one week in advance of giving each sermon.
  - b. Submit audio or video recording of each sermon.
  - c. Submit a two-page self-assessment of the sermon by answering the following questions:
    - i. In what way did the sermon most encourage you personally?
    - ii. What are the two most important things that could be done to improve?
    - iii. What were the two best features of the sermon overall?
4. Read *Reading the Gospels Wisely* (Pennington) and in a ten-page, double-spaced report a) affirm that you have read the book, b) in 5-6 pages, summarize main point(s) of the author's argument(s), being sure to reference specific supporting insights and giving page numbers in parentheses, and, c) in the remaining 4-5 pages, engage personally with the content that you have already summarized. You should address the following questions: 1) How do the author's arguments affirm or challenge my current beliefs or practices in teaching ministry? 2) What from the book will I implement immediately? 3) Why would I recommend (or not recommend) this book?
5. A statement affirming that you have thoroughly and completely read each assigned text.

## BIBLICAL TEXTS AVAILABLE FOR OUTLINE AND SERMON ASSIGNMENTS

Matthew 4:23 - 5:3

Mark 8:22-33

Luke 5:1-11

Luke 18:1-8

John 5:1-17

John 18:12-27

Acts 4:1-22

Acts 20:17-38



## COURSE SCHEDULE

- Lesson 1           View INSTRUCTION #1 (Jonathan Pennington)  
                      Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #1
- Lesson 2           View INSTRUCTION #2 (Douglas S. O'Donnell)  
                      Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #2
- Lesson 3           View DEMONSTRATION #1 (Mike Bullmore)  
                      Discuss/Write *Sermon Evaluation* for DEMONSTRATION #1
- Lesson 4           View DEMONSTRATION #2 (Romell Williams, Jr.)  
                      Discuss/Write *Sermon Evaluation* for DEMONSTRATION #2
- Lesson 5           View DEMONSTRATION #3 (Kevin DeYoung)  
                      Discuss/Write *Sermon Evaluation* for DEMONSTRATION #3

## COURSE RESOURCES

In addition to the required readings, we recommend consulting:

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-Create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.

Bauckham, Richard (ed.). *The Gospels for All Christians: Rethinking the Gospel Audiences*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Burridge, Richard A. *Four Gospels, One Jesus?: A Symbolic Reading*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Burridge, Richard A. *What Are the Gospels?: A Comparison with Graeco-Roman Biography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

Duduit, Michael. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.

Hughes, R. Kent. *Acts: The Church Afire*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.

Pao, David. *Acts and the Isaianic New Exodus*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2016.



Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Scharf, Greg R. *Prepared to Preach: God's Work and Ours in Proclaiming His Word*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2005.

Snodgrass, Klyne R. *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

Stott, John. *The Message of Acts*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1994.