PREACHING THE EPISTLES

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides a teaching practice and laboratory to provide students with tools and opportunities for practicing teaching from the Epistles. 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 Epistles 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 Epistles 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 Epistles.
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 Epistles.
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 five online videos and the completion of the relevant study questions.
2. The second component is the small group sessions where the student will discuss the assigned *Study Questions* 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 an Epistle using the tools, skills, and strategies taught in the course and provide supporting preparation documentation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are five required readings:

- Paul, Iain and David Wenham (eds.). Chapters 7-10 & 13-16 of *Preaching the New Testament.* (112 pages)
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. (182 pages)
- Stott, John. *The Message of Romans*. (432 pages)
- Trotter, Andrew H. *Interpreting the Epistle to the Hebrews*. (222 pages)
- Charles Simeon Trust. *Study Guide on Epistles*. (26 pages)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is expected to:

1. Actively view each of the eight online videos and thoroughly complete the relevant *Study Questions*.
2. Prepare, present, and submit two *Sermon Preparation Worksheets* (Texts 1 & 2).
3. Prepare and deliver two recorded sermons on different Epistles 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 *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles* (Schreiner) 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

Romans 5:1-11	Colossians 1:15-23
1 Corinthians 3:10-17	James 4:1-10
Ephesians 3:1-13	1 John 4:1-6

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lesson 1 View INSTRUCTION #1

	Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #1
Lesson 2	View INSTRUCTION #2 Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #2
Lesson 3	View INSTRUCTION #3 Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #3
Lesson 4	View INSTRUCTION #4 Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #4
Lesson 5	View INSTRUCTION #5 Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #5
Lesson 6	View EXPOSITION #6 Discuss/Write *Sermon Evaluation* for EXPOSITION #6
Lesson 7	View EXPOSITION #7 Discuss/Write *Sermon Evaluation* for EXPOSITION #7
Lesson 8	View EXPOSITION #8 Discuss/Write *Sermon Evaluation* for EXPOSITION #8

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.

Caird, G.B., *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

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

Collins, Raymond. *Preaching the Epistles*. New York: Paulist Press, 1996.

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

Litfin, Duane. *Paul's Theology of Preaching*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015.

O'Brien, Peter T. *Introductory Thanksgivings in the Letters of Paul*, Supplements to *Novum Testamentum* 49. Leiden: Brill, 1977.

Paul, Iain, and David Wenham (eds.). *Preaching the New Testament.* Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.

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

Runge, Steve. *A Discourse Grammar of the New Testament.* Peabody: Hendrickson, 2010.

Silva, Moises. *Biblical Words and Their Meaning.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

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

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

Stott, John. *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*, Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove: IVP, 1994.

Trotter, Andrew H. *Interpreting the Epistle to the Hebrews.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.