

PREACHING WISDOM LITERATURE

Instructors: Dr. Mike Bullmore, Dr. K. Edward Copeland, Dr. David Jackman,
Dr. R. Kent Hughes, Dr. Douglas S. O'Donnell, Kevin Walker, Brandon Levering

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides a teaching practice and laboratory to provide students with tools, models, and opportunities for practicing teaching from Wisdom Literature. 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 Wisdom Literature for preaching and teaching.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course:

1. Students will have an accurate grasp of the main characteristics of Wisdom Literature 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 Wisdom Literature.
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 Wisdom Literature.
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 as well as prepare two assigned passages from Wisdom Literature in advance and present them for collegial feedback.
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 Wisdom Literature using the tools, skills, and strategies taught in the course and provide supporting preparation documentation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are six required readings:

- Anderson, Bernhard. *Out of the Depths*. (264 pages)
- Ash, Christopher. *Out of the Storm*. (112 pages)
- Kidner, Derek. *Proverbs*. (189 pages)
- O'Donnell, Douglas S. *The Beginning and End of Wisdom*. (242 pages)
- Ryken, Philip G. *Why Everything Matters*. (160 pages)
- Charles Simeon Trust. *Study Guide on Wisdom Literature*. (28 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 Wisdom Literature 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 *The Beginning and End of Wisdom* (O'Donnell) 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

Psalms 86

Proverbs 3:1-12

Psalms 73

Proverbs 2

Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

Job 6:1-30



COURSE SCHEDULE

Lesson 1	View INSTRUCTION #1 Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #1
Lesson 2	View INSTRUCTION #2 Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #2
Lesson 3	View INSTRUCTION #3 Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #3
Lesson 4	View INSTRUCTION #4 Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #4
Lesson 5	View INSTRUCTION #5 Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #5
Lesson 6	View DEMONSTRATION #1 Discuss/Write <i>Sermon Evaluation</i> for DEMONSTRATION #1
Lesson 7	View DEMONSTRATION #2 Discuss/Write <i>Sermon Evaluation</i> for DEMONSTRATION #2
Lesson 8	View DEMONSTRATION #3 Discuss/Write <i>Sermon Evaluation</i> for DEMONSTRATION #3

COURSE RESOURCES

In addition to the required readings, we recommend consulting:

Anderson, Bernhard. *Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak for Us Today*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000.

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

Ash, Christopher. *Out of the Storm: Grappling with God in the Book of Job*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 2006.

Belcher, Richard P. *Job: The Mystery of Suffering and God's Sovereignty*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2017.

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.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.

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

Kidner, Derek. *Proverbs*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1964.

O'Donnell, Douglas S. *The Beginning and End of Wisdom: Preaching Christ from the First and Last Chapters of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.

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

Ryken, Leland. *Sweeter than Honey, Richer than Gold: A Guided Study of Biblical Poetry*. Bellingham: Lexham Press, 2019.

Ryken, Philip. *Why Everything Matters: The Gospel in Ecclesiastes*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2015.

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