

CHRIST-CENTERED PREACHING

WITH *Bryan Chapell*

PREPARATION & DELIVERY OF SERMONS

Taught by the Rev. Dr. Bryan Chapell, Ph.D.

- Senior Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)
- President Emeritus, Covenant Theological Seminary
- Distinguished Professor of Preaching, Knox Theological Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.
- Dr. Chapell is the professor of record for this course and is responsible for its content and execution.

Texts

1. Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon, 3rd Edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018).
2. Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Sermons: Models of Redemptive Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013).
3. Lecture materials presented in class throughout the course.

Philosophy and Goals of the Course

1. *Preparation and Delivery of Sermons* ("Prep and Del") is a contemporary introduction to the basics of "classic" sermon construction and delivery. This course will provide time-tested and readily-accessible tools, structures, and concepts that have been used by faithful preachers across centuries and in many cultures. The goal is to enable you to communicate the truths of Scripture with power and accuracy. You will simultaneously be taught to prepare messages that accurately expound biblical texts and effectively reach modern listeners.
2. Because this course is introductory, you will learn standard terms and structures that are "foundational" for preaching in every context and culture. You will *not* be taught that there is only one "right way" to preach. However, mastering the methods and concepts of this course will help you hone tools and approaches for different people groups, settings and cultures. Other methods and styles will be taught and encouraged in advanced courses.

Features of Student Evaluation (for accredited version):*

1. A comprehensive exam over reading assignments and lecture material (50% of Final Grade).
2. Preparation of key sermon components that will help you monitor your progress, and will also enable you step-by-step to construct a complete sermon. Total of 7 written assignments (20% of final grade).
3. Preparation of an original, complete sermon manuscript (7-9 pages, standard font and margins, double-spaced) as a final project (30% of Final Grade).
4. Students will be expected to actively participate in weekly group coaching calls with the instructor, and with other students in the online community platform that has been created for this course. Students are required to submit questions in at least 4 coaching calls.

****All graded work must be the student's own, original work according to academic plagiarism and honesty policies.***

Note: All assignments are to be completed according to the schedule of the class in which students are registered. All assignments correspond directly to the course goals, stated above.

Class Structure and Progression:

1. Class lectures will incorporate reading assignments in the order of the list that accompanies your course description. Read assignments consecutively for each class.
2. As key components of sermon preparation are described in the lectures and readings, students will prepare and turn in examples of these select components in written form. This will enable you to build a sermon as you are learning and refining each of its components with the professor's feedback and coaching.
3. Students will interact with the professor and each other by receiving video lectures online, responding with regular assignments evaluated with feedback by the professor, and by regular curated group interaction with the professor in scheduled online office hour discussions.
4. After the comprehensive exam, each credit student will prepare a complete, original sermon for the final project (Students may use sermon components previously prepared and evaluated in the course to complete the final project). The goal is to prepare you to complete a sermon that best reflects what you have gained from participation in the course.

Preparation and Delivery of Sermons: Reading Assignments
(Read one assignment per class unless instructor indicates otherwise.)

Session

Pre-Reading Assignment

PART ONE: PRINCIPLES FOR EXPOSITORY PREACHING

WEEK ONE – 2/11/19

#1 - Word and Witness

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. xiii-21

Written Assignment #1

Write a one-page comparison of two sermons you hear.

Divide the page into thirds, and devote each third to comparing how the speakers establish and use logos, pathos and ethos.

DUE BY MIDNIGHT 2/16/19

#2 - What's the Big Idea

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 22-39

#3 – Text Selection and Interpretation

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 40-65

PART TWO: PREPARATION FOR EXPOSITORY SERMONS

WEEK TWO – 2/18/19

#4 – The Road from Text to Sermon

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 86-104

Written Assignment #2

On one page, identify and write down the main points of a sermon you hear, and – if possible – the subpoints.

Indicate which verses of the passage are being used to support each of the points in the message.

DUE BY MIDNIGHT 2/23/19

#5 - Outlining and Arrangement

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 114-129

#6 - Propositions and Main Points

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 129-148

Written Assignment #3

Prepare an *informal* homiletical outline on the passage below, corresponding to the first letter in your last name:

A-G: Heb. 12:1-3

H-Q: II Cor. 6:14 – 7:1

R-Z: I Thess. 4:13-18

- a. Remember that an *informal* (or conversational) homiletical outline words the proposition either as a truth principle all people should believe, or an application all believers should do. If the proposition is at truth principle,

then the main points typically are all applications (i.e., what we should do as a consequence of the truth principle). If the proposition is an application, then the main points are typically truth principles (reasons we should do what the proposition says).

- b. Include only a proposition and main points (not subpoints) in your outline.
- c. Remember to key main points to the text (i.e. put appropriate verse references in parentheses after main point statements.)
- d. Make sure your outline covers the entire text (in accord with expository principles.)

DUE BY MIDNIGHT 2/23/19

WEEK THREE - 2/25/19

#7 - Introductions

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 216-233

Written Assignment #4

Write a "Sermon" Introduction (not a "Scripture" Introduction) and Proposition on the text that you previously outlined.

- a. This Sermon Introduction must be a Human Interest Account and should prepare for your Proposition in concept *and* terminology.
- b. In the Introduction, underline the key terms of the Proposition.
- c. Underline the Fallen Condition Focus statement in your Introduction.
- d. Write the Introduction so as to include a "Scripture Bond," and so as to lead naturally into your Proposition. (Remember to attach your proposition.)
- e. Note in the margin each of the other key components of a Sermon Introduction using the model in *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 225 as a guide.

DUE BY MIDNIGHT 3/2/19

#8 - Exposition: Components and Proportions

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 66-78

#9 - Sermon Divisions and Development

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 104-107; pp. 142-148; Appendix 6 pp. 359-360

WEEK FOUR – 3/4/19
#10 - Conclusions

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 233-240

Written Assignment #5

Continue to refine the Introduction, Proposition, and Main Points of the homiletical outline on your assigned passage, **and** now add subpoint statements to the Main Points, **and** add a written Conclusion for the whole sermon.

Make sure to indicate, by a following parenthesis, the verse or verses from your text that will support each subpoint.

The written Conclusion should be a half to two-thirds of a page (single-spaced), and should last no longer than 2-1/2 minutes in delivery.

In the Conclusion, underline the key terms from the Main Points that are being echoed (i.e, threaded or grouped).

DUE BY MIDNIGHT 3/9/19

#11 - Classifications of Messages

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 78-84;
review pp. 115-119

#12 - Explanation

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 107-113;
review pp. 100-107

WEEK FIVE – 3/11/19

#13 - Illustration (Why?)

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 150-166

#14 - Illustration (How?)

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 167-185

Written Assignment #6

Using the outline to the message that you have been developing on your assigned passage, add a fully written out explanation of a single Main Point with two or three subpoints in complete paragraphs (see sermon example in *Christ-Centered Sermons* pp. 23-37).

Add an illustration to this Main Point that is told using key terms of the subpoint statements. Underline the key terms of the subpoint statements in the illustration to indicate the “expositional rain.”

DUE BY MIDNIGHT 3/16/19

WEEK SIX – 3/18/19
#15a and 15b - Application

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 186-215

Written Assignment #7

Add at least a paragraph of application to Written Assignment #6.

Include instructional specificity (with key terms of subpoint statements underlined) and situational specificity (including a “concrete” and “unrolled” applications).

Do NOT turn in this Assignment until you have watched Session 16.

DUE BY MIDNIGHT 3/23/19

#16 - Transitions and Dialogical Method

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 241-246

WEEK SEVEN – 3/25/19
#17 - Methods of Sermon Presentation

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 353-357

#18 - Voice and Gesture

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 335-344

Final Project Assigned

Write a complete original sermon, including all components addressed in class.

Seven to nine pages of standard font and margins, double spaced.

#19 - Dress and Delivery Styles

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 344-346; Appendix 3 pp. 347-350

PART THREE: A THEOLOGY OF CHRIST-CENTERED MESSAGES

WEEK EIGHT – 4/1/19
#20 - Preparation and Planning

Christ-Centered Preaching, Appendix 4 pp. 351-352; review pp. 8-12, pp. 181-184

#21 - The Expositor's Stance

Christ-Centered Preaching, Appendix 11 pp. 381-383

#22 - Christ-Centered Preaching

Christ-Centered Preaching, pp. 248-283

WEEK NINE – 4/8/19

Final Exam due by Midnight 4/13/19

WEEK TEN – 4/15/19

Open / Palm Sunday & Good Friday

WEEK ELEVEN – 4/22/19

Open / Easter

WEEK TWELVE – 4/29/19

Final Project due by Midnight 5/1/19