



COMMUNICATION 1: PT508

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Stone
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Time: Thursday, 9:00–11:15 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE

Communication 1 deals with the essentials for Christ-exalting exposition. It covers the principle matters of preparing and delivering sermons that are faithful to God's word.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To foster ability in preaching sermons that exalt Jesus Christ.
- To emphasize the importance of personal holiness for faithful preaching.
- To introduce student to the basic construction of sermons.
- To cultivate the student's knowledge of various approaches to preaching.
- To promote dependence on the Holy Spirit in preaching.
- To encourage understanding of the Bible's commands about preaching.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Capill, Murray, *The Heart is the Target Preaching Practical Application from Every Text* (Philipsburg, PA: P&R, 2014)
2. Charles, H. B., *On Preaching: Personal & Pastoral Insights for the Preparation & Practice of Preaching* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2014)
3. Garretson, James M., *Princeton and Preaching: Archibald Alexander and the Christian Ministry* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2005)
4. Lloyd-Jones, Martyn, *Preaching and Preachers* (1971; repr., Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011)
5. Ryle, J. C., *Simplicity in Preaching* (1882; repr., Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2010)

Students will submit a reading report at the end of the semester.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

2 Book Interactions: Write a 1,200-word review each of 1) *Princeton and Preaching* by Garretson, and 2) *Preaching and Preachers* Lloyd-Jones. The review should summarize the book's content, analyze the book's key contributions, and offer specific encouragements the book provided to the student. Keep quotations from the book to a minimum.

6 Bible Memorizations: Students will memorize six biblical passages that are significant for gospel preaching. You are expected to have memorized the assigned passage—in the *English Standard Version*—prior to the relevant week of class. A “Bible Memory Quiz” will be administered at the beginning of the applicable class date.

6 Sermon Evaluations: Students will listen to six sermons over the course of the class. You are expected to listen to the assigned sermon before coming to class, and to submit a Sermon Evaluation Form (appended to the syllabus) on the assigned date. The sermon will be discussed in class, emphasizing the sermon's construction and delivery.

1 Sermon Preparation: Students will prepare a 3,000–3,500-word sermon manuscript on one of the following texts: 1) Numbers 21:4–9, 2) Zechariah 3:1–5, 3) John 19:28–37, or 4) Hebrews 4:14–16. The final submission will be a sermon manuscript and two outlines, any of which could be brought into the pulpit.

- Full Manuscript: color-coded, as will be discussed in class.
 - Any Scripture in blue
 - Any quote in green
 - Any application in orange
 - Any illustration in red
 - Any gospel exhortation highlighted in yellow
- Brief Outline: introduction, main points and conclusion.
- Full Outline: 3–4 pages that includes sub-points, transitions, illustrations and applications.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Students are required to attend all classes. If a student is “providentially hindered” from attending class, please notify the instructor. It is expected that students will keep current in their reading and assignments on time. Failure to comply with these standards will result in grade reduction, unless other arrangements have been made.

WRITING GUIDELINES

Review papers must be double-spaced, use 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and include pagination. Points will be deducted for spelling and grammar errors.



TECHNOLOGY POLICY (Taken from Dr. Michael Allen)

Computers, tablets, and smart-phones are not allowed in class. Think we're over-reacting? Think you're a master of multitasking? [You are not. No, you really are not. Notes taken by hand are almost always more useful than typed notes](#), because more thoughtful selectivity goes into them; [plus there are multiple cognitive benefits to writing by hand](#). And [people who use laptops in class see their grades decline](#)—and even contribute to lowering the grades of *other people*.

— COURSE SCHEDULE —

WEEK 1: THE PREACHER'S PERSONAL HOLINESS

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 1–4 in *Princeton and Preaching* by Garretson
- Bible Memorization: 2 Timothy 4:1–2

WEEK 2: PREACHING FOR GOD'S GLORY

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 1–7 in *On Preaching* by H. B. Charles
- Sermon Evaluation: [“The Unchanging Christ” by H. B. Charles on Hebrews 13:18](#)

WEEK 3: PREACHING TO EXALT CHRIST

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 8–19 in *On Preaching* by H. B. Charles
- Bible Memorization: 2 Corinthians 4:1–6

WEEK 4: PREACHING IN THE SPIRIT'S POWER

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 20–30 in *On Preaching* by H. B. Charles
- Sermon Evaluation: [“Prophet-able Prayer” by Dale Ralph Davis on 1 Kings 18:41–46](#)

WEEK 5: CONSTRUCTING THE SERMON: CONTEXT & EXEGESIS

- Reading Discussion: *Simplicity in Preaching* by Ryle
- Bible Memorization: Colossians 1:28–29

WEEK 6: CONSTRUCTING THE SERMON: MAIN POINT & OUTLINE

- Review of *Princeton and Preaching* by Garretson due
- Sermon Evaluation: [“Want to Know Jesus?” by Sinclair Ferguson on Philippians 3:1–4:1](#)

WEEK 7: CONSTRUCTING THE SERMON: APPLICATIONS

- Reading Discussion: Intro–Chapter 2 in *The Heart is the Target* by Capill
- Bible Memorization: Isaiah 50:4

WEEK 8: CONSTRUCTING THE SERMON: ILLUSTRATIONS

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 3–4 in *The Heart is the Target* by Capill
- Sermon Evaluation: [“The Most Radical Call” by Steve Lawson on Mark 8:34](#)



WEEK 9: DELIVERING THE SERMON: CLEAR & CONCISE

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 5–6 in *The Heart is the Target* by Capill
- Bible Memorization: 1 Corinthians 2:1–5

WEEK 10: DELIVERING THE SERMON: COURAGEOUS & COMPELLING

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 7–8 in *The Heart is the Target* by Capill
- Sermon Evaluation: [“The World is a Sinking Ship” by Conrad Mbewe on 1 John 2:17](#)

WEEK 11: DELIVERING THE SERMON: THE CHRIST-CENTERED PREACHER

- Reading Discussion: Chapters 9–10 in *The Heart is the Target* by Capill
- Bible Memorization: 2 Timothy 2:24–25

WEEK 12: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- Review of *Preaching and Preachers* by Lloyd-Jones due
- Reading Report due
- Sermon Preparation due
- Sermon Evaluation: [“The Reign of Christ Over Wicked Nations” by Carl Robbins on Psalm 2](#)

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *Words to Winners of Souls* by Horatius Bonar
- *The Christian Ministry: With an Inquiry into the Causes of Its Inefficiency* by Charles Bridges
- *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Preaching* by Peter Adam
- *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* by Tim Keller
- *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures* by Dennis Johnson
- *Saving Eutychus: How to Preach God's Word and Keep People Awake* by Gary Millar and Phil Campbell
- *Thoughts on Public Prayer* by Samuel Miller
- *Preaching: Pure and Simply* by Stuart Olyott
- *The Supremacy of God in Preaching* by John Piper
- *Homiletics and Pastoral Theology* by W. G. T. Shedd
- *Lectures to My Students* by C. H. Spurgeon
- *Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today* by John Stott



SERMON EVALUATION FORM

Rate the relevant points below on a scale of 1–5 with 5 being the highest

Preacher:

Text:

Title:

SCRIPTURE READING

_____ Read out the Word's meaning (clarity)

_____ Read in the Word's spirit (expression)

Additional Comments:

INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

_____ Incited interest and relevancy

_____ Introduced the main point or main doctrine

_____ Included the sermon's divisions (headings/points)

_____ Wasn't too long

_____ Gave momentum to the rest of the sermon

What was the introduction?

BODY OF THE SERMON

_____ Divisions were clearly derived from the texts

_____ Text was explained well, demonstrating study

_____ Illustrations were appropriate

_____ Application was clearly derived from the text

_____ Application to non-Christians was clear

_____ Application was made to the church

_____ Application was made to various spiritual states

_____ The sermon was aware of redemptive history's flow

_____ The gospel was integrated naturally and clearly



SERMON EVALUATION FORM

What was the most effective part of the sermon?

What was the weakest part of the sermon?

How was Christ exalted in the sermon?

CONCLUSION OF THE SERMON

_____ Content was clearly summarized
_____ Conclusion did not introduce a new argument

Additional Comments:

SERMON DELIVERY & STYLE

_____ Preacher spoke with clarity
_____ Preacher spoke with sincerity
_____ Preacher spoke with dignity
_____ Preacher spoke with variety
_____ Preacher spoke with appropriate passion
_____ Sermon maintained good pacing

What was the most effective part of the sermon's delivery and style?

What was the weakest part of the sermon's delivery and style?