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PR 610 Servant as Proclaimer

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PR610: Servant as Proclaimer

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Office: Beeson 336
Office Hours:
(By appointment
TWR)

Fall, 2006

TR 1:00 – 2:15 pm

PR610 is the basic course in preaching and is prerequisite to other preaching courses. We use an integrative approach to the theory and practice of preaching. Our emphasis and goal: effective biblical preaching.

This course includes lectures, discussion, and laboratory. The laboratory experience involves preaching by you and your colleagues. The sermon-critiquing by the professor and your classmates is a crucial part of the learning experience in this course. I urge you to take notes during this laboratory time not only when you yourself have preached, but also as you hear something in the critiquing of a classmate that you realize will be of value to you also.

TEXTS: Cantalamessa, *The Mystery of God's Word*
Kalas, *Preaching from the Soul*
Lischer, *The Company of Preachers*
Long & Plantinga, *A Cloud of Witnesses*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Due October 12: A paper of 5 – 6 pages, double space, analyzing six *representative* preachers, chosen not on the basis of their theology, but for their place in the recent history of preaching:

- Washington Gladden (19th century exemplar of the social gospel)
- Harry Emerson Fosdick (perhaps the greatest 20th century pulpiteer, with influence far beyond the local church)
- Ralph W. Sockman (one of the most popular preachers in New York City in a time of outstanding preachers)
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones (major exponent of verse-by-verse expository preaching; British, 20th century)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. (outstanding African-American preacher and leader in social reform)
- Fleming Rutledge (notable Episcopal woman preacher, 20th – 21st century)

You will find these sermons in Volumes 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 20 Centuries of Great Preaching, and in Rutledge, Fleming, The Bible and the New York Times. I urge you, out of consideration for your class mates, to use these books in the library. You will also find sermons by these persons through your internet connections.

Due November 16: A paper of 6 to 7 pages on a work of literature from the list below. Substitutions are permitted but they must be specifically approved by Dr. Kalas. Begin this paper by analyzing what this reading has done for you as a preacher. Then, from this reading give two sermon ideas (summarized, with a title and a Scripture lesson reference – no need to print the passage), three illustrations, and four quotations, all with page references. The illustrations and quotations need not be related in any way to the sermon ideas; they can be material you might use in any sermon.

Poetry:

T. S. Eliot, The Complete Poems and Plays

Plays:

Arthur Miller, Death of a Salesman AND Archibald Macleish, J.B.

Novels:

Georges Bernanos, Diary of a Country Priest

Fyodor Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment

George Eliot, Middlemarch

Graham Greene, The Heart of the Matter

Sinclair Lewis, Babbitt

Alan Paton, Too Late the Phalarope AND Cry, the Beloved Country

John Steinbeck, East of Eden

John Updike, In the Beauty of the Lilies

Robert Penn Warren, All the King's Men

Charles Williams, All Hallow's Eve OR Descent into Hell

Thomas Wolfe, The Web and the Rock OR You Can't Go Home Again

Due December 7: A paper of 6 to 8 pages, giving your personal *theology of preaching*. This paper should reflect your semester's work, including a) classroom lectures; b) reading from Cantalamessa and Lischer; c) insights that have appeared during class discussions; and – *especially* – your own personal thinking. I want more than a term paper of research materials; rather, a kind of personal declaration of faith as it relates to why and how you preach. Thus, when you quote from books or lectures, give your reaction, whether confirming or contesting.

Oral: In addition, you will preach three times, dates to be announced soon. All of the preaching will be without notes or manuscript.

-- 5 - 6 minute homily, on an assigned Old Testament passage. You will not be graded on this assignment.

- 9 - 10 minute homily, on an assigned New Testament passage.
- 15 – 19 minute sermon, on a passage of your own choosing.

There will be no final exam, but if necessary we may meet on the exam day to complete the semester's work.

Regarding late papers: Late work will be accepted, but the grade will be affected. That is, an A- paper will become B+, etc. If a paper is seriously late, the deduction will of course be greater. But even a reduced grade is better than an F.

Basis for Grading:

Written work, roughly 50 per cent, weighted according to the length and complexity of the assignments. You will not help a grade by writing a longer paper than is requested; I will judge that you didn't discipline yourself to make your point in the announced limits.

Oral sermons, roughly 45 per cent. I look especially for evidence of care in preparation and signs of growth. Getting an 'A' in PR610 doesn't mean that you are or will be a great preacher, nor will a lower grade suggest that you will not someday be a pulpit giant.

Classroom participation, roughly 5 percent. Five per cent can materially affect a grade. The issue, however, will not be "much speaking," but speaking with insight, brevity, and clarity.

Unexcused absences will affect your grade.