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PR 610 Servant as Proclaimer

J. Ellsworth Kalas

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PR610: Servant as Proclaimer

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latitude)

Fall, 2004

PR610 B: TR 9:30-10:45

PR610 is a prerequisite to other preaching courses. It is an integrative approach to the theory and practice of preaching. The emphasis and goal: effective biblical preaching.

As taught in these sessions, the course includes lectures, discussion, and laboratory. The laboratory experience occurs when you and your colleagues preach. The critiquing of these sermons is as much a part of the learning experience as are the lectures and the assigned readings, and you should expect to take notes during this laboratory time – not only when you yourself have preached, but also as you learn from comments made to your colleagues following their sermons.

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

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Due Oct. 5: A paper of 5 or 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 (probably 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)
 - Fleming Rutledge (notable Episcopal woman preacher of 20th-21st century)
 - Gardener Taylor (outstanding 20th century African-American preacher)

You will find these sermons in books on reserve, as follows:
Volumes 6, 9, 10, 11, 20 Centuries of Great Preaching
Rutledge, Fleming, The Bible and the New York Times
Taylor, Gardner C., The Scarlet Thread: Nineteen Sermons

2. Due Nov. 9: A paper of six to seven pages on a work of literature from the list below. Substitutions are permitted but they must be specifically approved by Dr. Kalas. Begin by analyzing what this reading has done for you as a preacher. Then, give two sermon ideas (summarized, with a title and a Scripture lesson reference), three illustrations, and four quotes, all with page references. The illustrations and quotes do not have to be related in any way to the sermon ideas; they can be items 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

(Please note the AND and OR in the above list, lest you err on this assignment.)

4. Due Dec. 9: A paper of 6 – 8 pages, giving your *theology of preaching*. This paper should be a product of your semester's work, reflecting a) classroom lectures; b) reading from the Cantalamessa, Craddock and Kalas books on preaching; c) insights that have appeared during class discussions; and – *especially* – your own personal thinking. I want more than a term paper of research materials; specifically, I want a 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.

In Addition, you will preach three times, on a schedule to be announced early in the semester. The first will be a 5- 6 minute homily, without notes or manuscript, on an assigned passage. You will not be graded on this assignment, but it will give you an opportunity to speak, acclimate yourself to the experience, and begin the critiquing process. The second will be a 9 – 10 minute homily, without notes or manuscript, on an assigned passage. The third will be a 15 – 19 minute sermon, without notes or manuscript, on a text of your own choosing.

There will be no final exam. The theology of preaching paper serves that purpose.

Basis for Grading:

Written work: roughly 60 per cent, weighted according to the length and complexity of the papers.

Oral sermons, roughly 35 per cent. I look especially for evidences of care in preparation, and signs of growth. Getting an 'A' in PR610 does not mean that you are, or will be, a great preacher, or will a lower grade suggest that you will not someday be a pulpit giant.

Classroom participation, roughly 5 per cent. Remember that this element can change your grade from A-minus to B-plus, etc. The factor, however, will not be "much speaking," but speaking with insight and clarity.