PR 702 Expository Preaching

J. Ellsworth Kalas
PR702: Expository Preaching

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Spring, 2003  PR702: TR, 2:30 – 3:45

Prerequisites: PR610 and basic Bible courses

It is the conviction of your professor that all preaching should be biblical preaching. The Bible is our basic document, and our tradition, experience, and logic flow from it. In a sense, therefore, this course in Expository Preaching is nothing other than an expansion of PR610. Specifically, it is a study of preaching that concentrates on the careful examination of a single passage of scripture.

The course includes lectures, discussion, and laboratory. During the laboratory time, each student will preach three sermons. Each sermon will be critiqued by both the professor and class members.

TEXTS: Robert Alter, Genesis
Kalas, Preaching from the Soul
Kalas, New Testament Stories from the Back Side
Lowry, The Homiletical Plot

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Beginning February 12, read one chapter daily from Alter’s Genesis. My hope is to stimulate your expository and homiletical responses, whether from the passage itself, the commentary, or your own background knowledge. On the dates listed below, turn in not more than one double space page reporting on an insight from a specific chapter that had not occurred to you before. You don’t have to have a full homiletical application; just an insight that might someday develop into a sermon or a unit within a sermon.
   - February 13: Genesis 1
   - February 18: Genesis 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6
   - February 20: Genesis 7 or 8
   - February 25: Genesis 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13
   - February 27: Genesis 14 or 15

“Beginning to Understand” and “Self-Examination” in Vol. XI, 20 Centuries of Great Preaching. What appeals to you in each? What do you (in all humility!) feel could have been done better? How attractive would this preaching be for a 21st century audience? Give specific references for what you say.


4. May 13: A paper of 6 – 8 pages, with three sermon ideas that you might develop in the phrase-by-phrase style, and three that you might develop in narrative style.

ORAL WORK: You will preach three times in the course of the semester, for the class. The first sermon, more of a homily, will be 5 – 6 minutes, on an assigned verse. This sermon will be delivered without notes or manuscript.

The second sermon, 17 – 19 minutes, will be on a passage of your choosing, in the style of line-by-line or phrase-by-phrase exposition.

The third sermon, also 17 – 19 minutes, and also on a text of your own choosing, will be developed in the narrative style.

BASIS FOR GRADING:
   Written work: approximately 55 per cent.
   Oral sermons: approximately 40 per cent.
   Classroom participation: approximately 5 per cent.