

Pentecostal Perspectives on Preaching

PS5105 Course Syllabus
Ron Kadyschuk, Ph.D.

3 credit hours
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Module classes meet Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (with lunch break)
Email: ron.kadyschuk@sasktel.net

What images run through your mind when you hear the phrase *Pentecostal preaching*? I hear a mighty rushing wind sweeping through the auditorium. Electricity crackles in the air and builds to a rising crescendo of fire. It sends a trembling through the limbs of those poised on the edge of their seats, their faces enraptured by the inspired words of the speaker. The speaker? He is dripping from the exertion of his preaching, his hair and ties askew, his face alternately glowing and distorted, the words tumbling out of his mouth as fast as he can say them. There's a fire blazing in his eyes, a reflection of the Pentecostal fervor planted within him by the Holy Spirit. His words are divinely inspired easy to understand, powerful in context. They have the power to drive a stake through the heart of a sinner until he is doubled over in agony and crying out for forgiveness.

That is Pentecostal preaching!

INTRODUCTION

Ernest Moen, a statesman pastor and evangelist in the Assemblies of God (AG) in the later 20th century, wrote the above words in an AG textbook for pastoral theology courses called *The Pentecostal pastor: A mandate for the 21st century* (1997). Since the general editor of this text was the General Superintendent himself, the book may be viewed as an official statement of classical pentecostal priorities.

Preaching is a vital aspect of Christian ministry. Vocational ministers-in-training need to learn the basic elements of preaching which include the intricacies of homiletical structure as well as core traditional approaches to preaching (i.e., topical, textual, and expository sermons). These fundamentals are like learning scales at the beginning of a career in the playing of a piano.

Courses in Homiletics at AG and PAOC (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) colleges and seminaries are certainly concerned with the 'scales' aspects of preparation for preaching. Of particular interest to the present course, however, is the 'plus' dimension that pentecostal preaching affirms and/or strives to achieve.

Students in this course should have taken an introductory Homiletics course as a prerequisite.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Greg Haslam, general editor. Preach the Word: The call and challenge of preaching today. Lancaster: Sovereign World, 2006.

On the cover jacket of this book, the author expresses the concern that “over the years there has been a decline in bold, authoritative and powerful preaching. In many churches this has resulted in a leakage of spiritual power, declining numbers and stunted spiritual growth.”

As pastor of Westminster Chapel in London, England, Greg Haslam organized a preaching school where 20 contributors (including people like John Stott) came together to address the call and challenge of preaching today. The mandate for all topics related to preaching was that the ministry of the Word of God be married to a strong dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit. This book is the result.

2. Kenton Anderson. Choosing to preach: A comprehensive introduction to sermon options and structures. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

While on sabbatical in England with the opportunity to spend hours leaning on Spurgeon’s pulpit, Anderson rounded out his comprehensive model for the description and analysis of different approaches to preaching. He connects psychologist David Kolb’s Experiential Learning Model to four different combinations of homiletical structure used by preachers today (i.e., declarative, pragmatic, narrative, and visionary) then presents his own integrative model. An accompanying CD has audio samples of sermons from four of the five approaches. Anderson’s website: <http://www.preaching.org/> provides resources based mainly on his integrative model of preaching.

Anderson’s book is useful to assess diverse approaches to being effective as a preacher in a postmodern culture. Also of interest to the present course is the question of where ‘pentecostal’ preaching fits on the quadrants of Anderson’s paradigm.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

There are two options for the fulfillment of supplemental reading:

- Select two of the books in the following list, OR
- Select one of the following books plus a comparable number of pages of new reading from Haslam (instead of a second book; the new reading needs to be in addition to the portions of the Haslam text that are covered during module classes).

1. Crabtree, Charles. Pentecostal preaching. Springfield: Gospel Publishing, 2003.
2. Eaton, Michael. The gift of prophetic preaching. Chichester, West Sussex: New Wine Press, 2008.
3. Hughes, Ray. Pentecostal preaching. Revised edition. Cleveland: Pathway Press, 2004.
4. Lybrand, Fred. Preaching on your feet: Connecting God and the audience in the preachable moment. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.
5. Ragoonath, Aldwin. Preach the Word: A pentecostal approach. Winnipeg: Agape Teaching Ministry, 2004.

Extensive resources for preaching (books, journals, web materials, etc.) are available in the library and through network access to the internet. Be cautious, however, and take time to assess the credibility of the source for each website before using the material therein. The web is not

subject to any formal screening or editing process. You cannot always tell a book by its cover. Many 'wingbats' have placed material on the web.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The activities and developmental processes of this course are designed to stimulate students in the following ways:

1. To examine the relationship of 'pentecostal' preaching to core traditional sermonic forms and alternative approaches to preaching.
2. To recognize distinct characteristics and methodologies that are part of pentecostal preaching.
3. To explore theoretical and practical issues related to a pentecostal/charismatic approach to preaching.
4. To assess the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to the preaching function including the distinctive positive and potentially negative qualities of pentecostal/charismatic perspectives and methodologies.
5. To value the goals, purposes and priorities which pentecostal perspectives aim to bring to the act of preaching.
6. To experience the challenge of sermon preparation and presentation that benefits from a combination of traditional, alternative and pentecostal approaches to preaching.
7. To demonstrate the positive contributions which pentecostal perspectives may bring to the ongoing development of a personal philosophy and theology of preaching.

COURSE CONTENT

Review of traditional core sermonic forms

- expository, textual, topical, etc.

Some alternative approaches to preaching

- narrative, dramatic, first-person, pragmatic/principle/problem-solving, preaching as counseling

Additional modes of preaching that are of interest to pentecostals

- evangelistic, revivalist, healing, campmeeting, prophetic, extemporaneous, impromptu, preaching without notes, use of contemporary media in preaching, 'black' preaching, etc.

Going back to the beginning

- preaching in the Gospels and the Book of Acts
- developing a theology of preaching

Attitudes/perspectives that are inherent in pentecostal perspectives on preaching

- being open to the ‘moving of the Spirit’
- use of spiritual gifts in preaching (e.g., discernment, word of knowledge, word of wisdom)
- preaching expressed through the five-fold ministries (apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral-teacher)
- the ‘anointing’
- preaching ‘in the moment’
- integrating worship and the Word
- etc.

Issues related to ‘pentecostal’ preaching

- ‘study to show yourself approved’ versus ‘open your mouth and let the Lord fill it’
- charismatic versus pentecostal perspectives (i.e., is there a difference?)
- women as preachers (e.g., where have all the Aimee Semple McPherson’s gone?)
- ‘wearing out’ your people (e.g., who said that good pentecostal preaching has to be long preaching?)
- the role of appeals and altar calls (e.g., to what extent is the ‘after-service’ an essential part of pentecostal preaching?)
- living as a preacher in the shadows of charisma (e.g., why should my people choose me over the preacher on television at 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning?)
- the impact of literalism and fundamentalisms on pentecostal preaching (e.g., is the pentecostal preacher ‘boxed in’ by restrictive worldviews?)
- ethics in the pulpit (e.g., do pentecostal preachers exercise integrity in altar calls, discipline and non-plagiarism in the use of sources, etc.?)
- etc.

Finding a place for pentecostal/charismatic preaching within the context of Anderson’s model

- what combination of declarative, pragmatic, narrative, and visionary?
- what blend of inductive/deductive and cognitive/affective?

Preaching practicum (for application of concepts and contexts covered in this course)

- critique sermons of others
- prepare, preach, and self-evaluate sermons

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Sermon Analysis and Critique (2x5% each)

- purpose: to practice the technical analysis of sermons and reflect on what may be some distinctive characteristics of pentecostal/charismatic preaching
- assignment: experience two different sermons preached in a pentecostal/charismatic church setting and complete a written critical analysis of each sermon

Due date: Hand in both sermon critiques within two months after module classes.

2. Preparation and Preaching of Two Sermons (2x25% each)

- purpose: to practice the application of pentecostal perspectives to the preparation and delivery of sermons
- assignment: prepare and preach one sermon in class (20-22 minutes in length) and one sermon post-class (25-28 minutes in length)

Due date for completion of second sermon: Two months after module classes.

Elements of the preaching practicum include:

- video recordings of both sermons
- receiving constructive critique from classmates for the sermon preached in class
- enlisting a trusted observer to experience the second sermon and complete an evaluation form
- viewing the video recordings and completing a self-evaluation form for each of the two sermons

3. Presentations in Class (10%)

- purpose: to contribute background material for class discussion of topics and issues
- assignment: prepare and present material from assigned portions of the Haslam text (the reading assignments for presentations will be available prior to the module so class members have opportunity to do advance preparation)

4. Supplementary Readings (30%)

a) Read pages 1-125 in the Anderson text prior to the module and submit a 3-4 page reflective response to the material.

Due date: First day of module class.

b) Select two of the books offered in the Supplementary Textbook list and submit a 3-4 page critical analysis of each book.

Due dates: Three weeks and six weeks after conclusion of the module classes.

If taking the option for one book plus additional Haslam reading, read a comparable number of pages in Haslam and submit reflective responses for each chapter read (chapters are about 10 pages each).

Preach the Word!: The Call and Challenge of Preaching Today (ed. Greg Haslam)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Title</u>	
	each chapter is about 10 pages in length	
1	Preach the Word!	
2	The Paradoxes of Preaching	
3	The Place of Preaching in Church History	
4	Introducing the Gift	
5	The Book that Speaks for Itself: Introducing the Bible	

6	Learning from Jesus	
7	God-centered Preaching	
8	The Sacrament of the Word	
9	Preaching Through a Book of the Bible	
10	Preaching the Big Story	
11	Essential Ingredients of Popular Preaching	
12	Expository Preaching	
13	Preaching the Word: A Preacher's Journey	
14	Christ's Ascension Gifts	
15	Presenting the Word: To the Whole Person	
16	Apostolic Preaching	
17	Giving Ourselves to the Word and Prayer	
18	Preaching the Prophets (and 35, 44)	
19	Authority in Preaching	
20	Not in Word Only: The Work of the Holy Spirit in Preaching	
21	Preaching for a Verdict and Response	
22	In Demonstration of the Spirit's Power	
23	Vision, Faith, and Expectation in Preaching	
24	Preaching to Change a Nation	
25	Starting from Scratch	
26	Connecting with the Real World	
27	Preaching Life Issues: Work	
28	Preaching from Narrative (and ch.48)	
29	Preaching to Youth	
30	Preaching Old Testament Law	
31	Preparing Talks: The Building Analogy	
32	Thirteen Things I Wish I Had Known About Preaching	
33	Preaching that Unites the Streams	
34	Changing Whole Churches and Whole Lives	
35	Prophetic Preaching (and 18, 44)	
36	Pentecostal and Black Preaching	
37	Pastoral Preaching and Teaching	
38	Preaching as Spiritual Warfare	
39	Evangelistic Preaching	
40	Apologetics and Preaching	
41	Seasoning Your Sermons	
42	Using Movies in Preaching	
43	Engaging with the Post-Modern Generation	
44	The Prophetic Dimension (and 18, 35)	
45	The Call to Preach	
46	The Making of a Preacher	
47	Growing and Maturing as a Preacher	
48	Narrative Preaching (and ch.28)	
49	Preaching Apocalypics	

RESOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Every preacher should have a website like Bible Gateway.com at their fingertips. It is a fine resource with a large number of Bible translations available for immediate Bible searches. (<http://www.biblegateway.com/>)

There are many foundational textbooks for students of Homiletics. The present syllabus includes only selected references that have been published since 1999.

Adams, Jay. Preaching according to the Holy Spirit. Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 2000.

Allen, Bob. Sermon CPR: Resuscitating your preaching style. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2005.

Ash, Christopher. The priority of preaching. Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-shire (Scotland): Christian Focus Publications, 2009.

Bartholomew, Craig and Goheen, Michael. The drama of Scripture: Finding our place in the biblical story. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Blumhofer, Edith. Pentecostal currents in American Protestantism. Champaign: University of Illinois, 1999.

Bystrom, Raymond. Preaching biblical sermons: Three contemporary strategies. Winnipeg: Kindred Books, 2006.

Crabtree, Charles. Pentecostal preaching. Springfield: Gospel Publishing, 2010.

Day, David. Preaching with all you've got: Embodying the Word. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2005.

Duduit, Michael, editor. Preaching with power: Dynamic insights from twenty top pastors. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Eaton, Michael. The gift of prophetic preaching. Chichester, West Sussex (United Kingdom): New Wine Press, 2008.

Edwards, J. Kent. Effective first-person biblical preaching: The steps from text to narrative sermon. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (includes CD with video demonstration)

Eswine, Zack. Preaching to a post-everything world: Crafting biblical sermons that connect with our culture. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Gibson, Scott, editor. Preaching to a shifting culture: 12 perspectives on communicating that connects. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Gibson, Scott. Should we use someone else's sermon?: Preaching in a Cut-and-Paste world. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Graves, Mike and Schlafer, David, editors. What's the shape of narrative preaching? St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2008.

Haslam, Greg, general editor. Preach the Word: The call and challenge of preaching today. Lancaster, England: Sovereign World, 2006.

Hughes, Ray. Pentecostal preaching. Revised edition. Cleveland: Pathway Press, 2004.

Johnston, Graham. Preaching to a postmodern world: A guide to reaching 21st century listeners. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Knowles, Michael, ed. The folly of preaching: Models and methods. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Koller, Charles. How to preach without notes. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1962. Reprinted 2007.

Kysar, Robert and Webb, Joseph. Preaching to postmoderns: New perspectives for proclaiming the message. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2006.

Lybrand, Fred. Preaching on your feet: Connecting God and the audience in the preachable moment. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.

Ma, Wonsuk and Menzies, Robert, ed. The Spirit and spirituality: Essays in honour of Russell P. Spittler. London: t and t clark, 2004.

McDill, Wayne. 12 essential skills for great preaching. Second edition. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2006.

Medefind, Jeff and Lokkesmoe, Erik. The revolutionary communicator: Seven principles Jesus lived to impact, connect and lead. Lake Mary, Florida: RelevantBooks, 2004.

Miller, Calvin. Preaching: The art of narrative exposition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Nanez, Rick. Full gospel, fractured minds?: A call to use God's gift of the intellect. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Palma, Anthony. The Holy Spirit: A pentecostal perspective. Springfield: Gospel Publishing, 2001.

Piper, John. The supremacy of God in preaching. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Ragoonath, Aldwin. Preach the Word: A pentecostal approach. Winnipeg: Agape Teaching Ministry, 2004.

Reid, Robert. The four voices of preaching: Connecting purpose and identity behind the pulpit. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006.

Robinson, Haddon and Larson Craig, general editors. The art and craft of biblical preaching: A comprehensive resource for today's communicators. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Salter, Darius. Preaching as art: Biblical storytelling for a media generation. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2008.

Shaull, Richard and Cesar, Waldo. Pentecostalism and the future of the Christian churches: Promises, limitations, challenges. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Smith, Craig. The quest for charisma: Christianity and persuasion. Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2000.

Standing, Roger. Finding the plot: Preaching in narrative style. Falmouth: Cornwall, 2004.

Stanley, Andy and Jones, Lane. Communicating for a change. Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah, 2006.

Stone, Dave. Refining your style: Learning from respected communicators. Loveland, Colorado: Group, 2004. (includes CD with audio examples)

Trask, Thomas, ed. The pentecostal pastor: A mandate for the 21st century. Springfield: Gospel Publishing, 1997.

Tucker, Austin. The preacher as storyteller: The power of narrative in the pulpit. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.

Webb, Joseph. Preaching without notes. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

Wilson, Paul. Setting words on fire: Putting God at the center of the sermon. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.

There are many web-based resources for homiletics and preaching. The following pages provide some useful links to journal articles that are online. Some of the websites also offer online audio sermons from contemporary as well as old-time preachers.

WEB RESOURCES FOR PREACHING

All websites referred to in this syllabus are active as of August 2009.

“The doctrine of preaching in the New Testament” is an article at the following website: <http://www.biblicaltheology.com/Research/DavisS01.html>. It offers a good overview and introduction to New Testament words for preaching, basic forms of preaching in the New Testament, and the theological foundations for the New Testament's emphasis on preaching.

For ease of access to the web addresses, use the electronic version of this syllabus (available to you in Word and pdf formats). The web links to all sites will save you the trouble of typing url addresses.

1. Samples from 'Leadership Journal'

The Christianity Today organization has changed their approach to archival material. To have access to the full text of journal articles, paid subscriptions are now available at <http://www.ctlibrary.com>.

Archival articles are still listed but only the first few paragraphs of each article are given as a free preview.

At the <http://www.christianitytoday.com> website, there are still some free full-text journal articles.

For articles related to preaching, go to:

<http://www.ctlibrary.com/topics/leadershippastoralministry/preaching>

Go to <http://www.christianitytoday.com/leaders> and browse through the articles that are offered there. You will find that some of the articles still give only a preview of the first few paragraphs for free.

Example of an article of interest – at the site:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/preachingworship/preaching/preachingonmyfeet.html>,

you will find “Preaching on My Feet: Could I speak for 35 minutes without ever writing notes?” by Craig Brian Larson.

The college library has many years of Leadership Journal in paper copy. If you see an article on the website that interests you, it might be available in the college collection.

2. Samples of Preaching Resources from Other Websites

OnePlace.com -Listen for Life

<http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/>

A portal to many ministry resources

Homiletics Online

<http://www.homileticsonline.com/>

The online version of ‘Homiletics’ magazine plus other resources, by paid subscription.

The Catholic Encyclopedia – definition of Homiletics

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07443a.htm>

A detailed study of the definition of preaching, its historical development, etc.

Preaching Online

<http://www.preaching.com/>

The online version of ‘Preaching’ magazine for print subscribers.

This site also offers a free weekly email newsletter featuring sermon ideas, illustrations, and

insights on preaching the Word.

PreachingToday.Com

<http://www.preachingtoday.com/>

A paid subscription for “over 8,000 illustrations in a searchable database, preaching workshops, full sermon outlines, and many more invaluable tools and tips.”

PreachingTodaySermons

<http://www.preachingtodaysermons.com/preacthatcon.html>

An extension of Preaching Today.

PreachingTodayAudio - from Christianity Today

<http://www.preachingtodayaudio.com/>

A paid subscription – “choose from an extensive list of the top sermons and workshops, collected over the 20-year history of the popular and trusted ‘Preaching Today Audio’ series.”

Preaching.Org

<http://www.preaching.org/>

Kent Anderson’s website of preaching resources based mainly on his ‘integrative model’ of preaching.

lensweet’spreachingplus

<http://www.preachingplus.com/>

A combination of free and paid subscription resources from Leonard Sweet and others who are at the forefront of analysis of what preaching to the ‘postmodern culture’ means.

Dynamic Preaching Online

<http://www.sermons.com/>

A paid subscription for preaching resources.

Sermon Index

<http://www.sermonindex.net/>

An awesome collection of audio (and some video) sermons from many old-time, as well as current, preachers.

Online Sermons

<http://sermons.christiansunite.com/>

A smaller version of Sermon Index.

Sermonaudio.com

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/>

A large collection of audio sermons by many preachers.

Audio Bible

<http://www.audio-bible.com/bible/bible.html>

The audio reading of the Bible.