

COURSE SYLLABUS – PT5100
Reformed Theological Seminary
Jackson, Mississippi

COMMUNICATIONS 1

Fall 2025

Professor: Charles M. Wingard, D. Min.

Teaching Assistant: Jennings Duncan

Time: Tuesday, 8:45-noon

Class Hours: 2

Syllabus Revised: May 28, 2025

Prerequisites: PT5250

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COURSE PURPOSE

A course in the preparation and delivery of sermons designed to equip men for their first year of pulpit ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Formation of the minister's character.
2. Cultivation of the minister's preaching gifts.
3. Establishing life-long devotional habits.
4. Establishing a life-long commitment to reading substantial books on the preacher and his work.
5. Memorizing scriptures concerning the minister and his work.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:

The Bible.

Beeke, Joel R. *Reformed Preaching: Proclaiming God's Word from the Heart of the Preacher to the Heart of His People*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.

Capill, Murray. *The Heart Is the Target: Preaching Practical Application from Every Text*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R 2014.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

Grimké, Francis J. *Meditations on Preaching*. Madison, MS: Log College Press, 2017.

Olyott, Stuart. *Ministering Like the Master: Three Messages for Today's Preachers*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2003.

Olyott, Stuart. *Preaching Pure and Simple*. Wyoming, MI: EP Books, 2015.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertation, Eighth Edition*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013.

The Westminster Confession of Faith, and Larger and Shorter Catechisms

Recommended Texts:

Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry*. 1830. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1967.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE — Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance is taken at each class. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by a full letter grade. In the event of a planned absence or absence due to sickness, quizzes and memory verses must still be submitted on Canvas by the date that they are due.

2. GRADES

Bible Memory and Reading Quizzes	35%
JRM Lecture Outlines and Weekly Sermon Outlines	15%
Term Paper	25%
Final Exam (which will include Bible Memory Verses)	25%

3. DUE DATE EXTENSION POLICY

There will be no extensions granted for any assignments. You receive your full schedule of assignments well before they are due, and you must plan accordingly. Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus, late submissions will be assessed a penalty of 10 points per day late.

4. BIBLE MEMORY AND READING QUIZZES

Study Guides for each Quiz will be posted in canvas a week in advance. At the end of each class, students will be given an identical paper quiz. Legible penmanship is required: answers which cannot be read will be marked wrong.

5. WEEKLY SERMON OUTLINES AND OCTOBER 15-16 (JOHN REED MILLER) LECTURES OUTLINES

You will listen to one assigned sermon before each Tuesday class and submit a sermon outline. Your sermon outlines must be posted on Canvas in pdf format by 11:59 p.m. on the date due,

which will be the day before the class period during which we discuss that sermon.

Students will submit outlines for each of the four October 15-16 lectures. These lecture outlines will be due in pdf format to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Friday, December 5.

6. TERM PAPER

You will submit a 10-page term paper based upon *Reformed Preaching* by Joel R. Beeke.

Term paper grading criteria:

Content Summary (20 pts): Your paper will summarize the content of the book.

Thesis and Evaluation (25 pts): You will state and evaluate the thesis of the book, identifying points of agreement and disagreement with the author. You will assess the usefulness of the book in assisting men for pulpit ministry.

Formatting (10 pts): Formatting requirements: (a) Include a title page. (b) Use Times New Roman font and 12-point type. (c) Number pages in the body of the paper; do not number the title page. (d) Use one-inch margins on all four edges of the paper. (e) Lines must be double-spaced. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a letter grade reduction.

Depth of Paper (25 pts): Your paper must demonstrate good argumentation, careful reading, and creativity.

Presentation of Paper (20 pts): Your paper must reflect good grammar, spelling, punctuation, and clarity of expression, and be written in an appropriate academic style.

Reading Report. On your paper you will report if you have read the book in its entirety. Failure to read the entire book will result in a 15-point grade reduction.

Your term paper papers must be posted on Canvas in pdf format by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Friday, December 5. **Do not e-mail your papers to the TA or instructor.**

7. GRADING SCALE -

97-100%	A
94-96%	A-
91-93%	B+
88-90%	B
86-87%	B-
83-85%	C+
80-82%	C
78-79%	C-
75-77%	D+
72-74%	D
70-71%	D-
0-69%	F

8. READING WEEK

Reading week is October 6-10.

9. CANVAS

Canvas is a tool that will be used to track student assignments and grades during the course of the semester. Students can access Canvas at <https://rts.instructure.com>. Students should check Canvas often, as announcements and updates to the syllabus will be posted there. Students should not expect e-mail updates for the class. Rather, any announcements (such as modifications to the syllabus) will be posted on Canvas.

10. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Computers and tablets are not permitted in the classroom. Cellphones should be turned off and put away. Voice recorders are not permitted in class.

11. DISCLAIMER

The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester. Students are expected to keep up with syllabus revisions, which are posted on Canvas.

12. ETIQUETTE

Gentlemen may not wear caps or hats in the classroom.

13. OFFICE HOURS

Stop by whenever the office door is open, or schedule an appointment.

14. MAKEUP CLASSES

If a class session is cancelled, it will be rescheduled on one of the Tuesdays when the class is not scheduled to meet. Ordinarily, the due date of quizzes will remain unchanged.

COURSE OUTLINE

August 26:

- A. Reading Quiz 1: Olyott, *Ministering Like the Master* (entire book), Chapell, chapter 6
- B. Audio and Sermon Outline: Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "But God . . ." Ephesians 2:1-10
<http://www.mljtrust.org/search/?q=5777>
- C. Bible Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 3:1-2

September 2:

- A. Reading Quiz 2: Olyott, *Preaching*, part one and part two (chapters 1-2)
- B. Audio and Sermon Outline: Dale Ralph Davis, "When the Day Turns Nasty: When Trouble Turns Thicker" 1 Samuel 27-29
<http://fpcjackson.org/resource-library/seminars/when-trouble-turns-thicker/>
- C. Bible Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 3:1-5

September 9:

- A. Reading Quiz 3: Olyott, *Preaching*, part two (chapters 3-7)
- B. Video and Sermon Outline: H.B. Charles, Jr. "Our Great High Priest," Hebrews 4:16
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT-GCC30KWk>
- C. Bible Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

September 16:

- A. Reading Quiz 4: Capill, introduction-2, Westminster Larger Catechism, Q&A 153-160
- B. Audio and Sermon Outline: John Piper, "When Is Saving Repentance Impossible?" Hebrew 6:4-8
<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/when-is-saving-repentance-impossible>
- C. Bible Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:1-2

September 23:

- A. Reading Quiz 5: Capill, chapters 3-5
- B. Audio and Sermon Outline: Conrad Mbewe, "The Wicked Are Like Chaff," Psalm 1:4-5 <http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=720081934151>
- C. Bible Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:1-3

October 6-10: READING WEEK

October 14:

- A. Reading Quiz 6: Capill, chapters 6-8
- B. Audio and Sermon Outline: John Stott, "The Suffering Servant" from the series "Who Is Jesus?" Isaiah 53 – Disclaimer: For this sermon, the student will need to go to the Sermon Archive page and enter the details in the search bar.
<https://www.allsouls.org/Media/AllMedia.aspx>
- C. Bible Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:1-4

October 15 (11:00-2:00):

- A. JRM Lectures: Outline of lectures required.

October 16 (11:00-2:00)

- A. JRM Lectures: Outline of lectures required.

October 21:

- A. Reading Quiz 7: Capill, chapters 9-10, Grimké (entire book)
- B. Audio and Sermon Outline: Stuart Olyott, “They went everywhere preaching the Word” <https://www.knowyourbiblerecordings.org/acts>
- C. Bible Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:1-5

October 28, November 11, November 25, December 2: Makeup classes if needed.

December 9-11: Final Exams

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	All work must demonstrate good style, grammar, and syntax.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Student papers must demonstrate solid scriptural exegesis.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Student papers will demonstrate a solid grasp of Reformed Theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Student will study the connection between personal holiness and powerful sermons.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Students will address contemporary issues in a manner informed by scripture.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Student will learn to appeal to the conscience while showing grace and sympathy to worshipers.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	Students must use language that is accessible to ordinary congregations.

READINGS IN PREACHING AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY

- Adams, Jay E. *Preaching with Purpose*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan; Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1982.
- . *Shepherding God's Flock*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974, 1975.
- Alexander, J. W. *Thoughts on Preaching*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1988.
- Ash, Christopher. *The Priority of Preaching*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2010.
- Azurdia, Arturo G III. *Spirit Empowered Preaching: Involving the Holy Spirit in your ministry*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 1998
- Bannerman, James. *The Church of Christ: A treatise on the nature, powers, ordinances, discipline, and government of the Christian Church*. Edmonton, AB Canada: Still Waters Revival Books, 1991.
- Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1989.
- Bennett, Arthur. *The Valley of Vision*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2003.
- Bewes, Richard. *Speaking in Public Effectively*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 1998.
- Blaikie, William G. *For the Work of the Ministry: A manual of homiletical and pastoral theology*. Birmingham, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2005.
- Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry: with an inquiry into the causes of its inefficiency*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1991.
- Bridges, Jerry. *Respectable Sins: Confronting the sins we tolerate*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2007.
- Broadus, John A. *Lectures on the History of Preaching*. Vestavia Hills, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2004.
- . *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. Vestavia Hills, AL: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2005.
- Brown, Charles. *The Ministry*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2006.
- Bucer, Martin. *Concerning the True Care of Souls*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2009.
- Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2005.
- Calhoun, David. *Prayers on the Psalms: From the Scottish Psalter of 1595*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2010.

- Campbell, Iain D. *Pray, Plan, Prepare, Preach: Establishing and maintaining priorities in the preaching ministry*. Leominster: Day One Publications, 2012.
- Carson, D. A. *A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Carson, D. A. *The Cross and Christian Ministry: Leadership lessons from 1 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the expository sermon*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- . *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the gospel shape our practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.
- . *Using Illustrations to Preach with Power*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.
- Charles, H.B., Jr. *On Preaching: Personal and Pastoral Insights for the Preparation and Practice of Preaching*. Chicago: Moody, 2014.
- Chrysostom, St. John. *Six Books on the Priesthood*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1984.
- Clebsch, William A., and Jaekle, Charles. *Pastoral Care in Historical Perspective*. New York: Jason Aronson, 1983.
- Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.
- . *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.
- Dabney, Robert Lewis. *Sacred Rhetoric Or A Course of Lectures On Preaching; Delivered In the Union Theological Seminary Of the General Assembly Of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (1870)*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing, 2010.
- Dallimore, Arnold. *Spurgeon: A New Biography*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1985.
- Dargan, Edwin Charles. *The History of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1954.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Word Became Fresh: How to preach from Old Testament narrative texts*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2006.
- Dever, Mark and Gilbert, Greg. *Preach: Theology meets practice*. Nashville: B&H, 2012.
- Dickson, David. *The Elder & His Work*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2004.
- Drucker, Peter F. *The Effective Executive: The definitive guide to getting the right things done*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2002.

- Eby, David. *Power Preaching for Church Growth: The role of preaching in growing churches*. Ross-Shire, Christian Focus, 1996.
- Episcopal Church. *The Book of Common Prayer: and administration of the sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the Church: according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America: together with the Psalter or Psalms of David*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Fairbairn, Patrick. *Pastoral Theology A Treatise: On the office and duties of the Christian pastor*. Audubon, NJ: Old Paths Publications, 1992.
- Garretson, James. M. *Princeton and Preaching: Archibald Alexander and the Christian ministry*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2005.
- . *Princeton and the Work of the Christian Ministry*, 2 vols. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2012.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Gordon, T. David. *Why Johnny Can't Preach: The media have shaped the messengers*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2009.
- Gordon, T. David. *Why Johnny Can't Sing Hymns: How pop culture rewrote the hymnal*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2010.
- Gregory. *The Book of Pastoral Rule*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007.
- Grimké, Francis J. *Meditations on Preaching*. Madison, MS: Log College Press, 2017.
- Houghton, Elsie. *Classic Christian Hymn-Writers*. Fort Washington: Christian Literature Crusade; Wales: Evangelical Press, 1982.
- James, John Angell. *An Earnest Ministry: The want of the times*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1993.
- Johnson, Terry L. *Leading in Worship*. Oak Ridge, TN: The Covenant Foundation, 1996.
- . *Reformed Worship: Worship that is according to Scripture*. Greenville: Reformed Academic Press, 2000.
- . *Worshiping with Calvin: Recovering the Historic Ministry and Worship of Reformed Protestantism*. Darlington, England: EP Books, 2014.
- Jones, Paul S. *Singing and Making Music: Issues in Church Music Today*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2006.

- Kelly, Douglas. *Preachers with Power: Four stalwarts of the south*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1992.
- Kistler, Don, ed. *Feed My Sheep: A passionate plea for preaching*. Orlando: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2002.
- Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Preaching & Preachers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Macartney, Clarence Edward. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1946.
- Manetsch, Scott M. *Calvin's Company of Pastors: Pastoral care and the emerging Reformed Church, 1536-1609*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Martin, Albert N. *You Lift Me Up: Overcoming Ministry Challenges*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2013.
- McNeill, John T. *A History of the Cure of Souls*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1951.
- Meilaender, Gilbert. *Bioethics: A primer for Christians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Millar, Gary and Campbell, Phil. *Saving Eutychus: How to preach God's word and keep people awake*. Kingsford, AUS: Matthias Media, 2013.
- Miller, Samuel. *Thoughts on Public Prayer*. Harrisonburg: Sprinkle Publication, 1985.
- Motyer, Alec. *Preaching? Simple teaching on simply preaching*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2013.
- Murphy, Thomas. *Pastoral Theology: The pastor in the various duties of his office*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing, 2002.
- Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Leading in Prayer: A workbook for worship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- . *Worship: Reformed according to Scripture*. Louisville: John Knox, 2002.
- . *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church. Vol 4, The Age of Reformation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Olyott, Stuart. *Ministering Like the Master: Three messages for today's preachers*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2003.
- Orthodox Presbyterian Church. *The Book of Church Order of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church*. Willow Grove, PA: The Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2000.
- Packer, J. I. *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1961.

- Peck, T. E. *Notes on Ecclesiology*. Richmond: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1892.
- Perkins, William. *The Art of Prophecy*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1996.
- Piper, John. *Brothers, We are Not Professionals: A plea to pastors for radical ministry*. Nashville: B&H, 2002.
- . *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.
- Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public discourse in the age of show business*. New York: Penguin, 1985.
- Pratt, Josiah, and John Henry Pratt, eds. *The Thought of the Evangelical Leaders: Notes of the Discussions of the Eclectic Society, London During the Years 1798-1814*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1978.
- Presbyterian Church of America, General Assembly. *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church of America*, Sixth Ed. Lawrenceville, GA: The Committee for Christian Education and Publications, 2013.
- . *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms: as adopted by The Presbyterian Church in America*. Willow Grove, PA: The Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2007.
- Prime, Derek & Begg, Alistair. *On Being a Pastor: Understanding our calling and work*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004.
- Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The development and delivery of expository messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Shaw, James E. *Classic Hymns of Christendom: 52 stories & studies of Scripture which inspired the hymns*. Rapid City, SD: Crosslink Publishing, 2013.
- Shedd, William G. T. *Homiletics and Pastoral Theology*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902.
- Short, David and Searle, David. *Pastoral Visitation: A Pocket Manual*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus; Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 2004.
- Smith, Morton H. *Commentary on the PCA Book of Church Order*. Taylors, SC: Presbyterian Press, 2007.
- Spring, Gardiner. *The Distinguishing Traits of Christian Character*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 1967.
- . *The Power of the Pulpit: Thoughts to Christian ministers and those who hear them*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1986.
- Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. *An All-Round Ministry*. Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1983.

- . *Lectures to My Students*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2008.
- . *The Pastor in Prayer: A Collection of the Sunday morning prayers of C. H. Spurgeon*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 2004.
- Still, William. *Dying to Live*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 1991.
- . *The Work of the Pastor: Revised Edition*. Ross-Shire, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2010.
- Stott, John R.W. *Between Two Worlds: The challenge of preaching today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- . *The Preacher's Portrait: Some New Testament word studies*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1961.
- Von Allmen, Jean-Jacques. *Preaching and Congregation: Ecumenical studies in worship*. Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1962.
- Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Religious Life of Theological Students*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 1983.
- Waters, Guy P. *How Jesus Runs the Church*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2011.
- Watson, Thomas. *The Godly Man's Picture*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1992.
- Wells, David F. *The Courage to Be Protestant: Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- White, Peter. *The Effective Pastor: Get the tools to upgrade your ministry*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2000.
- Witmer, Timothy. *The Shepherd Leader: achieving effective shepherding in your church*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2010.
- Witsius, Herman. *On the Character of a True Theologian*. Greenville, SC: Reformed Academic Press, 1994.