

Communication II

Spring 2026

(2 Hour Course: 4 hrs x 6 Weeks, 2 hrs Week 7)

Syllabus

Instructor

Cameron Barham graduated from RTS Atlanta in spring of 2014 with a Master of Divinity. He pastors Christ Community Church, PCA in Kennesaw, Georgia. Formerly, he worked as a physical therapist for 15 years.

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Course Description

Having received a solid framework for preparing and preaching expository sermons from Communication I, this course seeks to further flesh out how the types of Old Testament texts and Christ's fulfillment of the OT covenants and promises to affect the preparation and delivery of a sermon. Students will learn about the various OT genres, covenants, and Christ's connection to each.

Meeting Dates (IMPORTANT NOTE: Class attendance is CRITICAL given the interactive nature of the class.

Thursdays, 12 pm-4 pm, February 12th through March 19th; 12 pm-2 pm March 26th

Learning Objectives (See Course Objectives)

1. To help each student to engage and preach from various types of OT texts recognizing the different opportunities and challenges presented by each as reflected in class discussion of and Reflection Questions for Christopher J.H. Wright's *How to Preach & Teach the Old Testament for All Its Worth*, in-class exercises, and completed sermon manuscript.
2. To help each student grow in humility and charitability concerning preaching as reflected in class discussion of and Reflection Questions for Thomas Chalmers' *The Expulsive Power of a New Affection*, in-class exercises, out-of-class exercises, and class presentation on a selected book.
3. To learn how Christ fulfills the OT covenants and promises as well as be able to apply this in preaching as displayed in class discussion of and Reflection Questions for O. Palmer Robertson's *The Christ of the Covenants*, in-class exercises, and completed sermon manuscript.

Required Texts: (IMPORTANT NOTE: You will NEED to purchase your own books as opposed to using library copies given the nature of the assignments.)

-Thomas Chalmers, *The Expulsive Power of a New Affection* (Crossway, 2020),
ISBN-13: 978-1433570674 -To be completed by Wednesday, March 26.

-Christopher J. H. Wright, *How to Preach & Teach the Old Testament for All Its Worth* (Zondervan, 2016),
ISBN-13: 978-0310524649

-To be completed by the assigned chapters for each class. See the Class Schedule.

-O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants* (P&R Publishing, 1987),
ISBN-13: 978-0875524184

-To be completed by the assigned chapters for each class. See the Class Schedule.

-Various Articles and Resources for Class: To be provided on the first day of class

Books on Preaching to Choose from for the Class Presentation (IMPORTANT NOTE: This list is subject to change. Your book will be picked in the first 2 classes, so **WAIT to purchase anything from this list:**

-Timothy Ward, *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God* (IVP Academic, 2009)
ISBN-13: 978-0830827442

-Stephen G. Dempster, *Dominion and Dynasty: A Theology of the Hebrew Bible* (IVP Academic, 2003)
ISBN-13: 978-0830826155

-H.B. Charles, Jr., *On Preaching: Personal & Pastoral Insights for the Preparation & Practice of Preaching* (Moody Publishers, 2014),
ISBN-13: 978-0802411914

-David M. King, *Your Old Testament Sermon Needs to Get Saved: A Handbook for Preaching Christ from the Old Testament* (Moody Publishers, 2021)
ISBN-13: 978-0802423276

-Peter Adam, *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Preaching* (Regent College Publishing, 2004)
ISBN-13: 978-1573833226

-Luke A. Powery, *Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope* (Fortress Press, 2012)
ISBN-13: 978-0800698225

-Francis James Grimke, *Meditations on Preaching* (Log College Press, 2018)
ISBN-13: 978-1948102094

-Mark D. Thompson, *A Clear and Present Word: The Clarity of Scripture* (IVP Academic, 2006)
ISBN-13: 978-0830826223

-Edmund Clowney, *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture* (Crossway, 2003)
ISBN-13: 978-1581344523

-Dale Ralph Davis, *The Word Became Fresh: How to Preach from Old Testament Narrative Texts*
(Mentor, 2012)
ISBN-13: 978-1845501921

Assessment

-Preaching Questionnaire: (See the attached; To Be Completed By the First Class): 5%

-Required: Complete the Preaching Questionnaire

-Due: Posted in Canvas by 11:59 pm, Wednesday, February 11th

-In-Class Participation: 15%

-Required: Regular participation in discussion that reflects that you have read the assigned material and your contribution to various in-class exercises.

-Out-of-Class Exercises: 15%

-Required: TBD by the exercise to be presented in class

-Due: Posted in Canvas by 11:59 pm the Wednesday prior to the class in which it's due (*See the Class Schedule*)

-Reflection Questions for 7 of the 11 Scheduled Readings from Wright and Robertson (See attached Reflection Questions Template): 20%

-Required: Complete Reflection Questions for each of the readings per the Class Schedule

-Due: Posted in Canvas by 11:59 pm the Wednesday prior to the class in which its due (*See the Class Schedule*)

-Class Presentation of a Book on Preaching (Book to be Assigned by the Second Class): 20%

-Required: 1 Page (front and back) Synopsis with suggested wisdom and/or practical application for preaching for other students; a 10 minute in class presentation concerning your experience with the work and suggested takeaways for preaching.

-Due: 1 Page Synopsis posted in Canvas by 11:59 pm, Wednesday, March 25th

-Completed Sermon Manuscript for an OT Passage Displaying God's Grace (Passage to be Assigned in the First Class): 25%

-Required: 3,500-4,500 words in length; 12 point Times New Roman; 1.5 spaced

-Due: Posted in Canvas by 11:59 pm, Wednesday, March 25th

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class. Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed. Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18) Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)

Communication II Class Schedule

Class Date	Class Schedule	Associated Passages	Required Reading	Assignments Due
1: Feb 12	Introductions and Prayer			
	Class Review and Expectations			Preaching Questionnaire
	Develop a Trinitarian Preaching Manifesto			
	Introduction to the OT	<i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i>	Wright, Chap 1-2	Reflection Questions for Wright
2: Feb 19	The Gospel of the OT	<i>Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:7-9</i>	Robertson, Chap 1-4	Reflection Questions for Robertson
	Develop a Biblical Manifesto for Jesus in the OT			
	Jesus and the OT	<i>Luke 24:13-35</i>	Wright, Chap 3-5	Reflection Questions for Wright
	5 Minute Presentation on How Preaching Works	<i>Matthew 13, Mark 4:1-34, Luke 8:1-21</i>		One Page on How Preaching Works
3: Feb 26	Preaching from Historical Narratives	<i>2 Chronicles 30</i>	Wright, Chap 6-8	Reflection Questions for Wright
	Allegorical Preaching Debate	<i>Galatians 4</i>	Pennington Chapter	
	Jesus and the Historical Narratives		Robertson, Chap 6-7	Reflection Questions for Robertson
	5 Minute Children's Sermon Presentation of the Gospel of the OT			Manuscript for Children's Sermon
4: March 5	Preaching from the Law	<i>Leviticus 16</i>	Wright, Chap 9-10	Reflection Questions for Wright
	Wesleyan Theology Debate			
	Jesus and the Law		Robertson, Chap 10, 12	Reflection Questions for Robertson
	5 Minute Presentation of the Besetting Sins of Reformed Theology in Preaching			One Page on the Besetting Sins of Reformed Theology in Preaching
5: March 12	Preaching from the Prophets	<i>Ezekiel 18</i>	Wright, Chap 11-12	Reflection Questions for Wright
	Application in Preaching Debate		Rutledge Essay	
	Jesus and the Prophets		Robertson, Chap 8-9	Reflection Questions for Robertson

	5 Minute Presentation of a Charitable Review of a Sermon			One Page Charitable Review
6: March 19	Preaching from Wisdom Literature	<i>Proverbs 1</i>	Wright, Chap 13-15	Reflection Questions for Wright
	Prosperity Gospel Debate			
	Jesus and Wisdom Literature		Robertson, Chap 5, 13	Reflection Questions for Robertson
	5 Minute Presentation of a Charitable Review of a Sermon			One Page Charitable Review
7: March 26	Presentations of Books on Preaching			One Page Handout
	Discuss Chalmers and Preaching		Chalmers Book	Reflection Questions on Chalmers; Sermon Manuscript for Grace in the OT Passage

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Communication II

Professor: Cameron Barham

Campus: Atlanta

Date: 2/12/26-3/26/26

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong ○ Moderate ○ Minimal ○ None 	
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informal class discussion. 2. Reflection questions for each of the readings. 3. Class presentations and debates. Sermon Manuscript for OT passage on Grace in the OT.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scripture will be used for each class to illustrate the various OT genres and ideas. 2. Students will engage and use Scripture for in-class exercises. 3. Sermon Manuscript for OT passage on Grace in the OT.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Reformed approach to preaching is assumed and will be emphasized. 2. Out of Class Exercise on Reformed Theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character in preaching will be emphasized. 2. Charitability and humility will be cultivated throughout the various class exercises.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The emphasis on Jesus fulfilling the OT and being applied in the present. 2. The in-class exercises will emphasize the application of the Word.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charitability and humility will be cultivated throughout the various class exercises. 2. Charitable engagement with other theologies and writers in various class exercises

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-Xns.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learning to apply the OT to the present.2. Learning to apply Jesus from the OT and its fulfillment to the present.3. Sermon Manuscript for a passage on Grace in the OT
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Communication II
Preaching Questionnaire

1. How many times have you preached outside of class? What contexts and services?
2. What does your sermon prep look like so far?
3. What books have most influenced you in terms of preaching style, practice, and theology?
4. Which preachers have most influenced your views and practices in preaching?
5. Which preachers help you to know that you are loved by God and move you to love God and your neighbors?
6. Which of the books listed on the Syllabus for the class presentation have you read?
7. In what ways do you hope to grow as a preacher from this class?

Communication II

Reflection Questions for:

1. What quote or concept stood out to you?
2. In what ways were you challenged by the material?
3. In what ways were you encouraged by the material?
4. Do you sense the Holy Spirit guiding you in a particular way concerning preaching from what you read?