

Preaching Lab II

Spring 2026

(2 Hour Course: 2 hrs Week 1, 4 hrs x Weeks 2-7)

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 Preaching Lab I, this course seeks to further flesh out how the audience, various contexts, and types of texts affect the preparation and delivery of a sermon. Students will learn to evaluate themselves and others through preaching sermons from the Old Testament with careful attention given to content, clarity, application and delivery to a specific audience in a particular context.

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

**Thursdays, 2 pm-4 pm, March 26th; 12 pm-4 pm April 2nd – May 14th (No class on Thursday, April 9th:
Spring Break)**

Learning Objectives (*See Course Objectives*)

1. To help each student to appreciate the impact of particular audiences, various contexts, and types of OT texts on the preparation and delivery of a sermon. This will be evidenced in the preaching of sermons, evaluation of sermons, class discussion, and Final Reflection Paper.
2. To help each student grow in his ability to move from solid, biblical exegesis to a clear and compelling sermon that evidences his heart for those to whom he is preaching as reflected in the preaching of sermons, evaluation of sermons, class discussion, a Reflection Paper on J.C. Ryle's *Simplicity in Preaching*, and Final Reflection Paper.
3. To learn how to preach Christ from a particular OT text and apply it to a particular audience and context as displayed in the preaching of sermons, evaluation of sermons, class discussion, Reflection Paper on Edmund Clowney's *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament*, and Final Reflection Paper.

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

-Edmund Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament* (P&R Publishing, 2nd Ed., 2013),
ISBN-13: 978-1596388925

-Reflection Paper to be completed by 12 pm (Noon), Friday, May 15th

-J.C. Ryle, *Simplicity in Preaching* (Banner of Truth Trust, 2010),
ISBN-13: 978-1848710658

-Reflection Questions to be completed by 11:59 pm , Wednesday, March 25th

Assessment

-Reflection Questions for J.C. Ryles' *Simplicity in Preaching* (See Reflection Questions Template at the end of the Syllabus and in Canvas): 5%

-Required: Complete Reflection Questions for Ryle

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

-Preached Sermons: 50%

-Required: A full manuscript for each sermon to be preached in class when scheduled.

-Due: By 11:59 pm, the Wednesday prior to the class in which you are scheduled to preach.

-Sermon Feedback (See the Sermon Feedback Form in Canvas): 25%

-Required: A Sermon Feedback Form for each sermon you preach.

-Due: By 11:59 pm, the Wednesday following the class in which you preached

-Reflection Paper on Edmund Clowney's *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament*: 10%

-Topic: Reflect on how you have grown in your understanding of Christ's presence in the OT and your ability to preach Him from an OT text.

-Required: Length depends on how you've grown; 12 point Times New Roman; 1.5 spaced

-Due: Posted in Canvas by **Friday, May 15th, 12 pm**

-Final Reflection Paper on "How have I grown in my understanding of preaching, as a preacher, and as one who listens to sermons?": 10%

-Topic: Reflect on how you have grown in your understanding of preaching, as a preacher, and as one who listens to sermons.

-Required: Length depends on how you've grown; 12 point Times New Roman; 1.5 spaced

-Due: Posted in Canvas by **Friday, May 15th, 12 pm**

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)

Preaching Lab II Class Schedule

Class Date	Class Schedule	Associated Passages	Required Reading	Assignments Due
1: March 26	Class Review and Expectations			
	Discuss J.C. Ryle, "Simplicity in Preaching"		J.C. Ryle, "Simplicity in Preaching"	Reflection Questions on Ryle
2: April 2	Children's Sermons 1-2 and Review			Sermon Manuscript
	Children's Sermons 3-4 and Review			
	Children's Sermons 5-6 and Review			
	Children's Sermons 7-8 and Review			
	Text Selection for Sermons			
3: April 16	Children's Sermons Review			Self-Assessment on Children's Sermon
	God's Grace in the OT Sermons, Part 1			
4: April 23	God's Grace in the OT Sermons, Part 1 Review			Self-Assessment on God's Grace in the OT Sermon
	God's Grace in the OT Sermons, Part 2			
5: April 30	God's Grace in the OT Sermons, Part 2 Review			Self-Assessment on God's Grace in the OT Sermon
	Potluck OT Sermons, Part 1			Sermon Transcript
6: May 7	Potluck OT Sermons, Part 1 Review			Self-Assessment of Potluck OT Sermon
	Potluck OT Sermons, Part 2			Sermon Transcript
7: May 14	Potluck OT Sermons, Part 2 Review			Self-Assessment of Potluck OT Sermon
	Lord's Supper Sermons			Transcript of Lord's Supper Sermon
	Baptism Sermons			Transcript of Baptism Sermon
May 15				Reflection Paper on Edmund Clowney's <i>The Unfolding Mystery</i>; Final Reflection Paper

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Preaching Lab II

Professor: Cameron Barham

Campus: Atlanta

Date: 3/26/26-5/7/26

<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. Writing sermon manuscripts and preaching in class. 2. Class discussion and sermon feedback. 3. Reflection questions for J.C. Ryle's <i>Simplicity in Preaching</i>. 4. Reflection paper on Edmund Clowney's <i>The Unfolding Mystery</i>. 5. Reflection paper on personal growth from class.
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. Exegetical focus required to be demonstrated in each sermon. 2. Reflection paper on Edmund Clowney's <i>The Unfolding Mystery</i>
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reformed approach to preaching is presumed and emphasized. 2. The Reformed emphasis of preaching Christ from the OT.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence personal growth over the span of preaching and giving feedback. 2. Reflection paper on personal growth from class.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sermons will reflect the impact of a particular audience and context. 2. The emphasis on preaching Christ from the OT and applying it in the sermon.
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. Sermon feedback is expected to be winsome and loving. 2. Charitability is expected in sermons and assignments.
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.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shepherding should be reflected in illustrations and applications applied to a particular audience and context. 2. The emphasis on preaching Christ from the OT and applying it in a sermon. 3. The emphasis on preaching God's grace from the OT and applying it

			<p>in a sermon.</p> <p>4. Preaching baptism and Lord's Supper sermons.</p>
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Preaching Lab II Sermon Feedback

Preacher:

Text:

Assessor:

1. Introduction:

- a. How well did it set up the main argument and connect to the body of the sermon?
- b. Did it contain any illustrations or quotes? How appropriate were they for the text? The audience?

2. The Body of the Sermon:

- a. Was the text dealt with exegetically at an appropriate level for the audience?
- b. How was Jesus addressed in the body of the sermon?
- c. Did it contain any illustrations or quotes? How appropriate were they for the text? The audience?

3. Application:

- a. What was the application(s) offered?
- b. Were they appropriate for the text? The audience?

4. Conclusion:

- a. How well did the preacher land the plane? Was it clear or did he circle the airport for a bit?

- b. Did the conclusion connect to the rest of the sermon?

- c. Did it contain any illustrations or quotes? How appropriate were they for the text? The audience?

- d. Was the overall arrangement clear?

5. Physical Presence:

- a. What did the preacher's physical presence (movements, eye contact, or lack thereof) communicate? Did they help or hurt?

- b. Were any of the preacher's movements helpful or distracting?

- c. Did the preacher speak at a helpful pace?

Preaching Lab II Sermon Feedback

Preacher:

Text:

Assessor:

1. How well did the preacher explain the sacrament?
2. How well did the preacher connect the text to the sacrament and Jesus?
3. How well did the preacher apply the text and the sacrament?
4. What did the preacher's physical presence (movements, eye contact, or lack thereof) communicate?
Did they help or hurt?
5. Did the preacher speak at a helpful pace?