

Preaching Laboratory I (PT5125-W1-Flex)
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August 31 – September 1, 2026 | Washington, DC Campus

Monday, August 31, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Required Live Zoom Sessions (6:30 PM – 9:45 PM)

- Monday, July 13, 2026
- Monday, July 20, 2026
- Monday, August 3, 2026
- Monday, August 10, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Building upon PT5100, students will preach multiple sermons in a laboratory setting designed to strengthen both sermon preparation and sermon delivery. Students will receive detailed feedback from the instructor and peers. Women and other nonministerial candidates will substitute additional elective course hours for all Preaching Labs.

This course assumes that preaching is not merely the transfer of information, but the proclamation of God’s Word unto the formation of God’s people. Faithful preaching requires theological depth, textual clarity, pastoral wisdom, spiritual maturity, and thoughtful delivery. The goal of this laboratory is therefore not merely improved technique, but growth in faithful and effective gospel ministry.

COURSE FORMAT

Students enrolled in this course are expected to attend all in-person lectures and preaching sessions at the Washington, DC campus on August 31–September 1, 2026. In addition, students should note that there are required live online lectures and assignments beginning as early as June 1, 2026. The course includes approximately 12.5 hours of required synchronous online meetings conducted via Zoom.

Successful completion of all in-person and synchronous online components is required for Washington residency credit. Students are expected to participate actively during all online sessions with cameras on unless previously excused.

Tentative Zoom Session Schedule:

- July 13 — Foundations of Sermon Preparation
- July 20 — Delivery, Clarity, and Structure
- July 27 — Old Testament Sermon Manuscript or Detailed Outline Due (no meeting)
- August 3 — Christ-Centered Preaching and Application
- August 10 — New Testament Sermon Manuscript or Detailed Outline Due

Workshop and Peer Feedback

- August 31–September 1 — In-Person Intensive and Sermon Delivery
- September 15 — Reflection Paper Due

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen sermon preparation and sermon delivery through repeated preaching opportunities.
2. To receive constructive and practical feedback regarding preaching content, structure, clarity, tone, and delivery.
3. To learn from the instructor's experience in preaching and ministry.
4. To develop greater clarity, simplicity, warmth, and theological depth in expository preaching.
5. To cultivate long-term habits for faithful and effective preaching ministry.

COURSE TEXTS (* Required; ^ Recommended)

- Jeon, Paul. *On Preaching Better*
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*
- Keller, Timothy. *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*
- Ryle, J. C. *Simplicity in Preaching*
- Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds*

- ^ Allen, Lewis. *The Preacher's Catechism*
- ^ Begg, Alistair. *Preaching for God's Glory*
- ^ Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*
- ^ Clowney, Edmund. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*
- ^ Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*
- ^ Helm, David. *Expositional Preaching*
- ^ Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Preaching & Preachers*
- ^ Millar, Gray, and Phil Campbell. *Saving Eutychus*
- ^ Motyer, Alex. *Preaching?: Simple Teaching on Simply Preaching*
- ^ Piper, John. *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*
- ^ Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching*
- ^ Ryken, Leland. *Preach the Word*
- ^ Spurgeon, Charles. *Lectures to My Students*
- ^ Stanley, Andy. *Communicating for a Change*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Sermon Preparation
Prior to the course, students should prepare two sermons: one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. Each sermon should be approximately 10–15 minutes in length. Students may use sermons previously preached or prepared. Sermons should reflect faithful expository engagement with

the biblical text and demonstrate theological clarity, pastoral sensitivity, and meaningful application.

Students should submit either a sermon manuscript or detailed sermon outline that includes:

- Main sermon proposition
- Sermon structure and outline
- Key transitions
- Major applications
- Christ-centered and redemptive emphasis where appropriate

Tentative Submission Schedule:

- Old Testament Sermon Manuscript or Detailed Outline — Due July 27, 2026
- New Testament Sermon Manuscript or Detailed Outline — Due August 10, 2026
- Reflection Paper — Due September 15, 2026

2. Sermon Delivery and Feedback

Students will preach multiple sermons during the course and receive detailed feedback regarding content, structure, tone, clarity, application, and delivery. Students are expected to provide charitable, thoughtful, and constructive feedback that serves the growth of fellow preachers.

3. Reflection Paper

Students will submit a reflection paper outlining a ten-year plan for growth in preaching ministry. The paper should include:

- Ten concrete goals for improving sermon preparation
- Ten concrete goals for improving sermon delivery

The paper should be marked by clarity, specificity, conciseness, and pastoral self-awareness.

COURSE GRADING

Sermon 1 — 40%

Sermon 2 — 40%

Reflection Paper — 20%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because preaching laboratories depend upon active participation and peer interaction, attendance at all scheduled sessions is mandatory except in cases of serious emergency. Students should arrive prepared to preach, engage thoughtfully, and contribute constructively to classroom discussion and peer feedback.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Students are expected to adhere to all RTS policies regarding academic integrity, classroom conduct, and accessibility accommodations. Late assignments may be penalized unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

MDiv STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course contributes significantly to the following MDiv learning outcomes:

- **Articulation (Oral & Written):** Development of clear, compelling, and pastorally effective communication.
- **Scripture:** Growth in the faithful exposition and application of Scripture.
- **Reformed Theology:** Integration of Reformed theology and pastoral ministry.
- **Sanctification:** Encouragement toward personal holiness and ministry integrity.
- **Worldview:** Cultivation of a biblical and gospel-centered vision for ministry.
- **Winsomely Reformed:** Development of pastoral wisdom, humility, and charity.
- **Pastoral Ministry:** Training in the practical ministry of preaching and shepherding.