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INTRODUCTION TO HOMILETICS SELF-PACED COURSE GUIDE



“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

” 2 Timothy 2:15

Welcome to this course! The completion of this course will prove to be a significant blessing to you both academically and spiritually. We recommend that you thoroughly read the entire study guide before you actually begin working on the Course Projects. If you are uncertain or unclear on any matter, contact IFCA Discipleship Institute for clarification (1-216-261-4214 or yvonne@ifcabiblecollege.com). Above all other things, we encourage you to pray for God's guidance before you begin this course, and each time you work on it.

The instructions in this study guide are related to course formatting and submission. You may also refer to your original Student Orientation Page. **IMPORTANT:** The instructions on the study guide always supersede any other instructions. If there seems to be a conflict between this study guide and other instructions, always follow the instruction of the study guide.

We strongly recommend that you use reliable word processing software and make frequent use of the spell checker and grammar suggestion aspects. Be sure to save your work frequently, and backup copies of course work you have submitted.

The total length of time required to complete this course is different for each person. This is because already acquired knowledge of the subject, previous education, and personal situations all influence study habits and ability.

The time between the submission of your coursework, until it is returned to you (graded) will vary, but generally courses sent by postal mail may require as much as two weeks in transit (to and from), and another two weeks to get through the recording and grading process. Email submissions (preferred) generally require about two weeks. These are only averages. Be absolutely certain that you keep IFCA Discipleship Institute immediately informed if you change your email, postal mailing address or telephone numbers.

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IFCA-DI Writing Guidelines

The standard for academic papers (to be used in all your courses at IFCA-DI) should reflect the following:

Formatting

1. Use the following guidelines to format all research papers and writing assignments
 - a. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced throughout (see “Hot Tips” below for permissible exception for footnotes)
 - b. Set margins 1” top and bottom, and 1.25” right and left
 - c. The use of subtitles or subheadings is encouraged: (set subheadings in bold on the left margin)
 - d. Do not use a cover page. Rather, enter the following in the upper left corner of the first page of the paper:
 - Your name
 - Course Number, assignment number
 - Date submitted
 - Word count
 - e. Insert page numbers at the bottom center of all pages, including the first page.
 - f. Foreign terms (terms not listed in a common English dictionary) should be italicized the first time they are used, and thereafter should not be italicized.
2. Use of ellipsis dots:
 - a. Leave a space before and after three ellipsis dots.
EXAMPLE: “For God so loved ... that he gave his only begotten son” (John 3:16a).
 - b. Do not use ellipsis dots at the beginning or ending of a quote.
INCORRECT EXAMPLE: The scriptural phrase “... God so loved ...” has become an extremely influential formative dynamic for the church.
CORRECT EXAMPLE: The scriptural phrase “God so loved” has become an extremely influential formative dynamic for the church.

Citing Sources

1. Direct quotes must be footnoted, as should sources used in paraphrased form and major ideas drawn from other authors.
2. Avoid overusing direct quotes. Reword the idea to express your understanding (paraphrase).
3. Use block quotes sparingly.
 - a. Block quotes should be single-spaced, having no quotation marks
4. When adding citations, use the following guidelines:
 - a. A superscript number is used in the text, following the footnote or citation. The footnote is numbered at the beginning, either as a number followed by a period or as a superscript number. Either footnotes or endnotes may be used; ask your professor which they prefer.
 - b. The first line of the endnote or footnote is indented 5 spaces.

5. Biblical references may be placed in the text (rather than in the footnotes), following the quote and in parentheses; unless more than three Scripture texts are cited. Use the standard abbreviations (found below) when referencing biblical texts by chapter and verse (e.g., Dan 3:20-21)
- In narrative, spell out the name of the Bible book: e.g., “in Daniel 3:20-22, we read...”
 - However, never write out the chapter and verse references: e.g., “in the third chapter of Daniel, verses twenty to twenty-two, we read...”

Old Testament

Genesis	Gen.	Proverbs	Prov.
Exodus	Exod.	Ecclesiastes	Eccles.
Leviticus	Lev.	Song of Solomon	Song of Sol.
Numbers	Num.	Isaiah	Isa.
Deuteronomy	Deut.	Jeremiah	Jer.
Joshua	Josh.	Lamentations	Lam.
Judges	Judg.	Ezekiel	Ezek.
Ruth	Ruth	Daniel	Dan.
1 Samuel	1 Sam.	Hosea	Hos.
2 Samuel	2 Sam.	Joel	Joel
1 Kings	1 Kings	Amos	Amos
2 Kings	2 Kings	Obadiah	Obad.
1 Chronicles	1 Chron.	Jonah	Jon.
2 Chronicles	2 Chron.	Micah	Micah
Ezra	Ezra	Nahum	Nah.
Nehemiah	Neh.	Habakkuk	Hab.
Esther	Esther	Zephaniah	Zeph.
Job	Job	Haggai	Hag.
Psalms	Ps. (<i>pl</i> .Pss.)	Zechariah	Zech.
Malachi	Mal		

New Testament

Matthew	Matt.	1 Timothy	1 Tim.
Mark	Mark	2 Timothy	2 Tim.
Luke	Luke	Titus	Titus
John	John	Philemon	Philem.
Acts	Acts	Hebrews	Heb.
Romans	Rom.	James	James
1 Corinthians	1 Cor.	1 Peter	1 Pet.
2 Corinthians	2 Cor.	2 Peter	2 Pet.
Galatians	Gal.	1 John	1 John
Ephesians	Eph.	2 John	2 John
Philippians	Phil.	3 John	3 John
Colossians	Col.	Jude	Jude
1 Thessalonians	1 Thess.	Revelation <i>or</i>	Rev. Apoc.
2 Thessalonians	2 Thess.		
		Apocalypse	

The following are examples of proper citation formatting:

Book/One Author

¹Michael Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1970), 27.

²Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, vol. 1 of *The Story of Christianity* (Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1984), 91.

Book/Two Authors

¹Paul R. House and Eric Mitchell, *Old Testament Survey* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1982), 27.

Anthology: Emphasizing the editor's comments

¹Alister E. McGrath, ed., *The Christian Theology Reader*, 2nd ed. (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2001), 27.

Anthology: Emphasizing the author of a work included in the anthology

¹Cyril of Jerusalem, "Cyril of Jerusalem on the Role of Creeds," in *The Christian Theology Reader*, 2nd ed. Ed. Alister E. McGrath (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2001), 27.

Article in reference dictionary, encyclopedia, or the like

²*Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), s.v. "Septuagint."

Commentaries

²Raymond Brown and Sandra Schneiders, "Hermeneutics: The Literal Sense of Scripture," in *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, ed. Raymond E. Brown, Joseph A. Fitzmyer, and Roland E. Murphy (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1990), 1148-1149.

Electronic media, not including information found on a website (for example, CD media).

³Flavius Josephus, *The Wars of the Jews*, Book 2, Chapter 17 in the *Works of Josephus*, 1451; available from the *AGES Digital Library* (Albany, OR: AGES Software, 1999).

Lecture

⁴David Belles, "Historical Overview: Part One" (lecture, T101, Session 1 Lecture 2, IFCA Bible College, 30 March 2016).

Website

⁵Gerald Wilson, "The Poetry of the Psalms," available from <http://home.apu.edu/~geraldwilson/HebrewPoetry.html> (Note: omitting the period at the end helps avoid confusion)

Introduction to Homiletics

Course Syllabus

Purpose

This course is an introduction to homiletics, also known as the art and the act of preaching. Students will learn the basic elements of preaching by examining traditional and contemporary approaches to sermon preparation and delivery. While this course focuses on the fundamental principles of homiletics, it also encourages the student to consider their own personal style and distinctive manner for relaying gospel truths. Carefully planned lectures and exercises will help the student gain experience preparing their thoughts, notes, illustrations, and techniques for conveying relevant and effective preaching material.

Objectives

1. Define and describe the key characteristics of biblical preaching.
2. Gain a working definition of expository preaching.
3. Understand the basic elements of sermon construction.
4. Develop an experienced insight on sermon delivery.
5. Develop a library system of supporting materials.
6. Value the privilege and responsibility of the call to preach.
7. Develop effective study habits and preaching skills.

Texts

Andy Wallace, *“Homiletics Handbook”*, Grace of Truth Ministries, 2013.

[John Stott, “The Challenge of Preaching”, Langham Preaching Resources, 2013.](#)

Assignments

Each student will be required to complete the following during the course:

- Read two books, *“The Homiletics Handbook”* by Andy Wallace and *“The Challenge of Preaching”* by John Stott. Write a 1-2 page summary paper for each book answering the following questions:
 - What is the central idea of the book?
 - What did you find in the book that was new to you?
 - With what do you agree or disagree? Explain why.
- Interview another minister about their preaching experience, and submit a written report listing your questions, their responses, and what you learned from them.
- Develop a filing system for collecting supporting material for sermon preparation. At least 10 illustrations are required for submission.

- Watch three sermons on You Tube from the prepared list. Thoroughly complete the following list of assigned questions for each sermon.
 - State the main concept of the message and comment on it.
 - Describe the introduction in the message. Analyze and comment.
 - Name any illustrations used in the message. Analyze and comment.
 - Describe the conclusion of the message. Comment on how it generated a response.
 - Explain what you liked or did not like about the delivery.
 - Explain if the message flowed from the biblical text or if it seemed imposed.

- Prepare and submit (2) sermon outlines using the assigned worksheet.

Grading

Summary papers: 20%

Interview report 20%

Sermon Illustrations: 20%

Sermon Outlines 10%

You Tube assignment: 20%

Summary Papers

The purpose of the book essays is for you to demonstrate that you have read and understood the book material, and have begun the process of deliberating about its relevance and application. Essays will contain a summary of what you learned from the book and how you plan to apply it to your own ministry. A minimum of three pages is required.

Interview report

The purpose of the interview report is to learn practical wisdom about preaching from an experienced minister. In the report, you should provide details about the responses you received to your questions and how it affected your thinking about preaching.

Sermon Illustrations

The purpose of developing a filing system for sermon illustrations is to encourage good study habits and to help build an ongoing library of supporting material for effective sermon construction.

Sermon outlines

The purpose of the sermon outlines assignment is to build confidence and practical experience in sermon construction.

You Tube assignment

The purpose of the You Tube assignment is to encourage the student to analyze various preaching styles and skills with the intent of stimulating personal reflection and effective communication.

Schedule

Session One: The making of the preacher

- Read chapters 1-3 of John Stott, *The Challenge of Preaching*.

Session Two: The mission of the preacher

- Read chapters 4-7 of John Stott, *The Challenge of Preaching*.
- Write a 1-to-2-page essay summarizing your personal reflections from the book.

Session Three: The material of the preacher

- Read chapters 1-4 of Andy Wallace, *Homiletics Handbook*.

Session Four: The message of the preacher

- Read chapters 5-8 of Andy Wallace, *Homiletics Handbook*.
- Write a 1-to-2-page essay summarizing your personal reflections from the book

Session Five: The manner of the preacher

- Submit interview report assignment

Session Six: The mechanics of the preacher

- Submit sermon illustrations assignment

Session Seven: The miracle of the preacher

- Submit sermon outlines assignment

Session Eight: The ministry of the preacher

- Submit You Tube assignment

How to Use this Guide?

Before you proceed with this course make sure you read the course syllabus in the previous section and the information below.

The following pages in this study guide provide the summaries, readings, and assignments for each class session. Each session contains a lecture and post-lecture reading. Some sessions also include writing or other assignments. Submit all written assignments to the Discipleship Institute.

Session One

Lecture: The Making of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses discovering your personal style and gifting for preaching. Effective preaching is more than merely a matter of technique; it should come from the overflow of God's touch on your life.
- II. Read chapters 1-3 of the Challenge of Preaching

Session Two

Lecture: The Mission of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses the multi-faceted goal of the preacher to get others to hear, believe, and respond. Effective preaching must have a specific purpose in mind.
- II. Read chapters 4-7 of the Challenge of Preaching

Post-lecture Assignments

- I. Write a 1-to-2-page essay summarizing your personal reflections from the book.

Session Three

Lecture: The Material of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses the need for both spiritual and natural materials to generate sermons. Effective preaching begins with making deposits for future use.
- II. Read chapters 1-4 of the Homiletics Handbook

Session Four

Lecture: The Message of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses how effective preaching does not focus too much on sermon content to the neglect of the audience. We must ask ourselves if we are more interested in teaching information, teaching people, or teaching for application.
- II. Read chapters 5-8 of the Homiletics Handbook

Post-lecture Assignments

- I. Write a 1-to-2-page essay summarizing your personal reflections from the book.

Session Five

Lecture: The Manner of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses how the preacher's behavior and presence affects the effectiveness of the message. Many practical tips and tools are reviewed.
- II. Interview another minister about his or her preaching experience.

Post-lecture Assignments

- I. Submit a report detailing your interview questions, their responses, and what you learned from the interview.

Session Six

Lecture: The Mechanics of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses the working parts of effective preaching. Valuable principles of preparation and communication are considered.

Post-lecture Assignments

- I. Submit sermon illustrations assignment

Session Seven

Lecture: The Miracle of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses the need for supernatural ability to explain God's Word. Effective preaching is a combination of the natural and the supernatural working together.

Post-lecture Assignments

- I. Submit sermon series assignment.

Session Eight

Lecture: The Ministry of the Preacher

- I. This lecture addresses several keys for enhancing the greatest element for effective preaching; the anointing of God.

Post-lecture Assignments

- I. Submit You Tube assignment.