

Sermon Preparation for Special Services

Syllabus for 513 Homiletics III: Sermon Preparation for Special Services

I. Course Description

A study of how Christian worship expresses and shapes our understanding of the redemptive acts of Jesus Christ and other special occasions for worship, with particular attention to pulpit preparation for the celebration of Advent weeks, the birth of Christ, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Prayer days, Passion weeks, Christ's crucifixion, Christ's resurrection, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Reformation day, and Thanksgiving day. Guidance is provided for speaking on other special occasions such as baptism, confession of faith, the Lord's Supper, weddings, funerals, installation or ordination of office-bearers, inaugural and farewell messages, dedication and anniversary services, conferences, adult classes, question-answer sessions, gatherings of seniors, chapels, congregational meetings, confessions of guilt, catechism classes, and radio addresses and interviews.

II. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- A. Know the basic history of how a variety of special services developed in the church.
- B. Understand the main objectives of these special services from a Reformed perspective.
- C. Grasp the basic content involved in speaking on special occasions, including appropriate scriptural data.
- D. Preach and/or speak on a variety of these special occasions, and be equipped with tools to speak on all such occasions.

III. Course Texts

1. Required reading: Course syllabus (600+ pages). Unfortunately, there are no good textbooks available that covers the area of this course from a conservative Reformed viewpoint.
2. Recommended reading: See asterisked items (*) in bibliography below.

IV. Course Requirements

1. An 80-minute mid-term exam based on lectures and required reading (25% of grade).
2. Three sermons must be written out in full, one of which is delivered to staff and students for critiquing (25% for each sermon).
3. Complete the reading assignments.

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2. Resumption of church activities.....	589
3. Labor Day.....	593
4. Fathers' and mothers' days.....	600

VI. Bibliography

*=Recommended reading for parts of volume that apply to this class.

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