



Course Descriptions

1. PREACHING AND TEACHING

1.1 Introduction to Preaching I / Introduction to Public Speaking I (2)

The student will receive a thorough introduction to the minister's preaching life, including the preacher's calling, the importance of building credibility outside of the pulpit, time management, assessing the congregation's needs, building a preaching calendar, and preaching resources. Emphasis will also be placed on basic sermon construction: The building blocks of the sermon, how to assemble them, and the basics of effective sermon delivery. Students will be asked to preach in class during the second half of the semester.

1.2 Introduction to Preaching II / Introduction to Public Speaking II (2)

The student is taught to advance from the skeletal formation of the message to more in-depth aspects of the sermon. This class deals with more specifics in each category: introduction, body, conclusion. Attention is given to illustrations, statistics, humor, transitions between major points, searching Scripture for application. The class will also survey types of sermons: sermons on a word, verse, section, chapter, book. The class will also include sermons on a question, a character, a parable, a miracle. The instruction will also assist the student to expand his preaching creatively through series preaching. This strategy will naturally allow the preacher to turn one expansive message into several messages unified by one theme.

1.3 Advanced Preaching / Advanced Public Speaking (2)

This advanced class designed to train the student in the strategies to connect with the current culture in a clear, compelling, concise and creative way. The student will build on what they have learned in sermon construction and experience in real life public speaking in sermon delivery. Emphasis in this course will focus more deeply on the usage of 13 different kinds of preaching material in the Bible: Parables, Types, Prophetic, and other simpler forms such as Narratives or preaching about a character's life. The course project will be to construct a year's plan (Title and Scripture text) of preaching.

1.4 Teaching for Results (2)

The Bible says Jesus came both preaching and teaching (Luke 20:1). The minister also is called to do both. The difference lies in the emphasis. Preaching emphasizes motivation, application, and response. Teaching focuses more on details. Teachers emphasize understanding and seek to communicate the information and help students understand what it means. The teacher clarifies and seeks to answer questions of why, what and how. In reality, the lesson begins where the application begins.



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2. BIBLE AND THEOLOGY

2.1 Basic Tenets (2)

This class teaches 7 essential fundamentals of the Christian Faith as discussed by Dr. Jack Cottrell in a small book he wrote in 1995, Faith's Fundamentals. These are: Truth itself is fundamental, God is real, The Bible is God's Word, Jesus is our Savior, Jesus is God's Son, We are saved by grace, through faith, in baptism, and Jesus is coming again.

2.2 Gospels I (3), 2.3 Gospels II (3)

The courses that encompass the largest portion of Bible emphasis and value the first year journey as a student at Advance. These two classes will take the students on a harmonious journey through the life of Christ. Sometimes called "synoptics" because the 4 gospels lie alongside one another, as four writers tell the story of Christ. There is no better way to study the life of Christ than to take the journey together with these four historians. Each writer adds pieces to the puzzle to help us understand this "one solitary life."

2.4 Acts (3)

The book of Acts peels back layers of the 2000 years of church history to reveal for the student the foundation elements of the early church. Acts 1:1 identifies the gospel accounts as "all that Jesus began to do and teach." Thus, Acts continues what Jesus began to do and teach "through the church." What we do and practice in the ministry of the church we learn from the church's first 30 years. Attention is specifically focused on lessons we can learn to put into practice in today's local church.

2.5 Basic Theology (3)

This course builds on the introduction to Christian theology in the Basic Tenets (prerequisite) class. It expands on the nature and importance of theology proper—the study of God. The scope then shifts to consideration of Christology, Pneumology and soteriology. There will also be a brief overview of eschatology and ecclesiology.

2.6 Principles of Bible Interpretation (2)

Determining the meaning of the biblical text in its grammatical and historical context is foundational to preaching and teaching accurately. This course introduces methods of properly determining the author's intended meaning from which proper applications may be determined. Students will become familiar with the various literary genres found in Scripture and have opportunity to practice exegeting various texts.



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2.7 Old Testament Survey (3)

This class is meant to show the flow of biblical history from creation in Genesis to the new creation in Revelation. The class will identify seventeen periods of biblical history. The same basic outline will be followed for the Old Testament periods. The sources of information and duration of each period will be discussed. A theme Scripture that summarizes the action in the period is suggested. Key individuals, major events, and great miracles of each period are identified. For each period the special emphasis in God's message is presented. There is also a section in each period called Christian Application that gives at least one illustration of how events of a given period are used by the New Testament writers to encourage or instruct Christians. Each period concludes with identification of the watershed event that brought the period to an end followed by a summary chart depicting in the most concise way the information concerning the period.

2.8 Messianic Prophecy (3)

The Old Testament foreshadowed the coming of Christ and the Kingdom that Jesus would establish. These prophetic passages show the harmony and fulfillment between the Old and New Covenants. This course presents Old Testament books and passages that prophesy who the Messiah would be, and what He would accomplish in fulfillment of God's redemptive purpose.

2.9 Defense of the Christian Faith (3)

This course will survey major attacks against the Christian worldview. It will help the student develop a reasonable defense of the Christian Faith to enable the student to share this faith in a persuasive manner

2.10 Survey of Paul's Epistles (2)

The apostle Paul wrote about 2/3 of the New Testament. This course will briefly survey the writings of Paul in their historical context. Major themes found among Paul's writings will be discussed, such as Law vs. Faith; Works vs. Grace; the redemptive work of Jesus Christ; and instructions given to the churches he wrote.

2.11 (ELECTIVE) Power of the Holy Spirit and His Role Today (3)

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit presents who the Holy Spirit is and what He does for Christians. Using the Gospels, Acts and the epistles students will be introduced to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, what was normative in the first century church and what Christians can expect His role to be today.

2.12 (ELECTIVE) Survey of Non-Pauline Epistles (2)

This course introduces students to the following epistles: Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter; 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude. Students will learn the occasion and background for these important books, and major themes presented in each of them.



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2.13 (ELECTIVE) The Lives and Ministries of Elijah and Elisha (2)

The ministries of Elijah and Elisha are little more than a series of miracles. Few of their words have survived. The two are known more for their works than their words. The dark age in which these prophets served reveal a determined attempt to stamp out the faith of God's people. This age demanded a messenger; the messenger must have credentials. Those credentials could only be miraculous. Only the mighty miracles and faith-filled preaching of these two great prophets could have been sufficient to counteract the darkness. Such is the need for our times as well.

3. PRACTICAL MINISTRY

3.1 Financial Peace (1)

This essential class is helpful for any church member but especially so for the local church minister. The minister is an example of Christian living in his personal, family, professional, and financial life. The Bible teaches us to be wise stewards of money. This class is designed to help one save more, spend less by structuring life to stop overspending and to delay spending on large purchases in a systematic way. Attention is given to wise planning for the future, particularly retirement. Further assistance is offered in the area of communication between spouses to help make wise decisions. The goal of this class is to produce disciples that are happy, healthy, debt free and capable of making wise investments in the Lord's work.

3.2 The Minister's Life and Daily Work (2)

This basic survey of the ministry considers the daily life and work as a minister. Attention is given to planning as a means to save time in the ministry. Help is offered in the areas of weddings, counseling basics, hospital visitation, funerals, ordinations, baptisms and worship service planning. The minister is the primary evangelist in the church who builds bridges to win those who are not saved through the presentation of the Gospel message. His primary stage is through preaching, but his follow-through is personal interaction and visitation. The instructor will walk the class through the basic work of the local minister.

3.3 Strategies: Streamlining and directing the church with purpose (3)

This class is focused on planning for the future, guiding the church forward and envisioning success in the long term. Material will cover how to develop and grow the church without compromising the message and mission. The class will also focus some attention to the mission or purpose statement, core values, and strategy of the local church.



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4. CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Training Elders and Deacons / Studies in Leadership (2)

Attention is given to the qualifications and standards of leadership as given by the Apostle Paul in 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus. These standards are amplified by the teaching of Jesus in the Gospels and the example of the New Testament church in Acts.

4.2 Navigating Conflict in the Church (2)

Every church faces conflict sooner or later. This course will identify 25 types of church members that are the most likely to cause frustration, tension and conflict, and offer ideas on how to handle each one. The course will also offer practical ideas on how to build a healthy church culture that promotes harmony and prevents troublemakers from getting a foothold.

4.3 Core 52 Developing Depth in the Local Church (2)

Core 52 – This class will focus on developing depth in the members of the church, motivating people to move from the fringe community to the faithful core. This class will address the strategies and tools the local church preacher employs to help grow the church deep and wide. Attention will be given to the basic strategy (small groups, Sunday Bible Fellowship, mid-week opportunities) that develop mature disciples.

4.4 Developing a Healthy Church/Staff (2)

This class offers a strategy to utilize volunteer members until staff members are called to lead. The class will focus on when volunteers are suitable and when paid staff should be employed to accomplish ministry. The class will use Ephesians 4:11-13 as a guide to consider how to direct the local body toward health. Being a local church minister without any other paid staff can be extremely lonely. This class will guide the student to minister in the “meantime,” training ministry team leaders to make a difference in the area of their gift.

5. CHURCH AND CULTURE

5.1 Marketing the Church for Growth (2)

This class navigates through the process of designing a website, social media outreach, developing an online presence. The church must also be marketed in other ways. Ministry that meets needs markets the church. The church should be prepared for the newcomer. One important principle is emphasized; excellence honors God and inspires people. Therefore, the class addresses the physical look of the church property, the ways the church members should respond to guests who attend, introductory materials given to newcomers taught in the first steps orientation, and the purpose and content of that introduction to the church. Even the



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worship service itself, which is primarily for members, should give attention to outsiders who observe the church.

5.2 Positioning the Church for Outreach (2)

This class focuses on strategies the church employs to reach people with the Gospel. This includes working with volunteers to conduct community outreach in area parks and other venues, ministry to the underserved in the community, as well as developing a strong intercultural ministry, foster care ministry, Christian school, Celebrate Recovery and others. Wherever legitimate needs are met there is an opportunity for evangelism. This seminar class will feature a number of guest instructors from strong growing Christian churches throughout the state of Florida.

5.3 God's Word and His Role in America (2)

This class focuses on the unique nature of the United States of America. The history of this country displays an uncanny pattern. At moments of crisis when the odds of success seem overwhelming, circumstances happen, and people act. Leaders lead and a country forms, succeeds and prospers, blessed by an unseen hand. Historians may categorize these incidents as coincidences, but the most notable leaders have identified this good fortune as divine providence. The class explores the providential founding of America, which we believe was not a coincidence, and includes where we have been, dangers to the republic, warnings, and solutions to our problems.

5.4 Basic Christian Ethics (2)

This class addresses how the Bible, and in particular, the minister in his role deals with issues facing today's Christian. The class begins with the foundation of a biblical worldview and addresses such issues as life, death, heaven, hell, capital punishment, abortion, government, sex, marriage and divorce, sexual orientation, evolution, ecology.

5.5 The Church from Pentecost to Present (3)

This class surveys the teachings of the Church fathers, the early church controversies, the development of the Catholic Church and the Medieval Church, the Reformation, the growth of denominations, the Great Awakening, the American Restoration Movement. The bulk of the time will be spent on surveying the American Restoration Movement. You will meet the major figures of the movement and trace the history of what has become a theme in many variations.