



**Southeastern**  
Baptist Theological Seminary

**PhD in Preaching Entrance Exam Study Guide**

The entrance exam for the Ph. D. in Preaching will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately three hours in length.

The essay questions will be chosen from the list below. The bulk of the preparation for answering these questions should have taken place in the student's M.Div. studies, but a number of books are listed below to help students review and fill in some gaps.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

**Relevance and Argumentation**

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

**Writing Mechanics**

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

**Awareness of Relevant Scholarship**

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

## **Reading List:**

Adam, Peter. *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Expository Preaching*. Regent College Publishing, 2004.

Akin, Daniel L., Bill Curtis and Stephen Rummage. *Engaging Exposition*. B&H, 2011.

Broadus, John A. *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. 4th ed. Revised and edited by Vernon L. Stanfield. Harper, 1979.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. 2d. Baker Academic, 2005.

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Eerdmans, 1999.

MacArthur, John Jr. *Preaching: How to Preach Biblically*. Thomas Nelson, 2005.

Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century*. Eerdmans, 1982.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *A Concise History of Preaching*. Abingdon, 1992.

## **Questions:**

### **A. Theology of Preaching**

1. How does a preacher's theology influence his preaching? Compare and contrast how MacArthur in *Preaching* and Adam in *Speaking God's Word* addresses this question.
2. According to Stott in *Between Two Worlds*, what are the theological foundations for preaching? How does this correlate to what Adam describes as the demands of preaching?

### **B. Methodology of Preaching**

3. Describe Christ-centered sermon preparation (explanation, illustration, and application) from Chapell's, *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Why would Chapell see it necessary to have a Fallen Condition Focus statement in every sermon?

4. How can you identify the Main Idea of the Text (MIT) as described in *Engaging Exposition*? Once the MIT is identified, what guidelines does Akin provide in determining the Main Idea of the Message (MIM) along with some general characteristics of a good MIM?

### **C. Expository Preaching**

5. Compare and contrast Broadus' definition of expository preaching in, *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons* with Chapell's definition in *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Describe the key elements in an expository sermon and at least two distinctions between an expository sermon and a topical sermon.

6. According to Chapell in *Christ-Centered Preaching*, how can you determine the redemptive purpose of the sermon? What are the distinguishing marks of redemptive or grace-driven preaching? How does an understanding of biblical theology help the preacher develop redemptive sermons?

### **D. History of Preaching**

7. Briefly describe the history of Christian preaching. Write a paragraph on each of the major eras of Christian preaching, including: the unique characteristics of preaching in that era, several key preachers in that era, and what each period has contributed to the modern preacher. Use Wilson's, *A Concise History of Preaching*, and others as sources for your answer.

8. Discuss the various period's in the history of preaching as described by Stitzinger in chapter three of *Preaching*. What models of expository preaching are revealed in each period? Do you agree with Stitzinger's conclusion? What should be added to his conclusion?

### **E. Preaching the Old Testament**

9. How does Greidanus define preaching from the Old Testament? What are the devices Greidanus describes that the Old Testament uses to point to Christ that will allow for an Old Testament sermon to be Christ-centered?

### **F. Biblical Interpretation.**

10. What is the role of hermeneutics in sermon development? Describe Curtis' understanding of the two horizons of biblical interpretation in relation to preaching in *Engaging Exposition*. How does John Stott's "Bridge Building" metaphor add to this discussion?

11. How does Greidanus in *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament* describe both Luther's and Calvin's hermeneutical method and their interpretive approach to the Old Testament? What is Greidanus' evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of these methods and do you agree or disagree with him?

### **G. Sermon Delivery**

12. List at least three key principles or techniques for effective sermon delivery as given by Broadus in *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*, MacArthur in *Preaching*, and Rummage in *Engaging Exposition*. How would you define eloquence as a vital aspect of sermon delivery?