

**CD601 Proclamation and Communication (SP-2023)****Dr. Scott Ream****Final Paper - Growth Plan****Lap Yin Calvin Kwok****19th April, 2022.*****Introduction***

I love preaching. As I was being called to go to seminary to equip myself, I dreamt standing on the podium proclaiming God's word all the time. I first thought that preaching is like a presentation assignment in college. The pastor prepared and presented his understanding on a certain part of the Bible. The book *Preaching* by Dr. Timothy Keller mentioned there are three levels in preaching: (1) Personal communication between brothers and sisters; (2) Written communication and group teaching/communication; and (3) delivering sermons.<sup>1</sup> Preaching is always the most important portion of Worship Service among Chinese churches, and I always feel delivery sermons are always the most effective method to change somebody's life among brothers and sisters around me. Dr. Timothy Keller allowed me to acknowledge that preaching is indeed a way of communication in all aspects of conversation to all people around. I realized what I have to learn from this class isn't merely to preach, but also to get familiar with a life proclaiming God's word anytime you are being called to.

Since enrollment to seminary, I have been offered many chances to preach. I loved to watch the Cantonese Stand Up Comedy Show. I came along knowing Dr. Enoch Lam from Hong Kong, a pastor who preaches in a style like stand up comedy, I adored him, and I realized cracking a joke made me remember the key point of his sermon. I hope one day I can preach like him as well and I utilized all my chance to try to preach/mimic the preaching method like Dr. Enoch Lam. However, the Holy Spirit allowed me to also realize two issues of mine: (1) I utilized the bible to proof what I want to preach instead of allowing the bible verse to speak for itself; (2) I don't often speak to the context of my audience because the joke I created was based on my own context that I think is representative to everybody. I praise the Lord for this class that I have a chance to learn to preach properly. In order to get the most from this class, I decided to set some goals and objectives to help improve myself.

***Goal 1: Effectively organizing the information I have and preach within the Time Limit***

From the assignment of vision casting and sermon recording, I realized from classmates' comments that I exceeded the time limits and I have poor eye-contact. I spent some time visiting the sermon recording I preached most recently and compared to the vision casting video and sermon recording I did for this class. I realized both my time control and eye contact issues were

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<sup>1</sup> Keller, Timothy. *Preaching* (p. 2-4). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

related to the way I write my manuscript. As a requirement for the class, I have to write my manuscript word by word. When I tried to remember, or even to just include all the details without using the same wording, I tended to look to my left or look down to search through the script that I wrote. In the introduction video, Dr. Reimer explained that he does not expect us to memorize the whole manuscript, but we have to write everything out in order to organize our thinking. My most recent sermons I preached in church were in Cantonese, my first language. I did not look to my left, but I did look down to search through my script a little bit. However, I realized I was putting pieces of information in order to include what I have to preach like doing a puzzle. The sermon ended up a little bit longer than the sermon pastor regularly preached.

What constituted the problem of my eye contacts and time control? It wasn't the example I used were redundant (perhaps for some audiences)! It's the way I organize my thoughts when I develop my sermon. In both the class and the text book, *Biblical Preaching* by Haddon W. Robinson, I was introduced to his 10 stages of sermon development. As I read through stage 1 to 4, I figured the way I tried to understand a set of bible verse or syncope is quite unsystematic. That made me constantly think and reorganize my ideas during my live sermon/recording. When it comes to stage 4, the passage analysis as practiced in class, I found it easier and more efficient when we narrowed down all the information we gathered to the Subject, Complement and Development question being addressed (or Main Idea).<sup>2</sup> I believed, If I have more practice on passage analysis, I will be able to manage the information I have for my sermon in a more systematic way. Thus, my time control and eye contact will be improved. Let me create my objectives here.

Objective 1: Keep a notebook and record the message you are being called to analyze along my annual bible reading plan in order to reach my goal.

Objective 2: Analyze at least one set of Bible verses recorded from annual bible reading, and share with one brother or sister (in any level of proclamation Dr. Timothy Keller mentioned) in order to reach the goal.

***Goal 2: Be the channel of God instead of using the Bible to address the issue in church.***

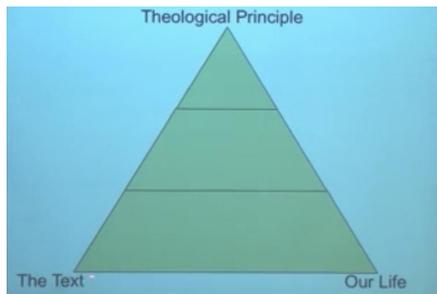
Seminary is really mind blowing to me. It breaks down many of my theological ideas, meaning of different rituals, as well as many spiritual life issues that I learn from the churches I attended. It made me feel many of the rituals, or ways of professing my faith were totally wrong. When I tried to discuss with my brothers and sisters, I often found myself using what I stated in the bible to judge what is right or wrong without fully understanding the background of the

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<sup>2</sup> Haddon W. Robinson, *Biblical Preaching - The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages 2nd Edition* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2001), 51-100.

verses. I still remember Pastor Sam Leung, my pastor from Chinese Evangel Mission Church, also an alumni of Alliance Theological Seminary often reminded me to not use the bible verse to justify what you have to say. During the class, Dr. Robert Reimer also reminded us many times to let the bible verses speak for itself. I don't know how bad in God's eye this issue of mine is, but I certainly don't want to entrap my brothers and sisters into the sin of judgment and anger by making such a mistake. I certainly also don't want to fall into a trap of pride for showing off my little knowledge and theology I gain from seminary as I preach in any level of proclamations.

In week 3, Dr. Robert Reimer presented a diagram that shows the relationship between Theological Principles, The Texts and Our Life (fig 1.1).



(fig 1.1 The relationship and balance between Theological Principle, The Text, and our life)

This diagram allowed me to relate what happened in my life along with the text as the finding pathway to the theological principle. It basically connects our daily life and develops the whole idea of the sermon with the text itself. I once thought that my understanding of the text solely came from the information offered by the Holy Spirit. I feel that I need to spend time praying in order to be permitted to speak about certain parts of the bible verse. I even felt disappointed when I realized the bible verse may not be so representative of what I want to remind my brothers and sisters of what I found out. That does not sound any good to me. Especially when I have to preach in a style of stand-up comedy like Dr. Enoch Lam, I really need to learn this when I need to crack a joke or utilize a certain type of sarcasm. Let's have some drills to practice being humble in God's word. As Dr. Robert Reimer mentioned in week 3, We have to allow the word to feed our soul.<sup>3</sup> Let me create two objectives that allow me to be fed fruitfully as a combat to my pride and weakness.

Objectives 1: Randomly pick a bible verse daily, and pray to God for his revelation and allow myself to use that day to experience the text without any presumptive context in order to reach my goal.

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<sup>3</sup> Robert Reimer, *The Word*, (2018; Rockland County, New York: Nyack College - Alliance Theological Seminary, 2018), Youtube. Accessed on 2nd February, 2023 from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaLo21zp4pM&t=64s>

Objective 2: Keep myself in prayer daily (preferred in the middle of the day) for humility, and confess to God for any pride that I have in order to reach my goal.

***Goal 3: Put my vision into action***

The vision casting video and sermon video were my favorite assignments for this class. As serving in a multimedia ministry, I have experience producing programs and broadcasting them on Youtube. I don't have professional skills in video editing, but I do have a lot of fun when I try to work on a recording project. It was fun to think of a way to present my content in a video, and I received positive feedback from classmates on my gesture and images popping out in my video.

Although it was fun, I still experienced some struggles during its production. I drafted my script. I detailly planned where and how the video should be filmed. Should I film it outside instead of the temporary studio I created at home? How should I set up my lighting? Do I need to dress up in a certain way? These were all the fun parts of these assignments. However, when it comes to uploading it to submit my assignment, I encountered issues like uploading size limit. Thus, I had a chance to practice using a professional video editing tool named Adobe Premiere Pro more thoroughly. I have been serving my multimedia ministry, Klema Worship Ministry, for three years so far. We don't have a large number of subscribers or views (I know we should not put our focus of serving on popularity), but this is still an indicator for us to evaluate our work. The vision of my ministry is to produce videos to channel God's love to people who love to stay indoors and watch videos and do not have much of a social life. In order to put my vision into action. I thought of a way to improve the content for my ministry, also improving my skill in preaching. To start a TV Program series to deliver a sermon. Let me briefly planning for my production.

Name: His Words (Tentative Title)

Genre: Religious/Documentary

Broadcasting Medium: Youtube, Facebook (Trailer), Instagram (Trailer)

Length: 30 Minutes

Frequency: Monthly

Content: Preach from the bible verse bookmarked from Goal 1, Objective 1 utilizing the passage analyzed from Goal 1 Objective 2 as resources for sermon building. Ideally, using social issues or trends as an example and proclaiming God's word for 25 minutes.

The proposed rundown of the program can be drafted as follow:

1. Opening Frame (30 Seconds)
2. Bible Verse Reading (1 Minute)
3. Preaching (25+ Minutes)
4. Closing Prayer (1+ Minutes)
5. Closing Frame with Promotion (2+ Minutes)

Promotion: Everytime when the episode reaches its final edit, a trailer should be posted onto the fan page of Klema Worship Ministry on Facebook and Instagram. A cyberlink must be included on the post that connects audiences to the link of the actual program on Youtube. As the program and the trailer were published, I would monitor all the interaction from the audience about the video and carefully respond to it. A pastor/minister with seniority should be invited to monitor the detail of the sermon as well as response in order to ensure what is preached is decent and genuine.

Objectives 1: Gather helpers who can help with the production of the program and content building in order to reach the goal.

Objective 2: Prepare at least one sermon for recording per month.

### ***Summary***

Preaching, or I should call it proclamation and communication, is a way of living being an active ambassador of God's word. Based on what Dr. Timothy Kelly illustrated, preaching has three levels and that include individual sharing, group discussion/class teaching and sermon delivery. Before the semester, I brought myself with two issues in preaching that I wanted to resolve. (1) utilizing the bible to prove what I want; (2) not speaking to the context of my audience. Throughout the class, I realized my attempt of sermon delivery can be improved with more practice in passage analysis. Along with my annual reading plan, my objectives are to keep a notebook to record the bible verses I want to analyze. That would allow me to have a chance to be exposed to the verse without any presumptive context and prepare my sermon for my future preaching opportunity. Additionally, I need to develop a habit to immerse myself in God's message by picking one verse per day for daily meditation. By also praying, the bible verse, the truth of God would become my spiritual life. It is hoped that the objectives from Goal 2 would create in me a new spirit for preaching his words. In order to continue improving my preaching skill as well as benefit more brothers and sisters, a new TV program would do the job to keep me practicing. Although televangelism isn't a new thing, it offers me motivation as well as spiritual fruit to whoever is reached.

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A Seminarian who wants to be the speaker of God.