



Goahead Theological Seminary & College

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Homiletics

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Homiletics is a branch of practical theology that studies the principles, methods, and theological foundations for effectively conveying the Word of God to an audience. Moving beyond mere public speaking techniques, it is an academic discipline that integrates biblical interpretation, theology, and rhetoric.

1. Key Definitions of Homiletics

Depending on the scholar, perspectives on homiletics are defined in various ways, as follows:

- Proclamation of the Gospel: Preaching is a process in which God's acts in Christ are continuously declared (Forsyth).**
- Biblical Interpretation and Exposition: It is the act of interpreting and expounding upon God's Word in a manner that the audience can understand (Jim Graham).**
- Mediation of a Divine Encounter: It serves as a bridge, connecting the holy God with sinful humanity to enable their encounter (Jung Sung-gu).**
- Inspiration and Salvation: Based on the Scriptures, it is the reinforcement of exhortation intended to move the heart with the aim of bringing about a person's salvation (Herrick Johnson).**

2. Core Components of Homiletics

Homiletics is broadly studied across three primary areas:

- Theological Foundations: Addresses the biblical basis for the necessity of preaching, as well as the roles of God and**



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the Holy Spirit within the context of the preaching ministry.

- **Composition and Preparation:** Encompasses the process of crafting a sermon, including text selection, exegesis, theme formulation, and outline construction.
- **Delivery:** Deals with the rhetorical aspects of effectively conveying the prepared message to the audience through the use of voice, gestures, and the logical flow of language.

3. Major Forms and Flows of Preaching

- **Traditional Homiletics:** Focuses on the theological truths of Scripture and favors a deductive, topical structure to convey a clear logical argument.
- **Expository Preaching:** Respects the inherent flow and meaning of the biblical text itself, concentrating on conveying precisely what the text intends to communicate.
- **Contemporary Homiletics:** Prioritizes the lives and contexts of the audience, incorporating various communication techniques such as narrative styles and inductive approaches.

4. Tips for Effective Preaching

- **Text-Centered Meditation:** Before relying on commentaries or reference materials, repeatedly read and meditate on the biblical text, allowing God's Word to first take hold of the preacher.



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- **Thorough Revision:** The process of refining and editing the written manuscript is an essential step in enhancing the clarity and polish of the sermon.
- **Establishing a Personal Philosophy:** Rather than blindly imitating the styles of renowned preachers, it is crucial to develop your own distinct preaching philosophy and preparation methodology.

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