

# 2PT706: EXPOSITORY PREACHING OF THE PSALMS

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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## I. COURSE OVERVIEW

No other book in all the Bible compares with the wonder of the sacred collection of inspired worship songs known as the Psalms. Considered by many to be the most loved portion of Scripture, the Psalms have been a bedrock of comfort and a tower of strength for believers in every experience of life. Possessing a literary beauty unrivaled in all of Scripture, the Psalms, however, remain all too often neglected by modern day expositors. This course is designed to help preachers and teachers exposit and expound the unsearchable riches of this lofty book. No other book in Scripture provides such a passion-inspiring high view of God as does the Psalms. Here is a special course designed for students to learn to preach “Treasury of David.”

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course of study, the student should be able to do the following:

- Think through the issues of authorship, dating, setting and purpose of the Psalms.
- Identify the major types of psalms in the Psalter and how to approach the preaching of each.
- Understand the unfolding, sequential steps used by the expositor in studying and expounding the Psalms.
- Understand the key doctrines taught in the Psalter.
- Be able to preach and/or teach the Psalms to a congregation, class, or small group in an expository fashion.

## III. COURSE TEXTS

### A. Required Course Texts:

James Montgomery Boice, *Living by the Book: The Joy of Loving and Trusting God's Word* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997).

Steven J. Lawson, *Preaching the Psalms: Unlocking the Unsearchable Riches of David's Treasury* (Carlisle: EP Books, 2012). This book is available through Ligonier Ministries: <http://www.ligonier.org/store/preaching-the-psalms-hardcover/>.

Steven J. Lawson, *Psalms, Volume I*, (Psalms 1-75), Holman Old Testament Commentary (Nashville: Holman Reference, 2003).

Steven J. Lawson, *Psalms, Volume II*, (Psalms 76-150), Holman Old Testament Commentary (Nashville: Holman Reference, 2006).

#### B. Recommended Books:

James Montgomery Boice, *An Exegetical Commentary of the Psalms* (3 volumes), (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994-8).

C. Hassell Bullock, *Encountering the Book of Psalms* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001).

Robert Davidson, *The Vitality of Worship: A Commentary on the Book of Psalms* (Edinburgh: The Handsel Press LTD, 1998).

Allan Harman, *Psalms: A Mentor Commentary* (Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1998).

J.J. Stewart Perowne, *The Book of Psalms*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978).

William A. VanGemeren, "Psalms" in *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Volume 5 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991).

#### **IV. COURSE OUTLINE**

Each student is required to attend both, The Institute for Expository Preaching "One Passion" Conference, and 2PT706 Expository Preaching of the Psalms to receive full credit for this course.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Tuesday, January 28	8:00a – 12:00n 1:00p – 7:00p	2PT706 Expository Preaching of the Psalms (a.m.) <i>One Passion</i> Conference (p.m.) <a href="http://sovereignevent.com/onepassion/2014/orlando/schedule.html">http://sovereignevent.com/onepassion/2014/orlando/schedule.html</a> The Institute for Expository Preaching	CR 3 (a.m.) Fellowship Hall/ Chapel (p.m.)
Wednesday, January 29	8:00a – 6:00p	<i>One Passion</i> Conference <a href="http://sovereignevent.com/onepassion/2014/orlando/schedule.html">http://sovereignevent.com/onepassion/2014/orlando/schedule.html</a> The Institute for Expository Preaching	Fellowship Hall/ Chapel
Thursday, January 30	8:00a – 6:00p	<i>One Passion</i> Conference <a href="http://sovereignevent.com/onepassion/2014/orlando/schedule.html">http://sovereignevent.com/onepassion/2014/orlando/schedule.html</a> The Institute for Expository Preaching	Fellowship Hall/ Chapel
Friday, January 31	8:00a – 12:00n	2PT706 Expository Preaching of the Psalms	CR 3

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### A. Pre-Course Requirements

- Read through the entire Book of Psalms at least twice using a trustworthy literal translation (NASB, KJV, NKJV, ESV).
- Read, Steven J. Lawson, *Preaching the Psalms: Unlocking the Unsearchable Riches of David's Treasury*.

### B. Course Requirements

- Be prepared for class interaction and discussion.
- Submit a 6 page book review on Steven J. Lawson, *Preaching the Psalms*. (Due: Jan 27, 2014)
- Spend time in meditation and prayer upon 5 Psalms of your choice. Compose a one page reflection upon each of the 5 Psalms of your meditations and how this Psalm impacted you. (Due: Jan 27, 2014)

### C. Post-Course Requirements

- Submit a syntactical chart of two individual Psalms which will be announced in class. (Due: March 3, 2014)
- Submit a literary analysis of the same two Psalms, i.e., classification, literary devices, historical background, strophes. (Due: March 3, 2014)
- Write a 20-page double-spaced sermon on one of the two Psalms submitted during class. This sermon should include a typed paper of the Psalm in sermonic form and the sermon notes that would be taken into the pulpit. (Due: March 3, 2014)
- Mail all post-course assignments to: Dr. Steven J. Lawson, 1110 Montlimar Dr. St. 690, Mobile, AL 36609.

*All required papers should be submitted in the form of the latest edition of Turabian.*

**BASIS OF GRADING:** The grade for the class will be based upon the following percentage breakdown:

1. Reading Psalms	5%
2. Reflections	5%
3. Book Review	10%
4. Syntactical Chart	10%
5. Homiletical Outline	10%
6. Literary Analysis	15%
7. Written Sermon	20%
8. Sermon Manuscript	25%

## VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boice, James Montgomery. *An Exegetical Commentary of the Psalms (3 volumes)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994-8.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Living by the Book: The Joy of Loving and Trusting God's Word*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- Bullock, C. Hassell. *Encountering the Book of Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Davidson, Robert. *The Vitality of Worship: A Commentary on the Book of Psalms*. Edinburgh: The Handsel Press LTD, 1998.
- Harman, Allan Harman. *Psalms: A Mentor Commentary*. Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1998.
- Lawson, Steven J. Lawson. *Preaching the Psalms: Unlocking the Unsearchable Riches of David's Treasury*. Carlisle: EP Books, 2012.
- Lawson, Steven J. *Psalms, Volume I, (Psalms 1-75). Holman Old Testament Commentary*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2003.
- Lawson, Steven J. *Psalms, Volume II, (Psalms 76-150). Holman Old Testament Commentary*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2006.
- Perowne, J.J. Stewart. *The Book of Psalms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.
- VanGemeren, William A. "Psalms" in *Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.