

# **Syllabus for Exposition of the Gospel of John**

## **NTE 607**

Front Range Bible Institute (Spring, 2025)  
Professor Stanley Lightfoot III, D.Min.

### **I. Course Description**

Exposition of the Gospel of John (NTE 607) is an expositional analysis of the fourth Gospel, with emphasis on John's exaltation of Jesus Christ and the uniqueness of his Gospel in comparison to the Synoptics. This course will consist of classroom lectures (based on the professor's notes), outside reading including thorough reading of the Gospel of John itself, a research paper and the preparation, delivery and evaluation of a sermon/teaching opportunity from John. Notes will be provided, but the student is expected to add to those notes as the course progresses based on the lectures and classroom discussion.

### **II. Course Objectives**

- \* To provide the student with a foundational understanding of the Gospel of John.
- \* To assist the student in understanding how John's Gospel impacts our grasp of the deity of Christ.
- \* To provide the student with an understanding of the similarities and differences between John's Gospel and the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke).
- \* To help the student develop an enhanced ability to proclaim the Word of God and apply that faithful proclamation to the lives of the listeners.
- \* To challenge the student to serve the Lord Jesus, whether in pastoral ministry or some other avenue of life service.
- \* To help each student grow in his/her walk with Christ.

### **III. Required Course Materials**

- \* *The Gospel of John* by F.F. Bruce. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1983.
- \* Class Notes (Handout)

### **IV. Course Requirements**

A. Attend all classes. If a student must miss a class, watch the lecture online. Class participation is also required.

B. Read the Gospel of John through five (5) times in five (5) different English translations. One reading may be from the Greek if the student has that ability. Please select translations (ie. KJV, ESV, NASB, etc.) *not* paraphrases (ie. The Living Bible, The Message, J.B. Phillips, etc.). Note this reading on the attached form and submit by June 3.

C. Keep a journal related to your reading in John's Gospel. Make note of major themes, major doctrinal emphases and major points of difference from the synoptic Gospels. Take special note of exegetical insights and questions/ observations that may arise in the course of your reading. Reference these as the class discusses the pertinent passages. Submit this journal by June 3.

D. Read *The Gospel of John* by F.F. Bruce (Certificate level), Bruce plus 200 pages (B.B.S.) or Bruce plus 400 pages (M.B.S and M. Div.). For the additional required pages, the B.B.S. and Masters level students may read from books in the course bibliography, or from other sources of the student's choice as long as they are approved by the instructor. Keep track of your reading on the attached form.

Submit by June 3.

E. Write a research paper on one of these topics:

- The deity of Christ in John's Gospel
- Jesus as the bread of heaven in John 6:22-71
- Jesus example of humility (John 13:1-17)
- The vine and the branches (John 15:1-7)
- The Holy Spirit in John 14, 15 & 16
- Jesus' High Priestly prayer (John 17)
- The restoration of Peter (John 21:15-19)

The paper should be 5-10 pages in length (Certificate level), 10-15 pages (B.B.S.) or 15-20 pages (M.B.S or M. Div.), double-spaced with a bibliography of works consulted.

Select a topic and inform the professor by April 15. Completed paper is due May 20.

F. Complete the course project by preparing an expository sermon according to the general guidelines in this syllabus. Submit your text by April 22 and your outline by May 6. Teach/preach the sermon in a public setting, have the sermon evaluated by a pastor or professor and turn the sermon evaluation in by June 3.

## V. Course Grading Criteria

- 10% - Class Attendance & Participation
  - 20% - Read the Pastoral Epistles five (5) times
  - 20% - Other Required Reading
  - 20% - Research Paper
  - 30% - Expository Sermon
- Assignments turned in late will be docked on the following basis:
- 1-6 days late - 10% off each day the assignment is late
  - 7 days late - No credit

## VI. Class Discussion/Assignment Schedule

April 1	John 1-2
April 8	John 3-4
April 15	John 5-6
	Select Research Topic
April 22	John 7-8
	Select and Submit Sermon Text
April 29	John 9-10
May 6	John 11-12
	Complete and Submit Sermon Outline
May 13	John 13-14
May 20	John 15-17
	Complete and Turn in Research Paper
May 27	John 18-19
June 3	John 20-21
	Complete Reading and Turn in Course Reading Form
	Complete and Turn in Exegetical Journal
	Submit Sermon Evaluation

## VII. Course Reading Form

### Bible Reading - Gospel of John

	Version	Date Read
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Outside Reading

Certificate Level 300 pages required  
B.B.S. 500 pages required  
M.B.S., M.Div. 700 pages read

	Book/Article	Date Read	Pages Read
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Total Pages Read \_\_\_\_\_

Project Reading - Read the text of the sermon project 20 times \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. Student Project**

- A. Each student will be required to prepare and deliver a sermon on a passage of his choosing from the Gospel of John.
  - B. Each student must select the text from which he plans to preach by April 22. No two students may preach from the same text.
  - C. Students will read the chosen text a minimum of 20 times from an English translation, making exegetical and application observations as they read. Note this on the reading report.
  - D. Students will consult at least five (5) exegetical resources and make notes regarding syntactical structure, word studies, contextual considerations, etc.
  - E. Students will create an original outline (no copies of other's work) based on their preparatory work. The outline should include a title, the text, the Big Idea (the main focus of the passage) and a detailed outline of the passage to be preached, with an attention-arresting introduction, main points, sub-points (where appropriate) and a conclusion that draws the message to a climactic close. Give particular attention to appropriate application.
- Submit the outline by May 6.

F. Students will preach the sermon in a public setting in front of a pastor or professor, have that pastor or professor evaluate it, and submit the evaluation by June 3.

## IX. Selected Bibliography

### Commentaries on the Gospel of John

- Bruce, F.F. *The Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1983.
- Carson, D.A. *The Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1990.
- Carter, Matt and Josh Wredberg. *Exalting Jesus in John*. Brentwood, TN: B & H Publishing Group. 2017.
- Hendricksen, William. *The Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1975.
- Kent, Homer A. Jr. *Light in the Darkness: Studies in the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1982.
- Morris, Leon. *Expository Reflections on the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1988.
- Pink, Arthur W. *Exposition of the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1968.
- Tasker, R.V.G. *The Gospel According to St. John: An Introduction and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1975.
- Tenney, Merrill C. *John: The Gospel of Belief: An Analytic Study of the Text*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1951.
- Trail, Ronald. *An Exegetical Summary of John 1-9*. Dallas, TX: SIL International. 2013.
- Trail, Ronald L. *An Exegetical Summary of John 10-21*. Dallas, TX: SIL International. 2018.

### Whole Bible and New Testament Commentaries

- Anders, Max E., ed. and Kenneth O. Gangel. *Holman New Testament Commentary: John*. Holman Reference. 2000.
- Gaebelein, Frank E. ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Volume. 9, John and Acts. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
- MacDonald, William. *Believer's Bible Commentary*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers. 1995.
- Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck, eds. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. Volume. 2, New Testament. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook. 2002.
- Wiersbe, Warren. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Volume. 1. Wheaton, IL:

Victor Books. 1989.

## X. Sermon Evaluation Form

Sermon Evaluation Grade Sheet (Grade 0 to 2 on each non-bold point).

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Sermon Arrangement

#### 1. Introduction

- a. Gets attention . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Secures interest . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Indicates purpose of sermon . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Oriented to text/subject . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Good transition to proposition/big idea . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Proposition/big idea clearly stated . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
  
- g. Proposition/big idea repeated . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Good length . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Body

##### a. "Skeleton" (Outline)

- 1 Major points clear . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Major points connected to proposition/big idea . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Sub-points connected to main point . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4 Transition between points smooth . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 5 Structure repeated effectively . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Organization oriented to the text throughout . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

##### b. "Flesh and Muscles" (Interpretation)

- 1 Lexical descriptions effective . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2 Syntactical/Grammatical descriptions effective . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3 Theological descriptions effective . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4 Theological corroboration persuasive . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Attention directed to words of text/cross references . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**c. "Vital Organs" (Application)**

- 1 Illustrations appropriate and effective . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Application pointed and forceful . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Dialogue/argumentation clear, cogent . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Conclusion**

- a. Good transition to conclusion . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Subtle synopsis of major burden structure of text . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Closing appeal clear, forceful (encouraging, exhorting) . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Purpose of the sermon fulfilled . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Appeal to unbelievers incorporated . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Good length . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrangement Sub-grade (max 58)** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Sermon Delivery**

**1. Oral Presentation**

- a. Varied intensity . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Varied pitch . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Varied rate . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Appropriate pauses (w/o audible pauses) . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Physical Presentation**

- a. Body animation . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Appropriate facial expressions . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Appropriate gestures . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Varied eye contact . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Distracting mannerisms . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Rational Presentation**

- a. Progression of message . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Familiarity with content of message . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Inconspicuous handling of notes . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Pathos**

- a. Passion (a message through the head and the heart) . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Enthusiasm over the message . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Tone appropriate to content . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Language**

- a. Concrete, specific language . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Interesting expression, sense appeal . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Direct address . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Appropriate vocabulary . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Correct grammar . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Correct pronunciation . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

**Delivery Sub-grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Final Evaluation (Arrangement + Delivery)      Final Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Evaluator's notes:**

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