

Preacher Training Program

Olsen Park church of Christ

Syllabus & Curriculum 2013-2015

Objectives:

Biblical Matters:

- Help the preacher to become better grounded in the Scriptures.
- Help the preacher understand the Biblical work of a preacher.
- Prepare the preacher to answer false doctrines.
- Help the preacher prepare to answer common questions among brethren.
- Aid the preacher in becoming proficient in the use of Bible Study tools.

Practical Matters:

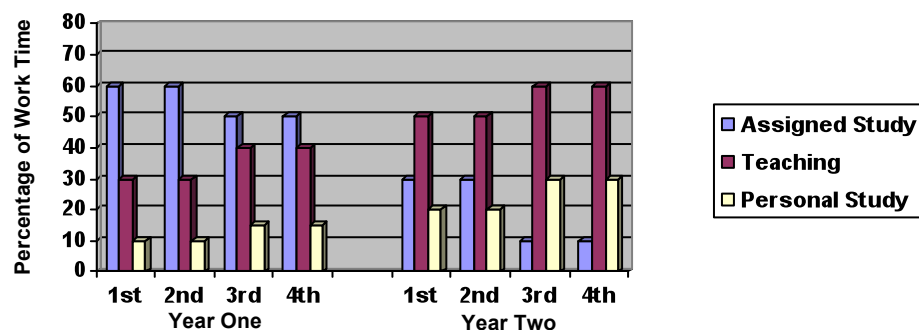
- Sermon preparation.
 - Funeral, Wedding, Hospital etiquette.
- People issues.
 - Balancing social vs. teaching.
- Writing skills.
 - Good grammar.
 - Clarity and brevity.
- Computer skills in preaching.
 - Power Point.
 - Website maintenance.
 - Printed material.

Approach:

Guided self study. The preacher will be largely responsible for himself with regular scheduled meeting times with bro. Pope and the elders. During these times, assigned material will be studied, discussed, evaluated, and analyzed. This could be compared to “seminar” or thesis advisory work done on the college level. There may be some grading or reporting as deemed necessary.

The approach will involve intensive study in the first portion of the program with fewer teaching responsibilities. Then in the last portion of the program, assigned study responsibilities will be minimized and teaching responsibilities will increase.

Study & Preaching Time



Responsibilities: The preacher will be expected to...

- Maintain some flexible office hours.
- Be available for visitation and personal work.
- Write a bulletin article every other week (due in electronic form two weeks before publication date to bro. Pope).
- Write a sermon outline every week (due in hard copy by Wed. PM in bro. Pope's box).
- Preach: *Year one* – one sermon every other week; *Year two* – one sermon every week.
- Teach Bible classes: *Year one* – (No responsibilities first portion of quarter); Middle School (3 months); High School (3 months). *Year two* – Wed. PM Adult (12+ months); (no responsibilities last portion of quarter).
- Complete assigned study material and be prepared to discuss it with bro. Pope, the elders or men assigned to the work.
- Keep assigned meeting and study times with bro. Pope, the elders and others.
- Maintain a good example of conduct, behavior, temperament, and lifestyle. Part of this must (of course) involve faithful attendance at services whether or not the preacher has teaching responsibilities during that service or not. *Exceptions are naturally made for illness, preaching appointments (with-in reason), and scheduled vacation times.

Term: This is a two year program with the idea being that the preacher will be responsible for finding a place to move and work at the completion of the two years. The final six months of the program will have relaxed study responsibilities to allow the preacher to begin looking for a work. The preacher should not expect to extend his period beyond the two year time frame nor end the program prior to the completion of the program. *It is the prerogative of the elders to shorten this term at their discretion should they deem it to be in the best interest of the preacher himself or the congregation.

Resources Provided:

- **Support:** The preacher will receive support for his work and study – “The laborer is worthy of his wages” (Luke 10:7). This will be determined by the elders and discussed with the preacher before entering the program. This is intended to serve as the preacher's full-time support. Outside work is not to be considered during the term of the program.
- **An Office at the Building:** The preacher will be provided with a work and study space to be used for study, lesson preparation, or studies with others. While this is not the only place that his assignments can be completed, it is provided for the preacher's use and for his office hour responsibilities.
- **Required Texts:** This program makes use of a number of required readings. These will be provided to the preacher by the church. This will help him start his library and keep him from facing the upfront cost of purchasing numerous texts.
- **Book Allowance:** To assist the preacher in building up his library, a set monthly book allowance will be set at the beginning of the program. This should be used for books and/or study resources. Should the preacher find a set or item which exceeds the monthly allowance, he is encouraged to secure the items and future allowance may be applied to pay for the item (not to exceed the term of the program).
- **The Church Library:** A small church library is made available to all members at Olsen Park. It contains a computer, a photo copier, laminator, books, etc. A laptop and projector are also available to members to check out. The preacher is free to use these resources, as is any other member of the congregation.
- **Encouragement:** While this program is an effort for older brothers in Christ to train younger men (Titus 2:1-10), it must be understood that this is not a program that considers the preacher involved a “junior” preacher. The congregation will be encouraged to offer the same respect, encouragement, and love to the preacher going through this training program as they would any other preacher.

Theme of the Program

Key Text – 1 Timothy 4:12

“Be an example to believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

The six elements described in this text serve as an outline for the course of study.

Study Schedule:

Year One:

- First Quarter: **Example in Word.** During this period we will focus on matters that concern the preacher’s understanding of the Bible itself.
 - Elements of Study -
 - Work of preaching (Text: Commentary on Paul’s Epistles to Timothy and Titus).
 - Work of teaching (Text: *At the Feet of the Master Teacher*).
 - Bible history (Text: *The History & Geography of the Bible and Bible Geography*).
 - Inspiration of Scripture (Text: *How We Got the Bible*).
 - Old Testament Hebrew (Text: *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*).
 - False Doctrine Refuted: Institutionalism (Text: *Beyond What is Written*).
 - Elders class (once a month).
- Second Quarter: **Example in Conduct.** During this term we will consider matters having to do with the conduct of the preacher and Christians in general.
 - Elements of Study –
 - Work of preaching (Text: *Preachers and Preaching*).
 - The Authority of Scripture (Text: *A Study of Authority and Bible Authority: How Established, How Applied*).
 - Bible History (Text: *Harmony of Second Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles*).
 - Old Testament Hebrew (Text: *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*).
 - False Doctrine Refuted: Calvinism (Text: *The Christian and Calvinism & The Hardening of Pharaoh’s Heart*).
 - Elders class (once a month).
- Third Quarter: **Example in Love.** During this quarter we will look at issues of love, including God’s love for us, our love for others and relevant concerns.
 - Focus of Study –
 - Work of Preaching (Text: *Common Sense Preaching*).
 - Marriage & Divorce (Text: *Is It Lawful?*)
 - Love & Marriage (Text: I Corinthians 7, 13; Ephesians 5).
 - Old Testament Hebrew (Text: *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*).
 - False Doctrine Refuted: Premillennialism (Text: *Premillennialism*).
 - Elders class (once a month).
- Fourth Quarter: **Example in Spirit.** Here we focus on spiritual issues. As spiritual beings, we must understand the God who is Spirit, the nature of the person of the Godhead known as the Holy Spirit as well as our own spiritual nature.
 - Focus of Study –
 - Work of Preaching (Text: *Behind the Preacher’s Door*).
 - The Holy Spirit (Texts: *The Holy Spirit - Puckett & The Work of the Holy Spirit in Redemption*).

- Spiritual Things (Text: 1 Cor 12-14; Romans 8; John 14-16).
- Old Testament Hebrew (Text: *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*).
- False Doctrine Refuted: Issues with the Holy Spirit (Texts: *How Does the Holy Spirit Work in a Christian?* & *The Holy Spirit* - Pope).
- Deacon class (once a month).

Year Two:

- First Quarter: **Example in Faith.** In this term we will focus on matters of faith. Not only personal subjective faith, but issues of faith and its relationship to salvation.
 - Focus of Study –
 - Work of Preaching (Text: *Commentary on Minor Prophets*).
 - The Church (*The New Testament Church & Why I Am Member of the Church of Christ*).
 - Nature of the Gospel (Text: *Romans Bible Textbook*).
 - Church History (Text: *Church History & The Restoration Movement in America*).
 - Select Greek Reading (Possibly 1 John).
 - Elders class (once a month).
- Second Quarter: **Example in Purity.** The final term built around the I Timothy 4:12 theme addresses issues of purity, appearance and prudence.
 - Focus of Study –
 - Work of Preaching (Text: *Preparing the Young Man to Preach*).
 - Life Issues (Text: *Biblical Guidance Through the Stages of Life*).
 - The Church (Text: *Elders, Deacons, and their Wives & Extensive Study of Church Discipline*).
 - Preacher’s Family (Text: *Behind Every Good Man*).
 - Elders class (once a month).

* During the last two quarters of the program, the curriculum will involve “Independent Directed Study.” This will focus on areas personalized to the preacher’s needs, the subjects they are teaching and areas they wish to consider before beginning their work. The texts, responsibilities and assignments will be determined by bro. Pope and the elders as this time approaches.

- Third Quarter:
 - Focus of Study –
 - Independent Directed Study
- Fourth Quarter:
 - Focus of Study –
 - Independent Directed Study

Elders & Deacon Class:

A unique element of this program is the involvement of our eldership, a former elder, and one of our deacons in a regular part of this program. During the first three quarters of each year one of our elders (or former elders) will direct a three session class with the preacher, meeting once a month. In the fourth quarter of the first year one of our deacons will do the same. The topics of study will be determined by the teachers themselves, however, some possible topics of consideration might be:

- The Biblical work of elders and deacons.
- Handling congregational problems.
- Teaching the lost, weak or members in difficult situations.

- A Biblical text related to the work of the church.

The trainee is encouraged to come to each class with some specific questions in mind for the elders and deacon. This is a unique opportunity to “pick the brains” of those in leadership in the local church in a low pressure situation. This can prove invaluable to future interaction with elders and deacons when the trainee is in full-time local work.

Texts.

- **Preaching:**
 - *Commentary on 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon* (Truth Commentary Series) by Marshall Patton - \$18.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *Preachers & Preaching* by James Needham - \$12.95 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *Common Sense Preaching* by Dee Bowman - \$14.99 and workbook - \$4.99 (FC Bookstore 800-423-1648).
 - *Commentary on the Minor Prophets* by Homer Hailey - \$24.95 (Religious Supply 800-636-5348).
 - *Behind the Preacher's Door* Ed. by Warren Berkley - \$8.00 (Spirit Building Publishing (765-623-2238)).
 - *Behind Every Good Man* by Joyce Jamerson - \$10.95 (Spirit Building Publishing (765-623-2238)).
 - *Preparing the Young Man to Preach* by Berry Kercheville - \$9.95 (FC Bookstore 800-423-1648).
- **Teaching:**
 - *At the Feet of the Master Teacher* by Dan King Purchased on clearance.
- **Authority:**
 - *Study of Authority* by Billy Moore - \$6.95 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *How We Got the Bible* by Kyle Pope - \$9.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *Bible Authority: How Established, How Applied* by Frank Jamerson - \$6.00 (Spirit Building Publishing (765-623-2238)).
- **Biblical Studies:**
 - *Romans* by Kyle Pope - \$6.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *Harmony of Second Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles* by Kyle Pope - \$7.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
- **Bible History & Geography:**
 - *The History & Geography of the Bible Story* by Bob Waldron - \$15.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *Bible Geography (Word in the Heart Series WH114)* - \$6.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
- **Calvinism:**
 - *The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart* by Kyle Pope - \$1.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *The Christian & Calvinism* by Allan Turner - \$18.95 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
- **The Church:**
 - *The New Testament Church* by Roy Cogdill - \$5.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *Why I Am Member of the Church of Christ* by Leroy Brownlow - \$4.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).

- *Elders, Deacons, and their Wives* by Frank Jamerson - \$6.90 (Spirit Building Publishing (765-623-2238)).
- *An Extensive Study of Church Discipline* by Brett Hogland (806-928-9262). Lesson outlines from series presented at Lenexa church of Christ, Lenexa, KS, Nov. 6-11, 2005. (We have permission to copy this material).
- **Church History:**
 - *Church History* by Aude McKee - \$5.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *The Restoration Movement in America* by Curtis Pope (281-655-7558). Lesson outlines from series presented at Lenexa church of Christ, Lenexa, KS, June 10-15, 2001. (We have permission to copy this material).
- **Divorce - Remarriage:**
 - *Is It Lawful?* Ed. Allan & Fisher - \$19.95 (DeWard Publishers 800-300-9778).
- **Holy Spirit:**
 - *The Holy Spirit (Lectures)* by Franklin Puckett.
 - *The Work of the Holy Spirit in Redemption* by Franklin Camp - \$19.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *How Does the Holy Spirit Work in a Christian* by Kyle Pope - \$8.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
 - *The Holy Spirit* by Kyle Pope. Printed at Olsen Park.
- **Institutionalism:**
 - *"Beyond What is Written"* by Kyle Pope. Printed at Olsen Park.
- **Life Issues:**
 - *Biblical Guidance Through the Stages of Life* by Kyle Pope - \$7.99 (CEI Bookstore 855-492-6657).
- **Premillennialism:**
 - *Premillennialism* by L.A. Stauffer (636-225-5898). Printed at Olsen Park. Lesson outlines from series presented at Lenexa church of Christ, Lenexa, KS, Sept. 11-22, 2000. (We have permission to copy this material).
- **Hebrew or Greek:** (Typically bro. Pope goes through one year of Greek with the trainee. If the young man has previously studied Greek, he and the trainee will go through one year of Hebrew instead).
 - *Basics of Biblical Greek 3rd Ed.* by William Mounce. \$31.49 (Christian Book Distributors, <http://www.christianbook.com>).
 - *Basics of Biblical Greek Workbook 3rd.* by William Mounce. \$15.49 (Christian Book Distributors, <http://www.christianbook.com>).
 - *The Greek New Testament with Greek-English Dictionary* (4th Ed Revised). Ed. Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland & Bruce Metzger. \$33.49 (Christian Book Distributors, <http://www.christianbook.com>).
 - *Basics of Biblical Hebrew 2nd Ed.* by Gary D. Pratico, Miles V. Van Pelt - \$28.99 (Christian Book Distributors, <http://www.christianbook.com>).
 - *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook 2nd Ed.* by Gary D. Pratico, Miles V. Van Pelt - \$15.49; Flashcards - \$11.99; Study guide - \$5.49 (Christian Book Distributors, <http://www.christianbook.com>).
 - *Hebrew/Greek Bible: The Holy Scriptures in the Original Languages* - \$35.00 (Trinitarian Bible Society 616-735-3695).