



THE PORTALS OF PREACHING

SCOTT M. GIBSON

General Editor

The various ways that one can research homiletics is reflected in this edition of *The Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society*. That is, there are various ways—portals—through which one can enter into the field of homiletics. The articles included in this publication of the *Journal* demonstrate the various angles in which preaching can be examined. In addition, the international flavor of the society is also featured by some of the authors included in this edition of the *Journal*.

The first article by Ian Hussey and Allan Demond—Australian authors—explores the concept of vulnerability in preaching. The article raises the question about how far can one be vulnerable in the pulpit. Readers will be stimulated with their sociological research and findings.

The next article, “The Pentathlon Preaching Principle Applied” by Daniel J. Gregory is a follow up from an earlier piece which readers appreciated in a previous edition of the *Journal*. This theologically-oriented article gives extension to Gregory’s thesis and helps readers to understand its application.

The third article is by Julian Gotobed, from Great Britain. Gotobed studied the perception of Christological preaching in two New England congregations—a type of sociological study. His conclusions are stimulating as one considers what listeners hear when preachers preach.

The fourth article is from four homileticians from the Netherlands, Henk Stoorvogel, Mark Van Vuuren, Bernard Veldkamp and Menno DeJong, who provide an intriguing discussion on persuasive preaching. This psychological/sociological study gives readers research into direct appeal that helps to put into context the way in which their own preaching may be appropriated.

The final article comes from a theological angle as Daniel Weaver explores “Preaching as Covenant Renewal.” In this article Weaver engages the Christ-centered argument as it intersects with individual ethical demands offering a fresh approach to the ethical implications in a text—Covenant Renewal, a biblical-theological examination.

The sermon is a classic from the founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, A.B. Simpson (1843-1919). Simpson is celebrating and summarizing the work that the Lord had done at the Twenty-third Street Church, New York, City. His sermon is based in Acts 20:24.

The Book Review section provides serious examinations of recently published books in the field of homiletics and related fields that intersect

with homiletics. The Book Review editor, Abraham Kuruvilla, and reviewers, provide insight into the concepts, argument, and perspectives of the books reviewed. This section provides welcome assessment of many of the books published for preaching.

Finally, this edition includes an index of articles and sermons compiled by Ken Langley, from volume one to seventeen. A book review index will appear in a future edition. Thank you, Ken, for your diligent and helpful work.

There are numerous ways to approach the study of preaching. This edition of the *Journal* underscores this to be the case. The field of homiletics is ripe for further study in a number of areas, including those presented in this edition. Strong, solid, research by evangelicals is needed today and in the years ahead as the field of homiletics is expanded and the Lord is glorified and His church strengthened.