



FRUITFUL THINKING ABOUT PREACHING

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This edition of *The Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society* provides readers with fruitful thinking about the field of preaching. The first article by David Lyle Jeffrey, Resident Distinguished Professor of Literature and the Humanities at Baylor University, examines the language of scripture and the language of preaching. In view of the cultural shifts in language and meaning, Jeffrey explores the importance of holding to the biblical sense than the cultural interpretation. He calls all preachers to wrestle with being faithful in a world antagonistic to the gospel.

The second article by Jeremy M. Kimble of Cedarville University in many ways builds upon Jeffrey's premise. He argues for book-level meaning, suggesting that authorial intent is to be acknowledged in the smaller passage as well as the book or even the larger writing of the author as a whole. Kimble advocates that book-level meaning is a useful hermeneutical tool for preaching.

The third article is written by a team of writers: Karen Mason, Esther Kim, and Blake Martin, of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. This piece is a demonstration of yet another fruitful exploration in the field of homiletics. The authors raise the question whether or not listeners hear preachers when they preach on topics like suicide or suicide prevention. And, in what ways listeners from different traditions hear such preaching. Their research provides much for preachers to consider at they preach and teach on suicide as well as preach at funerals and memorial services.

The final article in this edition of the journal is by Mike Chandler of St. Cloud, Florida, who explores the historical development of communication theory as this theory intersects with homiletics. Chandler reveals that much has not changed in the last few decades with regard to an evangelical engagement with communication theory. His article challenges the present generation in exploring communication theory and its current and ongoing impact on the field of homiletics.

The sermon included in this edition is by Chase Campbell of Atlanta, GA, titled, "Jesus is Coming—So What?" Chase Campbell is 2021 recipient of the Haddon W. Robinson Preaching Award, being part of a now a six-year tradition. This past year, the genre for sermons submitted for the award was apocalyptic literature. Campbell's sermon is based on Micah 4. The society is pleased to encourage preaching among associate members who are pursuing an undergraduate or master degree.

The Book Review section edited by Gregory Hollifield, yet again underscores the fruitful thinking that is taking place in the field of preaching. The various books are reviewed by our members and the books reflect thinking on homiletics from a wide-range of authors and points of view. Make sure you garner the fruit from this resourceful section of the journal.

The field of preaching is ripe with fruit. The various angles and avenues by which one can harvest knowledge with regard to preaching abounds. Homileticians have the advantage of exploring the field of preaching through any number of lenses, including biblical, historical, theological, sociological, psychological, philosophical, rhetorical, congregational—and many more. This multi-dimensional aspect homiletics is what makes this field of study rich and stimulating. Fellow homileticians, continue to till the soil so that the Word might be proclaimed, the church strengthened, and the Lord honored.