



PREACHING PLUS

SCOTT M. GIBSON
General Editor

There might be variations of homiletical math. In my teaching of Haddon Robinson's philosophy of preaching I instruct my students that to get the idea of a passage one uses the following homiletical math formula: $S + C = I$. That is, subject question plus the complement answer equals the exegetical idea.

But it strikes me that we can apply homiletical math to other areas of preaching. We could call this formula "preaching plus." That is, preaching can be considered as an addition to a given area of study. For example, preaching plus history directs us to discover how and if preaching has had an impact in historical development in any culture or context. Preaching plus psychology may help us to discover how preaching intersects with the field of psychology. Further examples may come to your mind. But the point here is to help us to see that the intersection of preaching with other fields and situations or contexts is far-reaching.

We see this in the editorial that Gregory K. Hollifield and I include in this edition of the journal. Hollifield is the Book Editor of the *Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society*. While discussing the opportunities and challenges of our society, Dr. Hollifield and I hashed out features of a possible editorial, that would challenge us as a society to see where preaching can be added to the various formulae of intellectual exploration.

The plenary sessions from our November 2021 annual scholars gathering at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary are included in this edition. Matthew D. Kim's plenary presentation on "Preaching to People in Pain," as well as Ken Langley's plenary address on "Preaching Hope and

Lament from the Psalms," helped attendees to appreciate the intersection of preaching hope and lament, the theme of the gathering, as well as an example of preaching plus.

Included in this edition is an article on "The Culture of Note-Taking and Effective Sermonic Technique" authored by Ezekiel Ajibade, lecturer and partnership coordinator of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso, Nigeria. Ajibade explores the nuances of note-taking. He explores the biblical and theological justification for note-taking, the relationship between note-taking and listening, methods for effective note-taking, and the present practice of note-taking. His insights help readers explore this oft-used practice and its place in terms of the plus of preaching.

Please note, Dr. Ajibade will be one of the plenary speakers at the upcoming October 2022 scholars gathering at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He will be joined by Dr. Sam Chan (from Australia) as they present on "Engaging a World Homiletic."

The sermon included in this edition is by Dr. Jesse L. Nelson, immediate past-president of the Evangelical Homiletics Society (2021-2022). As is the practice at each annual meeting, the out-going president preaches to the gathered society on Saturday morning. "The Christian's Hope" was Nelson's sermon title, with the text, 1 Timothy 1:1. His sermon provides readers with deep-rooted hope—preaching plus hope.

Lastly, the Book Review Section, edited by Gregory K. Hollifield, is always a strong way to conclude an edition of the journal. The books are reviewed by our members. Their insights provide a huge plus to us as a society. The thoughtful engagement with a variety of books as demonstrated in this edition, reveals the breadth of the preaching plus component that we share as a society.

Adding together all the elements in this edition of the journal underscores the plus advantage that preaching brings to our thinking and to our field. We can be encouraged by the practice of preaching plus.



Thanks to Daniel J. Gregory for assistance in article editing for this edition of the journal.