THE NEED FOR LECTORY PREACHING IN KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CONTEXT: A PRACTICAL THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Lee, Keonsoo (2010-03)

Thesis (MTh (Practical Theology and Missiology))—University of Stellenbosch, 2010.

ENGLISH ABSTRACT: This research has started because of a concern that the Korean Presbyterian Church is not utilizing the lectionary. Very few Korean Presbyterian churches follow the lectionary and this situation fosters many problems in their preaching and worship. However, the lectionary can remedy them. Firstly, many Korean Presbyterian preachers do not have a long-term plan for preaching and choose a sermon text week by week. Consequently, they are pressed for the time to preach and this easily leads them to do topical preaching. One of the weaknesses of topical preaching is that a preacher might approach a text with a preconceived topic or theme and use the text as a pretext. This is contrary to the principle of biblical preaching. However, the lectionary assures the biblical mentality because it prevents preachers from imposing their preoccupied ideas onto a text. The lectionary makes them consider and listen to the text first. Secondly, the texts for preaching are confined by the preacher’s preference. The arbitrary choice of the texts narrows the scope of the sermon texts. However, the lectionary expands the range of the texts for preaching because it covers most books of the Bible. Thirdly, worship in the Korean Presbyterian churches lacks coherency among its parts. Due to lack of a long-term plan of preaching, various parts of worship do not harmonize with one another. However, the lectionary offers a long-term plan for preaching, and it enables the parts of worship to be prepared to have the same voice. Fourthly, the Korean Presbyterian ministers have to preach a lot. Therefore, practical helps such as lectionary commentaries or worship guides can be of assistance to them. Fifthly, worship in the Korean Presbyterian churches is highly sermon-biased, that is, preaching has precedence over worship. However, the lectionary preconceives the context of worship and puts preaching within this context. Furthermore, the lectionary restores the balance between the Word and the Eucharist. It is designed for experiencing the paschal mystery that is the core of Sunday worship. Sixthly, the Korean Presbyterian churches are failing to appreciate the church year’s theological and educational value. The church year they observe is fragmentary. However, the lectionary is founded on the traditional church year, which has a Christological focus. It enables us to celebrate the life and works of Jesus through the year, and instills faith and hope in people’s minds. Lastly, the individualism of the Korean churches is another problem. These churches are plagued by an internal division and competition. It appears as if they are not concerned about the unity of the church as the body of Christ. However, the ecumenical feature of the Revised Common Lectionary inspires them to have a community mind. It reminds them of the unity of the church. Of course, the lectionary is not a perfect plan. It has some limitations as well as the strengths. Nevertheless, the lectionary is surely a useful instrument that would improve the worship and preaching in the Korean Presbyterian Church.
In conclusion, some practical suggestions are proposed as pointers for the future for teaching this challenging field at Faculties of Theology. Discover the world’s research. 15+ million members. These replies on the importance and necessity of training in leadership and administration are not solitary voices, for in the literature on the topic we find similar echoes. The personal character of the pastoral profession. 12 A practical theological perspective usually includes the following tasks: the descriptive-empirical, the interpretative, the normative and the pragmatic or strategic (Heitink 1999; Osmer 2008). RESEARCH GRANTS Center for Practical Theology “Faculty Research Grant” for Homiletical Theology Project, 2012. WLU “Initiatory Grant” for research project on Gospel from the Ashes: Public Christianity for a Pluralistic World, May, 2010. Homiletical Theology in Action: The Unfinished Theological Task of Preaching (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2015). Homiletical Theology: Preaching as Doing Theology (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2015). Mark. A Practical Theological Examination of African Preaching in Kenya” (successfully defended August 30, 2018). Song Bok Jon, “A Wesleyan Theology of Law and Gospel for Narrative Preaching” (successfully defended August 30, 2018). Expository preaching differs from topical preaching in that the former concentrates on a specific text and discusses topics covered therein; whereas, the latter concentrates on a specific topic and references texts covering the topic. YouTube Encyclopedic. 1/3. Also, a lectionary produced by denominations may carry that denomination’s biases in presentation. The Individual Choice Method. When the passages are determined by the preacher or the individual church, the preacher has the freedom to work out which passages are studied at particular times. These three simple words in their context are a strong argument for the necessity of expository preaching. The word for “preach” is a word meaning to herald.