



**Reformation Preaching
*and the Modern Mind***



2017 ANNUAL
MOORE
COLLEGE
LECTURES

**3 & 7-11
AUGUST**

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**Marcus Loane Hall
Moore Theological College
1 King Street, Newtown**

3 August 2017 – 8pm
7 August 2017 – 10am
8 August 2017 – 9am
9 August 2017 – 9am
10 August 2017 – 9am
11 August 2017 – 9am

2017 Annual Moore College Lectures

Reformation Preaching and the Modern Mind

Thursday 3 August

Lecture One: Reformation Preaching and the Modern Mind

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1

Preaching: the act by which the church stands or falls.

Preaching: a theological action.

Some Historic Testimony:

- Augustine
- John Chrysostom
- Bernard of Clairvaux
- Thomas Aquinas
- Martin Luther

- Charles Spurgeon/Helmut Thielicke

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Anti-preaching pressures:

- Technological

- Cultural

- Aesthetic

Three aims for these lectures:

1. Argue for a theology of preaching.

2. Argue for a view of preaching that emphasizes the active drama of the action.

3. Assert the need for embodiment in our understanding of preaching and church life.

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Monday 7 August

Lecture Two: Mapping the Modern Mind

Scripture: Romans 1

Preaching as the two horizons.

The Reformation and the rise of choice.

The Pathologies of the Modern Mind

- Psychological man: Philip Rieff
- The buffered self: Charles Taylor
- The collapse of a unified narrative and the power of micronarratives.
- The power of images

- The passive nature of media
- Ambiguous authorities
- Technology and aesthetics as morality

Paul and Cultural Conditioning: What about contextualization?

The Reformation and resources for the modern mind: differences and similarities

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Tuesday 8 August

Lecture Three: A Theology of the Word

Scripture: Genesis 1

God as a Speaking God

- Creation
- Mode of Presence
- Covenant
- Blessing/Cursing

The War Against Images

The New Creation in Relation to the Old

The church as an act of God's grace

Reality as Linguistic

- Luther on creation
- Luther on the Fall
- Late medieval nominalism
- The Lutheran move: language as reality
- The connection to Reformation soteriology
- The Theologian of Glory and the Theologian of the Cross
- Language as indicative of morality

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Wednesday 9 August

Lecture Four: A Theology of the Word Preached

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1

Luther: 'the Word did everything'

Bullinger: the preached Word as the very Word of God

The Wittenberg crisis of 1521/22

- Karlstadt and different visions of reform
- The late medieval expectation
- The two kingdoms: church and world

Salvation as declaration: the key of justification

The bondage of the will and the external Word.

From sacrament to Word.

The relationship of form and content: from Paul to Luther

- The Corinthian correspondence
- The theologian of the cross as connecting content and form
- A foolish message in a foolish medium

Preaching as creative and constructive

- Law and Gospel
- Competing realities
- The example of Pharaoh

Preaching is rooted in the doctrine of God.

Preaching is intimately connected to the understanding of salvation

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Thursday 10 August

Lecture Five: The Preacher

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4

The new Corinthianism: Three unfortunate contemporary pathologies:

- Youth
- Technique
- Aesthetics

The Pauline emphasis

The early testimony on ministry:

- John Chrysostom
- Gregory Nazianzus
- Gregory the Great

The importance of character

An important qualification: the Donatist Controversy

The Reformation contribution:

- Priesthood of all believers
- Ordination as a mark of the church
- The Preacher's Formal Preparation
- The Preacher's Existential Preparation

The Lutheran triptych: oratio, meditatio, tentatio.

The Preacher as Prophet, not Orator

The Preacher's first concern: the Word

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Friday 11 August

Lecture Six: The Congregation

Scripture: Psalm 118

The Individual Christian and the Ministry of the Word

- The modern individual and the myth of modern individualism
- *Simul justus et peccator*: the eschatological struggle, the human dilemma.

The church as a creation of the word

- Christianity as Corporate: the *people* of God.
- The unique challenge of technology to Protestantism: disembodiment

Hearing the acting Word as active engagement

- The passivity of modern media
- The command of trust
- The foundation for prayer
- The foundation for praise

What about one-on-one?

- The nature of the Lutheran confessional
- The rise of the therapeutic society
- The rise of expressive individualism