



THE CORNERSTONE BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

Christ Focus  
Scripture Saturation  
Pastor Professors  
Faculty Mentors  
Local Church Emphasis

## PREACH CHRIST FOR CHANGED LIVES

**Todd Bolton**

Assistant Dean and Professor of Biblical Languages

**“I have no idea what you want me to do.”**

Those were the words of a pastor and mentor after I finished a sermon for the Practice of Preaching class. My suspicion is that those are also the words of many people after they hear sermons filled with Christ-exalting and theologically-rich content. Expository preaching is rightly focused on understanding the Word of God. As a result, the preacher is primarily concerned with the theological content of his message. However, preaching that stops at understanding and does not call people to respond to the Word of God fails to fulfill Christ’s charge to his preachers in 2 Timothy 4:1-2.



“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.”

2 Timothy 4:1-2

**Remember the importance of your charge.** Preaching is vital to Christ-honoring ministry. Before charging Timothy with preaching, Paul reminds him that his charge is before God and Christ Jesus (1a). To further highlight the significance, Paul identifies Christ as the judge of the living and the dead and the coming King (1b). Each pastor receives his preaching commission before God and the coming King and Judge of the whole world.

**Preach Christ.** The charge given to each pastor before God and Christ is to preach the word. The charge is not merely to explain the word; it is to preach the word. The word is to be proclaimed and heralded with boldness and passion. Preaching requires explanation, but is not equivalent to it. Preaching occurs when the word is displayed as the source of all truth and worthy of all attention.

The content of the preaching must be the word. Specifically, the word is the message of Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:8-9). It is the “sacred writings” of 3:15 and the “all Scripture” of 3:16, which includes the Old Testament and gives wisdom which leads to salvation in Jesus Christ (3:15). Christ must be the object of proclamation for the pastor. His glorious person and work must be heralded for all to hear, regardless if they desire to or not (“in season and out of season”).

Thankfully, there are many pastors today who proclaim the person and work of Christ in their preaching. In addition, many blog posts, articles, books, and even seminaries, have Christ-centered preaching as their aim. This is a glorious and needed emphasis.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Welcome New Students!

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary warmly welcomes the following new students:

### To the Bible College:

AJ Aquino  
Carol Bade  
Elmer Chang  
Louella Chang  
Nick Foley  
Abi Fredeluces  
Julie Froisland  
Vivian Gray  
Jaramy Hamao  
Nelia Llorente  
Rolando Llorente  
Frankie Lopez  
Anton Sta. Maria  
Isaiah Suico  
Joey Suico

### To the Seminary:

Kirill Belyakov  
Nathan Keller  
Tim Vusik  
Vlad Zhrebchenko



Congratulations to our Spring 2017 graduates,

Denis Gerasimov  
Heath Jarrett

*(see Testimony, Pg. 3)*

Dennis Opolentisima  
Paul Ursol  
Aaron Vega

**Tell people what to do.** As lofty, wonderful, and essential as Christ-centered content is to the task of preaching, it is not the end of Christ's charge to the pastor. Christ's desire is that preaching would call people to respond. Paul urges Timothy to reprove, rebuke, and exhort (4:2). All of these words show that the Christ-centered sermon has life-change as its goal. Sin must be exposed (reprove), unworthy living must be called to stop (rebuke), and right living must be encouraged (exhort). Preaching that fails to call people to respond by living differently does not fulfill Christ's commission, no matter how Christ-centered or theologically-rich it is. Christ's people need to know how they should live in light of what is being proclaimed.

Explanation and understanding are not the ultimate ends of preaching. They are means to the end of people's lives being changed. A sermon on Philippians 4:4 ("Rejoice in the Lord always") must not only tell people the command, the reason, and the time of rejoicing. It should call people to rejoice in the Lord always. It should expose the specific temptations people fall prey to that keep them from rejoicing. It should call people to stop joyless attitudes. It should exhort them to rejoice in the Lord at all times. Calling people to change in light of the truth about Christ is the goal of preaching.

In fact, life change is God's design for "all Scripture" in 3:16-17. The God-breathed Scripture teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains so that God's people would be "equipped for every good work." All Scripture is designed by God with this equipping function in mind. Therefore, the preacher can be sure that God intends His Word to effect change in people's lives. Some take this truth about Scripture and conceive the aim of preaching as explaining the text and letting it do its work on the hearer. This approach fails to see that Paul connects what Scripture does (3:16-17) with what the preacher does (4:1-2). The Scripture reproves and corrects and the preacher reproves and corrects. The task of preaching is to discover God's intent of the text and call people to respond to it. Preaching is not done unless people know what to do.

**Help people understand and respond.** Preaching is telling

people to do what God wants them to do in light of the person and work of Christ. This humbling task requires "great patience and instruction" (4:2). The terms patience and instruction bring attention to the hearer of the message. The Christ-honoring preacher is concerned with both content and his hearer's understanding.

Patience means that the preacher understands that change often takes time. Some change is immediate; some is slow as the Lord unearths pride and unhealthy ways of thinking. Instruction means the preacher knows how to get his hearer to understand what the word says, means, and how it is to be applied. A skilled instructor knows what hurdles might be in the minds of his hearers and how to overcome them, whether they be intellectual, theological, or emotional. Instruction involves making the unchanging content about Christ accessible to the hearer. This can be accomplished in several ways. Illustrations are a very effective way of helping people understand complex truths. Concrete everyday examples of what a changed life looks like at home or on the job also greatly aid the hearer in knowing how to respond. Even an object lesson or visual aid might really help the truth hit home and produce change. What all of these tools have in common is that they are born out of a desire to see people understand the content and application of the truths about Christ. The proclamation of Christ is essential, but it must be done in a way that serves Christ's people by helping them understand and live out the truth.

As preachers devoted to proclaiming the person and work of Christ, we must be tremendously concerned with true and precise content. However, we must also remember that accurate explanation, though vital, is not the end goal. Calling people to change in light of the Scripture's intent is Christ's charge to His shepherds. Life change is God's intent for all Scripture and it must be our intent for each sermon.

May God continue to use The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary to equip expositors who shepherd through Christ-centered, life-changing sermons.

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### **The Professors Of The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary Are Distinguished In Their Fields.**

In addition to being shepherds in the local church, many hold advanced degrees and training in areas of special study like Theology, Bible Exposition, Biblical Languages, Biblical Counseling, Apologetics and Missions. Whether you are beginning, refreshing or redirecting your training in spiritual service, The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary can further equip and strengthen you in your future goals and ministry endeavors.

#### **The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary offers the following Degree Programs:**

- Master of Divinity, MDiv (*men only*)
- Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies (BA):
  - Pre-seminary (*men only*)
  - Women's Ministries (*women only*)
  - Biblical Counseling (*men and women*)
  - Bible Knowledge & Church Ministry

## A Graduate's Testimony

Heath Jarrett, M Div., 2017

Four years ago, I came to this unfamiliar place, not knowing anyone and not knowing what to expect. Tonight I return home as part of the Cornerstone family, with lasting friendships and many faithful partners in the gospel.

I want to thank our dear families, especially our wives and children, who have been constant sources of support. Your unending grace to us is the fragrance of Christ.

For all of the supporters and donors who have contributed to us individually and to the seminary as a whole, some of whom I have never met, your reward is secure in heaven.

I want to thank Community Bible Church for hosting us and for providing us with our new facility. The wind does not tear at the thin envelope of the portables anymore.

The saints here at Community Bible are worthy of commendation. Not only have you opened the doors of your facility, you have opened your homes and your hearts to us as well. Rosa has served us with home cooking throughout our studies and I want to especially thank Jeff and Vilma Wilson for taking me into your home every Tuesday night for 4 years. Your kindness reflects the joy of the Father.

To my fellow students at the college and seminary, I thank God for our unrivaled fellowship as we have labored together around the sweet themes of gospel truth. The Lord has bound us together in the brotherhood of believers for a lifetime of co-laboring. Often, as we learned more of the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ together, we were brought to jaw-dropping worship. We have shared this peculiar path of seminary life together and I have been thoroughly enriched in our travels. We have celebrated two marriages together and the birth of four children among us throughout this time. We have also lamented the loss of dear professors and agonized over our trials together. Brothers, your affection has brought me great refreshment with the love of the Spirit.

Finally, I want to thank the exemplary staff, volunteers and faculty of the Seminary. A rich distinctive of The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary is our pastor-professors—men who serve shepherding the local church. Pastors who train pastors. Despite your vast responsibilities, you have considered it worthy to invest your time in me. Thank you.



You have not only shared your craft with me but your very lives as well. Over and over again, you have taken me next to you at your workbench as it were, placing my hands on the well-worn and familiar tools of your ministries. Here at the seminary, I have always been welcomed to train side by side with you.

Professors, in the midst of rigorous academics, you have maintained a contagious passion for Christ, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit, all to the praise of the Father. You have boldly proclaimed and defended the truth once and for all delivered to the saints and have increased my love for the church.

When I read Paul's words in 2 Thessalonians, I hear your Christ-exalting hearts for the students:

*But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thes 2:13–14).*

You have taught us to bless our God and Father often. You have shown us the love of Christ and demonstrated what it is to live empowered by the Spirit. You have instructed us in the glorious truths of the gospel and charged us to press on to obtain the glories of Christ, standing firm on the word of God in a new generation of ministry. Paul continues,

*So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word (2 Thes 2:15–17).*

And Paul concludes with words that resonate with another distinctive of our school, a passion for catapulting the gospel into the nations:

*Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead (2 Thes 3:1a).*

Professors, thank you for your prayers for us in every class that the word of the Lord may speed ahead in our ministries. Don't stop. May new frontiers be won for Christ.

It is my rich privilege, in representing the graduates, to express our thanks to you all. You have endowed us richly with the jewel of the sciences—with the knowledge of the Holy and hearts impassioned to serve Him. Now, it is our turn to invest more in the body of Christ. May the Lord establish the work of our hands for his glory.

May Christ our Lord be lifted high. All glory be to Christ our King, all glory be to Christ.



THE CORNERSTONE BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

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**TCBS.ORG**



*Spring 2017 Graduates, (from left), Denis Gerasimov, Heath Jarrett, Dennis Opolentisima, Paul Ursol and Aaron Vega.*

**What Makes The Cornerstone Seminary Unique?**

**COMMITMENTS:** The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary (TCBS) provides ministerial training and guided spiritual growth.

The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary has five ministry commitments.

**Focus on Christ.** Christ is Sovereign and All-Sufficient for the needs of His people. He is the One that provides direction and fruitfulness and He is central to all that transpires at The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary (Colossians 1:18).

**Saturation in Holy Scripture.** The Word of God is the tool that provides spiritual power for believers to conform to the character of Christ and work fruitfully for God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). No believer can hope to serve God effectively without being a careful and diligent worker in the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15).

**Instruction by pastors.** God has raised up pastors, not intellectuals or executives, to be the primary providers of spiritual care and direction for His people (Acts 20:28). At The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary, one receives instruction from those who are proven caretakers and leaders of the flock of God.

**Molding by Faculty Mentors.** Discipleship is a priority. Education is not just about facts, but includes the crucial facet of character formation (2 Timothy 2:2). At The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary, faculty are not just sources of information, but personal mentors.

**Emphasis on the local church.** Everything that The Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary provides is meant to make a believer more effective and fruitful in service in the local church, whether in preaching, teaching, administration, music or missions (Ephesians 4:16).

We welcome you in our pursuit of the glory of Christ,  
Vincent Bradshaw  
Dean of the Cornerstone Bible College & Seminary

**MISSION**

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary seeks to partner with local churches to prepare, train, and propel into the world shepherds and mature servant-leaders who are God-glorifying, Christ-centered, Scripture-saturated and Spirit-filled.