



Publishing Peace

A quarterly journal published by West Virginia School of Preaching under the oversight of the elders of Hillview Terrace Church of Christ, Moundsville, WV 26041 (304) 845-8001 (dirwvsop@aol.com).

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*“Behold on the mountains
the feet of him who brings
good tidings, who proclaims
peace!...” (Nahum 1:15)*

Evening/Online Class Announcement

The new evening/online class for WVSOP is set to begin in November!
Here are the details:

Monday evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m., October 28-January 13 (skipping December 23 and 30 for the holidays).

The Subject: The Epistle to the Hebrews.

The Teacher: Andy Robison

Availability: The class is open to all. It is not just for preachers, although the primary aim will be some depth from which “tent-making” preachers may benefit.

Two Avenues: The class may be taken...

On-site at the West Virginia School of Preaching facility in Moundsville, WV.

On-line.

Those who take it online will have a streaming link sent to them early in the day of the class. They can then click on it to open access the class as it occurs.

Those who might be busy at that time can later access the recorded class on the WVSOP YouTube channel.

To save class-time, testing will be online for all. We will use a Google Sheets document. At a certain time (to be announced in class), the test will be opened, and at a certain time closed. It will be taken on the honor system, closed book (unless otherwise designated). This will include the final exam.

A term paper will be due in the class. Instructions for it will be given in e-mails preceding the first session. There will be other class requirements, including memory work and reading. All of this will be announced in a syllabus sent to those who sign up for class.

The text for the class will be the *Truth for Today Commentary on Hebrews*, by Martel Pace. Ordering information will be in the syllabus. We will ask students to order these directly from *Resource Publications*.

To sign up for class, e-mail your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to our secretary, Michele McIntyre, at secwvsop@aol.com. Include in the e-mail the note that you are signing up for the evening Hebrews class.

There is no charge for class. The West Virginia School of Preaching operates solely on donations from individuals and congregations of the church. Donations are welcome at any time.

A certificate of completion for the class will be issued upon completing the class with a satisfactory grade.

As we build the evening/online program, a separate certificate will be provided for each class. These classes are different in nature, scope, and time, and therefore will not transfer to the full-time program.

Call or e-mail Andy Robison any time with questions. 304-845-8001; dirwvsop@aol.com.

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

By David R. Kenney, Remarks During WVSOP Chapel 8/13/2019

The apostle Paul wrote, “*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God*” (Philippians 1:9–11 NKJV). The word “excellent” (διαφέρω *diapherō*) means “differ to one’s advantage from someone or something, be worth more than, be superior to” (BDAG, 239). Thayer wrote of this term: “to test, prove, the things that differ, *i.e.* to distinguish between good and evil, lawful and unlawful.”

My dad would talk with men about becoming preachers, and encourage them to pursue excellence by preparing for the ministry. I recall a conversation he had with one man he thought would be a good candidate. In the course of the conversation, dad explained the work of a preacher required significant hours of study. The man replied that he did not like to study. Dad demurred, “Well, then you really should not be a preacher.” My father believed that Christ and His church deserved the best—the pursuit of excellence. Some think the church or Christ should accept less than our best efforts. When we needed a Savior, the Father did not send anyone but the best, His beloved Son. God deserves our absolute best.

We are here to train preachers and be trained to preach. This requires a team effort by more than teachers and students. So many things go into running an effective School of Preaching. To our students, everyone wants you to pursue excellence, to succeed, and we are committed to helping you do that. Still, if you are to be successful, this will come from YOUR work, YOUR study, and YOUR commitment. YOU will have to make the commitment to pursue excellence within yourself. Just as you are supported by so many people here to be effective students, you will be dependent upon oth-

ers to help you be an effective preacher, too. You will have to demand excellence of yourself before you will be able to motivate others. Sometimes people do not know what excellence looks like. You will have to show them. Telling them is one thing; demonstrating it is far better. Pursue excellence in your library, research, preparation, and delivery. Pursue excellence in your presentation, clothing, word choices—anything that can convey excellence about yourself and what you do. Be careful not to join in with jokes that undermine the work of a preacher, an elder, or members of the church. Joking is one thing, but there can come a point when it turns to mockery. You do not have to be indignant about the matter, just do not allow yourself to become a joke! Pursue excellence in other areas too. As a preacher, you may have to wear multiple hats. Some refuse to do so, but they will not be very effective and may not last very long in a located work. I do not know very many jobs that you can refuse to wear any additional hats and get very far.

The pursuit of excellence is not to be better than anyone else. No, the pursuit of excellence for Christ is to be a better preacher than you were the day before. The pursuit of excellence should be on every Christian’s mind. Does your mind think about how you can improve your Christian walk and talk to carry you through this life and into eternal life with the Lord you are serving? “Sliding by” or “getting by” are not pursuing excellence. Demand more of yourself. Does not Christ deserve excellence?

Donations help us survive and thrive:

They may be made by check or

online at wvsop.com

(SUPPORT button)

Thank you!

Future Preacher Training Camp

Our Future Preacher Training Camp is held each year the weekend after graduation. This year, June 21-23, well over a dozen young men participated, along with chaperones, teachers, and coordinators, in the program. Directed by alumni Dave Deagel and Van Sprague, the weekend highlights 9 intensive 1-hour classes, as well as Scripture memorization, lesson preparation and presentation.



Sing and Pie Fling

The 7th Annual Sing and Pie Fling was August 16. We enjoyed singing, fellowship, and getting to know the new students.



25th Annual Victory Lectures October 20-24, 2019

Our 25th Annual Victory Lectures will be our third highlighting the book of Psalms! We hope you can make plans to be with us. Speakers include Charles Pugh, Terry Jones, Skip Andrews, Sam Bartrug, Jonathan McAnulty, Tim Canup, Ed Melott, J.D. Conley, Andrew Beasley, Paolo DiLuca, Dan Kessinger, Rodney Nulph, Hunter Hackworth, Hunter Melott, Bruce Daugherty, David Deagel, Charles Aebi, Stephen Harr, Andy Robison, Emanuel Daugherty, Terry Varner, Steve Haguewood, D.J. Kessinger, Josh Hetrick, and Don Schuler.

Appreciation Dinner October 22, 2019

Our annual **APPRECIATION DINNER** will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22. We will be honoring one of the original founders of the school, **Wirt Cook**. Wirt has preached in this area for years. He was one of the preachers who had the idea for what became West Virginia School of Preaching, and one who approached the elders at Hillview Terrace about it, and worked diligently to make it happen. He was also on the original faculty.

Please join us to help honor him for his work. Please RSVP to our office by October 11. (304-845-8001; secwvsop@aol.com).

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