

Catechetical Sermon, November 30th, 2025

Canons of Dort, Head 3&4:17: “Use of Means: Preaching”

Scripture Lesson: Romans 10:5-17

Lesson Aim	To understand two things, first, how the preaching of the Word of God takes place properly in a church, second, how God has ordained the preaching of the Word of God for salvation and Christian growth.
Steps to Learning	Read the Canons of Dort, Heads 3&4, article 17 and Romans 10:5-17. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>How do many today think about receiving the Word of God? Many today believe that it is sufficient to merely read the Bible and/or find biblical teaching online.</p> <p>While reading the Bible is good, why do we say it is insufficient? The Bible requires that all Christians be found in a church and not just any church but a true church. For in the context of a true church that rightly preaches the Gospel, rightly administers the Sacraments and properly carries out church discipline, one rightly hears God’s Word and is held accountable to follow it.</p> <p>What is preaching? Preaching is not just teaching but is a proclamation of Jesus Christ and what he has done to save and sanctify his people.</p> <p>According to Romans 10:5-17, how does preaching work to save God’s people? Paul argues in this passage that people need to believe in Christ to call upon him to be saved. But people can only believe and call upon Christ if they hear him. This means that through preaching, people hear the risen Christ speaking. After all, the Word is Christ’s Word and is empowered to save people by the power of the Holy Spirit. Also, preachers need to be sent, which is to say, they need to be educated, authorized and commissioned by an authoritative body.</p> <p>The Scriptures reveal that preaching is a means of grace through which God the Holy Spirit works in our lives (see Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:23ff). What is required of those hearing the Word of God? They must listen carefully, attending upon this Word.</p>
Bible Reading	Genesis 16-22 (Reading the great stories of the Old Testament)