PREACHING AS INTERACTION
BETWEEN CHURCH AND CULTURE: WITH SPECIFIC
REFERENCE TO THE KOREAN CHURCH

By
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DECLARATION

I the undersigned hereby declare that the work contained in this thesis is my own work and has not previously in its entirety or in part been submitted at any university for a degree.

Signature:

Date:
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ABSTRACT

The Korean church, famous for her rapid growth, has begun to notice a downward trend in her growth rate since the mid-eighties. Although many reputable investigations have recently been carried out with regard to this downward slide, these investigations have overlooked the full meaning of preaching in the interaction between church and culture. In view of this, this study sets the following four aims: (1) to investigate the reasons behind church decline in terms of preaching in the interaction between church and culture in Korea; (2) to interpret preaching in the interaction between church and culture biblically, historically and theologically in order to understand the normative Christian perceptions and practices of preaching; (3) to attempt an integration between the descriptive and the normative; and (4) to propose developmental strategies for the Korean church.

To achieve these purposes, two kinds of methods are employed in this study: (a) an analysis of preaching in the interaction between church and culture both in Korea and in the normative Christian sources, with the model advocated by D Browning (1991); and (b) qualitative interviewing as an empirical interpretation with a model based on the findings of Rubin & Rubin (1995).

Five claims emerge from this study: (1) How do we reset the context of preaching? (2) How do we revise the present preaching theory of the Korean church? (3) How do we define and defend conversion preaching that is seemingly exclusive in contemporary pluralistic Korean society? (4) How do we rethink and re-establish the ecclesiology of the Korean church? (5) How do we formulate the Christian culture against or in the rage of worldly thoughts and cultures in Korea? This thesis concludes by proposing preaching as interaction and the preacher as an inter-actor between church and culture. Practical strategies are developed to answer the claims.
OPSOMMING

Die Koreaanse kerk, bekend vir haar snelle groei, het sedert die middelagtigerjare 'n afwaartse neiging in groeikoers begin merk. Verskeie betroubare navorsingsondersoeke is onlangs hieroor uitgevoer, maar hierdie studies neem nie prediking in die interaksie van kerk en kultuur in ag nie.

Met die kennis van hierdie feite, stel hierdie studie die volgende doelstellings: (1) om redes te ondersoek vir die kerk se afname in die lig van prediking in die interaksie van kerk en kultuur in Korea; (2) om prediking in die interaksie van kerk en kultuur in Korea Bybels, histories en teologies te interpreteer om normatiewe Christelike persepsies en praktyke van prediking te verstaan; (3) om die beskrywende en die normatiewe te integreer; en (4) om ontwikkelingstrategieë vir die Koreaanse kerk daar te stel.

Om hierdie doelstellings te bereik, gebruik hierdie studie twee metodes: (a) 'n analise van prediking in die interaksie van die kerk en kultuur in Korea; met gebruik van normatiewe Christelike bronne, aan die hand van die model van D Browning (1991); en (b) kwalitatiewe onderhoudvoering as empiriese ondersoek aan die hand van 'n model gebaseer op die bevindings van Rubin & Rubin (1995).

Die volgende vyf stellingvrae word gestel: (1) Hoe word 'n konteks vir prediking (her)ingestel? (2) Hoe kan die huidige geskiedenis van predikingsteorie in die Koreaanse kerk hersien word? (3) Hoe kan bekeringsprediking, wat skynbaar eksklusief is, in die kontemporêre pluralistiese Koreaanse samelewing omskryf en verdedig word? (4) Hoe kan die kerkboukuns van die Koreaanse kerk heroorweeg en herstel word? (5) Hoe kan die Christelike kultuur teenoor of te midde van die oproer van wêreldlike denke en kulture in Korea geformuleer word? Hierdie studie word afgesluit deur prediking voor te stel as interaktief en die prediker as interaksie-agent tussen kerk en kultuur. Praktiese strategieë word ten slotte ontwikkeld om die stellingvrae te beantwoord.
KEY WORDS / PHRASES

Korean church

Interaction between church and culture

Practical theology

Cultural initiative

Ecclesiology

Preaching in the interaction between church and culture

Preaching context

Conversion preaching

Participation

Christian culture

Preaching as interaction between church and culture

Preacher as an inter-actor
# ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Testament</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>New Testament</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Gen</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>Mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exodus</td>
<td>Exo</td>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>Mk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Lev</td>
<td>Luke</td>
<td>Lk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td>Num</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Jn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Deut</td>
<td>Acts</td>
<td>Act</td>
</tr>
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<td>Jos</td>
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<td>Gal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Ephesians</td>
<td>Eph</td>
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<td>Philippians</td>
<td>Php</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Song of songs</td>
<td>SS</td>
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<td>2 Pet</td>
</tr>
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<td>Isa</td>
<td>1 John</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Jer</td>
<td>2 John</td>
<td>2 Jn</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lam</td>
<td>3 John</td>
<td>3 Jn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel</td>
<td>Ezk</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Jonah</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Zephaniah</td>
<td>Zep</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>Haggai</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zechariah</td>
<td>Zec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malachi</td>
<td>Mal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPSOMMING</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEY WORDS / KEY PHRASES</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Problem and theme

1.1.2 Purpose and delimitation

1.1.3 Methodology and structure

1.2 Practical theological overview

1.2.1 Historical overview of Practical Theology

1.2.2 Nature and characteristics of practical theology

1.2.2.1 Praxis-theory-praxis

1.2.2.2 Empirical orientation

1.2.2.3 Interdisciplinary approach

1.2.2.4 Integration and identification

1.2.2.5 Language behind the wall and language on the wall

1.2.2.6 Human partnership with God’s praxis

1.2.3 Methodology of practical theology

1.2.3.1 A brief historical outline of the relationship between practical theology and the social sciences

1.2.3.2 Critical and constructive perspective of the partnership between practical theology and the social sciences

1.2.4 Practical Theology in Korea

1.2.4.1 Contextual crisis

1.2.4.2 Dichotomization of church and the world
CHAPTER 2 INTERACTION:

PREACHING IN THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CHURCH AND CULTURE IN KOREA

2.1 Introduction 34
2.2 Interaction between church and culture in Korea 34
   2.2.1 General historical trends 34
   2.2.2 Historical trends in the Korean Church 35
      2.2.2.1 The period during which the Korean church takes the cultural initiative (1884-1945) 36
         2.2.2.1.1 Korea 36
         2.2.2.1.2 The Korean Catholic church 39
         2.2.2.1.3 The Korean church in the beginning (1884-1910) 41
         2.2.2.1.4 The Korean church in Japanese oppression (1910-1945) 44
         2.2.2.1.5 Summary 46
      2.2.2.2 The political and social chaotic period (1945-1970) 47
      2.2.2.3 The period during which the Korean church lost her cultural initiative (1970 to the present) 51
   2.2.3 The Korean church and Korean culture 54
   2.2.4 The present ecclesiology of the Korean church 58
   2.2.5 The empirical interpretation of the interaction between church and culture in Korea 66
      2.2.5.1 Profiles of the conversational partners 66
      2.2.5.2 Hearing the sentiments 67
2.2.5.3 Interpreting the data 71
2.3 Preaching in the interaction between church and culture in Korea 74
  2.3.1 Preaching in the Korean church 74
  2.3.2 The present preaching theories of the Korean church 81
    2.3.2.1 The purpose of preaching 81
    2.3.2.2 The form of preaching 82
    2.3.2.3 The content of preaching 83
    2.3.2.4 The theology of preaching 84
  2.3.3 The empirical interpretation of preaching in the interaction between
    church and culture in Korea 85
    2.3.3.1 Profiles of the conversational partners 86
    2.3.3.2 Hearing the sentiments 86
    2.3.3.3 Interpreting the data 88
  2.4 Conclusion and remarks for the next chapter 89

CHAPTER 3 INTERPRETATION:
BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION

3.1 Introduction 92
3.2 Biblical interpretation 92
  3.2.1 Preaching in the Old Testament 92
    3.2.1.1 God’s Word as His action 93
    3.2.1.2 Old Testament prophets 94
    3.2.1.3 Old Testament preaching 96
  3.2.2 Preaching in the New Testament 97
    3.2.2.1 Preaching in the synagogue 98
    3.2.2.2 New Testament apostles 100
    3.2.2.3 New Testament preaching 102
      3.2.2.3.1 The necessity and purpose of preaching 102
      3.2.2.3.2 Dialogical preaching 102
      3.2.2.3.3 Inspired preaching 103

 xi
### 3.2.3 Summary: preaching and culture in the Bible

3.3 Historical interpretation

3.3.1 The Early Church

3.3.1.1 Preaching in Judaism during the Hellenistic era: Prophecy to preaching

3.3.1.2 Preaching in Hellenism: Preaching and oratory

3.3.2 The Middle Ages

3.3.2.1 The 5th-11th centuries

3.3.2.2 The 12th-15th centuries

3.3.3 The Reformation

3.3.3.1 Religious culture on the eve of the Reformation

3.3.3.2 Preaching and culture in the Reformation

3.3.3.3 Preaching of the reformers

3.3.4 The Modern Era 1 (Pre World War II)

3.3.4.1 Cultural shift and preaching

3.3.4.2 Evangelistic preaching

3.3.5 The Modern Era 2 (Post World War II)

3.3.5.1 Cultural shift and preaching

3.3.5.2 Theological movement and preaching

3.3.6 Summary

3.4 Theological interpretation

3.4.1 Theology and preaching

3.4.1.1 Definition of theology

3.4.1.2 Theology and preaching

3.4.2 Preaching in the interaction between church and culture

3.4.2.1 Church and culture

3.4.2.1.1 The nature of culture

---

*University of Pretoria etc – Oh, H H (2004)*
CHAPTER 4 INTEGRATION:
INTEGRATION OF INTERPRETATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES

4.1 Introduction 156
4.2 Integrative interpretation 156
   4.2.1 Claims implicit in contemporary practices 156
   4.2.2 Themes implied in normative practices and their fusion 160
      4.2.2.1 Context of preaching: How do we reset the context of preaching in the Korean church? 161
      4.2.2.2 Preaching theory: How do we revise the present preaching theory of the Korean church? 163
      4.2.2.3 Conversion preaching: How do we define and defend conversion preaching that is seemingly exclusive in contemporary pluralistic Korean society? 166
      4.2.2.4 Ecclesiology: How do we rethink and reestablish the ecclesiology of the Korean church? 167
4.2.2.5 Christian culture: How do we formulate the Christian culture against or in the rage of worldly thoughts and cultures in Korea? 170

4.3 Development of strategies 172
4.3.1 Context of preaching 172
4.3.2 Preaching theory 176
4.3.3 Conversion preaching 185
4.3.4 Ecclesiology 195
4.3.5 Christian culture 200

4.4 Summary 204

CHAPTER 5 INERENCE:
PREACHING AS INTERACTION BETWEEN CHURCH AND CULTURE

5.1 Reflection and conclusion 207
5.2 Recommendations for further study 211

APPENDIX 1 214
APPENDIX 2 215
APPENDIX 3 216
APPENDIX 4 217

BIBLIOGRAPHY 218