



The Orlando Institute

Equipping Leaders to Disciple the Nations

DT100

Bradley Basham

THEOLOGY - BIBLIOLOGY - ANTHROPOLOGY

Syllabus

I. Class Objectives: By the end of this class you should have:

1. deepened your scripturally based convictions about God, the Bible, and God's view of humanity.
2. developed a greater commitment to and engagement in systematic theology and appreciation for its relevance for ministry.
3. grasped major concepts within these areas, some of the conflicting viewpoints and responded to selected contemporary issues.
4. applied insight to your personal life and ministry, focusing on sharing with other people on doctrinal issues and sharing the gospel.

II. Sessions

- . Introduction to Theology
- . Revelation, Inspiration, Inerrancy, Canoncity, Transmission, Presevation, Authority
- . The Existence of God, The Attributes of God, The Names of God, The Trinity
- . The Decrees of God, Providence and Miracles, Angels, Spiritual Warfare
- . The Creation and Nature of Humanity, The Fall and Sin

III. Textbook: Erickson, Millard. (2001). Introducing Christian Doctrine. Grand Rapids: Baker.

IV. Assignments

1. Read the textbooks as assigned.

2. Doctrinal Survey Project.

The purpose of this project is to help you gain stronger awareness of biblical doctrine by discovering and evaluating other peoples' religious views. You will receive three copies of a specially designed survey. Take the survey with three different people, looking for as much variety as possible, e.g. student, businessman, homemaker, etc. Do not survey FCTC or CCC faculty or students. Out of these three surveys pick two which are the most interesting. In one or two pages for each of these two, evaluate where the individual is correct and/or incorrect in his or her doctrinal views. If he or she has non-biblical views try to determine which biblical doctrine(s) he/she has ignored or altered. Hand in all three surveys, plus the two evaluations. Turning in the completed surveys will count for 2/3 of your grade on this project. The remaining 1/3 will be determined by the quality of your written evaluations. This project should take about 5 hours. It is due

3. Memory Project

Each student will memorize the following assigned content by the session indicated and will write it out in class or say it to the fellowship group, as directed by the faculty. All students must use the NASB for this assignment.

- a. Psalm 1 - due Tuesday
- b. Isaiah 40:28-31 - due Wednesday
- c. Ephesians 6:13-18 - due Thursday

d. Apostles Creed (handout in class) - due Friday

4. Contemporary Issues Paper due

This paper is an attempt to assist graduate students in learning how to relate various facets of theology to current social or religious issues. Each paper should include:

- a. Biblical references and/or exegesis evincing your understanding of relevant doctrinal issues from a Scriptural perspective,
- b. quotes and bibliography from the non-evangelical non-Christian, or cultic perspectives,
- c. quotes and bibliography from evangelicals who have written on this subject (especially important if there are areas of disagreement among evangelicals)
- d. a clear and convincing argument from your group, demonstrating what you think the proper evangelical position should be and why.

Suggestions for Contemporary Issues Paper topics. Topics will likely fall in one of four categories:

- 1) Social or Political Issues. Examples: "Should Christians try to get Occultism and Satan Worship Outlawed?"; "Feminist Issues in Theology Proper."
- 2) Doctrinal Errors. "The Mormon View of God"; "Islam and the Trinity"; "Theology Proper and Pneumatology of the New Age Movement."
- 3) Evaluation of a Controversial Sect. (Especially important to argue whether the group is a cult or just a Christian sect with some unusual, but not heretical, teachings.) "Witness Lee and the 'Local Church': modalism in modern guise?."
- 4) Controversial Evangelical Issue. "Is God Inside or Outside of Time?"; "Should any of Process Theology's Revisions of the Doctrine of God's Attributes be Accepted by Evangelicals?"; "Miracles and 'Power Encounters': a Biblical strategy for 20th century evangelism?"

IV. Grades

Textbooks	25%	
Doctrine Survey Project		25%
Memory Work	15%	
Contemporary Issues	<u>35%</u>	
Total	100	

V. Bibliography of Additional Readings

- Adler, Mortimer. (1980). *How to Think About God*. NY: Macmillan.
- Anderson, Ray. (1995). *Self-Care*. Wheaton: Victor.
- Anderson, Neil. (1990). *Victory over the Darkness*. Glendale: Regal Books.
- Barnhouse, Donald. (1965). *The Invisible War*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Boice, James M. (1978). *The Sovereign God*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press.
- Charnock, Stephen. (1969). *The Existence and Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI :Kregel's Bookstore.
- Clinton, Steve. "Spiritual Formation as a Journey," *Evangelical Theological Society*, Spring, 2004.

Also found at <http://www.toi.edu/articles.htm>

- Dowey, Edward. (1952). *The Knowledge of God in Calvin's Theology*. NY:Columbia University Press.
- Gill, Jerry. (1981). *On Knowing God*. Phil.: Westminster.
- Hunter, W. Bingham. (1986). *The God Who Hears*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Iverson, William. "Developing a Reformed WorldView in a Post-Modern/Modern World," *Maiutics*, Vol. 1, 1988. Also found at <http://www.toi.edu/articles.htm>
- Lightner, Robert. (1973). *The God of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- MacArthur, John. (1983). *The Ultimate Priority*. Chicago: Moody.
- Martin, Ralph. (1982). *The Worship of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- McGrath, A. (1988). *Understanding the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Parker, T. H. L. (1959). *Calvin's Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Scholes and Clinton, "Levels of Belief," *Philosophia Christi*, Spring, 1991. Also found at <http://www.toi.edu/articles.htm>
- Warfield, B. B. (1966). *The Plan of Salvation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Major Theologians and Authors Quoted in the Manual:

Barth, Karl *Church Dogmatics*. Barth (1886-1968) was a Swiss pastor and theologian who broke with his liberal German theological training and became the major proponent of Dialectical Theology or "Neo-Orthodoxy." Influenced by Kierkegaard, Barth stressed the transcendence and hiddenness of God and denounced any attempt to learn anything about God through nature or philosophy. Instead we learn of God through the Bible which is God's witness to the living Word, Christ. For Barth, the Bible is not a static propositional revelation but rather is God Himself speaking. Scripture only becomes "God's Word" when we encounter Christ through it.

Berkhof, L. *Systematic Theology*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Berkhof (1873-1957) was an American Calvinist theologian. Following his education and a brief pastorate, he was called to teach at Calvin Seminary. There he schooled three decades of Christian Reformed preachers in systematic theology.

Bultmann, Rudolf *Theology of the New Testament*. A skeptical German theologian, Bultmann (1884-1976) was a professor of New Testament at Marburg (1921-1951) and is considered one of the major biblical scholars of the 20th Century. In *Kerygma and Myth* (1953), Bultmann argued that we need to "demythologize" our picture of Jesus in the Gospels and emphasized the importance of an existential commitment based on the *kerygma*, or core of primitive Christian proclamation, which he saw as a call to decision.

Buswell, J. O. *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*. Zondervan Publishing House. Buswell was an influential Calvinist educator. He was president of Wheaton College (1926-1940), Professor of Systematic Theology at Faith Seminary and finally Dean of the Graduate Faculty at Covenant College and Seminary.

Chafer, L. S. *Systematic Theology*, Dallas Seminary Press. Chafer (1871-1952) was a Presbyterian clergyman and educator. He taught at C.I. Scofield's Philadelphia School of the Bible (1914-1923); founded Dallas Theological Seminary and served as its president until his death.

Hodge, Charles *Systematic Theology*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Hodge (1797-1878) was a leading American theologian of the nineteenth century. He became an instructor at Princeton Seminary in 1820, and remained there most of his life. Hodge's defense of a super-naturally inspired Bible had a powerful influence, not only in his own Old School Presbyterian circles, but in other denominations as well.

Lewis, C. S. (1898-1963). A British novelist and apologist, Lewis was an Anglican layman who taught Medieval Literature at Oxford and Cambridge. His best-selling works include *Mere Christianity*, *Screwtape Letters*, and the seven fantasy novels, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Lewis has been called "the most quoted Christian writer of the 20th Century."

Schleiermacher, Friedrich D. E. *The Christian Faith*. Schleiermacher (1768-1834), a German theologian who is often called the "father of theological liberalism" was one of the founders of the influential University of Berlin (1810).

Shedd, William G. T. *Dogmatic Theology*, Charles Scribner's Sons. Shedd (1820-1894) was an American theologian. He had pastoral experience but the major portion of his life was spent teaching at the University of Vermont, then at the theological seminaries at Auburn, Andover and Union. He defended orthodoxy in controversy with his colleagues at Union.

Strong, Augustus Hopkins *Systematic Theology*, Fleming H. Revell Co. Strong (1836-1921) was an American Baptist pastor and educator. Ordained in 1861, he held pastorates in Massachusetts and Ohio before being elected president of Rochester Theological Seminary.

Tillich, Paul *Systematic Theology*. Tillich (1886-1965) was a Protestant theologian and philosopher. Born in Germany, Tillich was an early opponent of Hitler and just before WW II came to America where he lived until his death. Tillich taught at Union Seminary, Columbia, Harvard and the University of Chicago. Tillich was influenced by Kierkegaard and existentialism and considered God as the "Ground of Being" which we humans can encounter as our "ultimate concern" if we have the courage to affirm ourselves in the face of non-being.

Walvoord, John F. *Jesus Christ Our Lord*, Moody Press. Past President at Dallas Theological Seminary and editor of the scholarly journal, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Walvoord is best known for his numerous books on biblical prophecy including his commentary on the last book of the Bible, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.

THEOLOGY PROPER CLASS SURVEY

Please answer the following questions for a class project.

1. Do you believe there is a God, and if so then what is God like?

2. How do you relate to God?

3. Would you like to know more about Jesus Christ?

Final Exam Study Questions

You should be able to answer the following questions. Your answers should be composed from the lectures and discussions, the texts, and the scriptures memorized. No one source must be quoted for an answer, they are your answers. But you are welcome to quote or refer to sources as you know them and they are relevant. Each answer should be about one page in length.

1. Discuss the role of presuppositions in theology and philosophy.
2. Identify why some people struggle to relate faith and reason and describe at least two attempts to solve the problem.
3. How do the boundaries to knowing relate to the tests of truth?
6. Distinguish between general and special revelation.
7. What kinds of things can we learn from general revelation about God?
8. Describe and define at least two kinds of rational arguments for the existence of God.
9. Challenge or defend this statement: "Christianity cannot be shown to be rational or true: it must be accepted or rejected by faith."
10. Explain some of the possible categories used in classifying God's attributes and give several examples under each classification.
11. Define and critique two non-orthodox views of the Trinity.
12. List two of the Hebrew names for God and discuss their significance.
13. Define the concept of the decrees of God and discuss its role in theology.
14. Distinguish between miracles and providence and argue for your definition of each term.
15. List the three primary divisions of systems relating to the covenant of grace. Which of the eight sub-systems is closest to what you believe and why?
16. Distinguish between the three major positions concerning the knowledge of God. Do you think the differences in these views are important? Defend your answer.
17. Formulate your own statement concerning the nature of the Holy Spirit. Discuss some errors that should be avoided if we are going to have an orthodox doctrine on this subject.
18. What is the nature of mankind and how does that relate to ethical problems today?
19. Compare and contrast our three spiritual enemies. In what ways do they conspire against us?
20. Explain and critique the view that non-Christians can be saved based on natural theology.

Isa 40:28-31

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth

Does not become weary or tired.

His understanding is inscrutable.

29 He gives strength to the weary,

And to him who lacks might He increases power.

30 Though youths grow weary and tired,

And vigorous young men stumble badly,

31 Yet those who wait for the LORD

Will gain new strength;

They will mount up with wings like eagles,

They will run and not get tired,

They will walk and not become weary.

NAS

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

(The Old Roman form - ca AD 340-400)

I believe in **God the Father**, maker of heaven and earth,

and in **Jesus Christ**, His only son, Our Lord.

Who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and was crucified under Pontius Pilate and was buried.

He was raised from the dead the third day and ascended

into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father,

from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

and in **the Holy Spirit**,

the holy Church,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting.

THEOLOGICAL MOVEMENTS

60-100	John Clement	Paul Origen		Peter Irenaeus	
318-1200	Constantine	Augustine		Gregory	Basil Justinian Chrysostom
Damascus					John of
					Aquinas
1525	Luther		Calvin	Paul III	Lucaris
1560	Simons Melanchthon		Butzer	Arminius	Pius IV Loyola
1700	Spener	Schliermacher	Owen	Wesley	Benedict XIV
1850		Ritschl	Hodge	Watson	Pius IX
			Warfield		
1950	Pieper	Bultmann	Barth	Chafer	Wiley
					Lossky
1960		Moltmann	Berkhof	Buswell	Thiessen
					Ware
					Rahner

1980	Pannenberg	Bloesch	Pinnock	Henry	John Paul II	Meyendorff
						Segundo
					Fiorenza	
2000		Grudem	Erickson	Oden	Benedict XVI	