



**Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650**

Fall 2020

ST3528 Systematic Theology III

Professor: Robert Alexander Jr.

Room A202

Class Hours: 2

Tuesdays, 5:30–7:30pm

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COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to set forth a **Systematic Theology** that help the student to understand the basic message of the Christian faith, and its fundamental conceptions, based on the teachings of Scripture.

Another purpose for this **Theological Course**, is to teach the students skills for developing a Christian mind set, by helping them construct a solid foundation for thinking through life's most important issues. You will learn about various sources for theology and the way that different people use and misuse these sources. This course endeavors to enable people to think **Theologically** and construct a biblical worldview that makes the Christian's witness relevant to all people in need.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To help the student identify several aspects of biblical study that are vital to understanding the Doctrine of Christology
2. To help give students a clear Theological explanation on Christology.
3. To provide students with a biblical framework for a proper understanding of Christology.
4. To help the student identify several aspects of biblical study that are vital to understanding Christology.

Required Texts:

1. Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*. Eerdmans, one volume ed., 1996. ISBN 978-0-8028-3820-9 pages 303-410
2. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, ISBN 978-0-310-28670-7 pages 529–648.
3. Logos Bible Software (**Required for Master’s Students**)
4. A Good Study Bible
5. John F. MacArthur Jr., *The Gospel According to Jesus*,”Grand Rapids, MI: Academic and Professional Books, Zondervan Pub. House, 2000.
6. John Piper, Justin Taylor, *The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World*, Published by Crossway Books.

Collateral Texts:

Robert Duncan Culver, *Systematic Theology: Biblical and Historical* (Ross-shire, UK: Mentor, 2005), page 319-638.

Joseph Pohle and Arthur Preuss, *Christology: A Dogmatic Treatise on the Incarnation*, Dogmatic Theology (St. Louis, MO: B. Herder, 1913).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance and participation: in the absence of professor permission, more than two unexcused absences drop final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignments on time and ability to participate in class discussions.
3. Two three pages paper. (These papers are short. Be concise and precise. This assign is about content, but also about written communication of these two books.
 1. John F. MacArthur Jr., *The Gospel According to Jesus*,” Grand Rapids, MI: Academic and Professional Books, Zondervan Pub. House, 2000.
 2. John Piper, Justin Taylor, *The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World*,” Published by Crossway Books.

Book Critique is to be a **critique** of the book. Do not merely summarize the contents; rather evaluate the book’s strengths and weaknesses. As you read, ask yourself and answer these questions, read **critically**:

- Begin your critique with **the bibliographic information** (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book.
- Write a **brief summary** of the **main** theme and any **major secondary themes** of the author.

- Include your **analysis** of the arguments the author sets forth. Your analysis should be focused primarily upon **how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and applied the Scripture**.
 - Evaluate how they have either **succeeded or failed** in considering **all** of Scripture (in other words, is it a systematic argument or simply a use of some isolated proof texts?) **citing instances** from the book to support your evaluation.
 - Tell me **why you agree or disagree** with their conclusion(s), using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.
 - Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally and professionally** from reading this book.
3. **MASTERS STUDENTS ONLY.** Write a 10-12 pages research paper on the **Resurrection of Christ** based on course and professor instructions for content. You should average two citations per page and a minimum of five reference works other than your textbooks. Paper should contain the following constituent parts: title page, table of contents, introduction, thesis sentence and/or statement and research question (what are you investigating?), discussion and conclusion, bibliography. (The 10-12 pages begin with introduction and ends with conclusion.)
4. **CERTIFICATE STUDENTS ONLY:** instead of the research paper above, complete the following short (2-3 pp.) papers. These papers should be crisp and clear, to the point, with **no excess verbiage**. The ministry requires not only verbal skills but written communication skills as well.
5. **50% of the sources should come from Logos Bible Software**

GRADING

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences may affect final grade.
2. Completion of reading and ability to participate in class discussion 10%
3. Two short papers are worth 10% each for a total of 20%
4. Research paper 35%
5. Final exam 35%

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

Note:

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition.

Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook section on plagiarism for guidance.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. 9-15 NBCA INC. MEETING THAT WEEK NO CLASS
2. 9-22 INTRODUCTION CHRISTOLOGY
3. 9-29 THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST IN HISTORY
4. 10-6 THE NAME OF CHRIST / FIRST BOOK CRITIQUE DUE
5. 10-13 FALL BREAK
6. 10-20 THE NATURES OF CHRIST
7. 10-27 THE UNIPERSONALITY OF CHRIST
8. 11-2 THE STATE OF CHRIST
9. 11-9 THE OFFICES OF CHRIST
10. 11-16 STATE CONVENTION BORAD MEETING
11. 11-23 THE ATONEMENT THROUGH CHRIST
12. 11-30 THEOTIES OF THE ATONEMENT / SECOND BOOK
13. 12-2 CRITIQUE DUE
14. 12-8 FINAL TEST AND THEOLOGY PAPER

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Catechism of the Catholic Church. New York: Doubleday, 1994.

A useful summary and explanation of Roman Catholic beliefs, traditions, and sacraments. With a complete index, footnotes, and cross-references for a fuller understanding of each subject.

McGrath, Alister E. "Do We Still Need The Reformation? A review of the new Catholic catechism." *Christianity Today* (12 December 1994): 28-33.

A very useful review of the new, English translation of the Catholic catechism which represents a definitive statement of Roman Catholic beliefs on every significant issue.

Basinger, David and Randall Basinger, eds. *Predestination and Free Will: Four Views of Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986.

Contributors John Feinberg, Norman Geisler, Bruce Reichenbach, and Clark Pinnock offer

their individual perspectives while critiquing the other views presented.

Eaton, Michael. *No Condemnation; A New Theology of Assurance*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

A challenging reassessment of the role of the law in biblical revelation and Christian living,

the nature of Christian inheritance, and the meaning of New Testament warnings against

"falling away." With a strong emphasis on the impact and nature of God's grace.

Gromacki, Robert Glenn. *Salvation Is Forever*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1973.

Assesses the scriptural evidence for the truth of eternal salvation security.

Hoekema, Anthony A. *Saved by Grace*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

A comprehensive, Calvinistic, practical presentation of the biblical teaching on salvation.

Klein, William W. *The New Chosen People; A Corporate View of Election*. Grand Rapids:

Academie Books, 1990.

Argues that the biblical presentation of election is the corporate, rather than the individual,

view.

Marshall, I. H. *Kept by the Power of God: A Study of Perseverance and Falling Away*.

Minneapolis: Bethany, 1969.

An investigation of the biblical passages regarding apostasy and falling away. Argues that

the "...security of the believer is conditioned upon his faithfulness to Jesus Christ."

Murray, John. *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955.

Calvinist argument for "limited atonement." Discusses such topics as atonement, regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Chicago: InterVarsity, 1961.

An incisive study of the biblical evidence on the relationship between God's sovereignty,

man's responsibility, and the Christian's evangelistic duty. From a Reformed perspective.

Piper, John. "Are There Two Wills in God? Divine Election and God's Desire for All to be

Saved." In *The Grace of God, the Bondage of the Will: Biblical and Practical Perspectives*

on Calvinism, ed. Thomas Schreiner and Bruce Ware, 107-31. Grand Rapids: Baker Books,

1995.

Argues that God wills for all people, even the non-elect, to be saved, but he sovereignly

elects only some to salvation.

Schreiner, Thomas and Bruce Ware, eds. *The Grace of God, the Bondage of the Will: Biblical and Practical Perspectives on Calvinism*, Vol 1. Grand Rapids: Baker Books,

1995.

An insightful reaffirmation of the Calvinist position on the relationship between divine

sovereignty and the human will. Provides responses to contemporary objections. Includes

articles by John Piper, Wayne Grudem, Thomas Schreiner, et al.

Schreiner, Thomas. "Does Romans 9 Teach Individual Election Unto Salvation?: Some Exegetical and Theological Reflections." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 36,

1 (March 1993): 25-40.

Explains and responds to the two most common objections to a Calvinist interpretation of

Romans 9:1-29, namely that Paul is not referring to salvation in this text or, if he is in some

sense, he is referring to the salvation of groups rather than individuals.

Sell, Alan P.F. *The Great Debate: Calvinism, Arminianism, and Salvation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1982.

Traces the history of the debate between Calvinists and Arminians. Includes discussions on

the positions of Arminius and Calvin, the development of Amyraldism and Federalism, and

the antinomian controversy in America and England.

Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Plan of Salvation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1942.

A collection of the author's lectures on the differing conceptions of salvation, autosoterism,

sacerdotalism, universalism, and Calvinism.

Wesley, John. "Predestination Calmly Considered." In *The Works of John Wesley*, Vol.

10,

3rd ed. Thomas Jackson, 204-59. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1979.

Marshall's numerous biblical texts and arguments against the Calvinist understanding of

predestination and perseverance. A passionate essay.

Eichelberger, William L. 'A Mytho-Historical Approach to the Black Messiah'. *Journal of*

Religious Thought Spring/Summer 76, Vol. 33 Issue 1 (2001): 63-74.

Gunton, Colin E. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: CUP,

1997. Hodgson, Peter C. and Robert H. King (eds). *Christian Theology: An Introduction to Its Traditions and Tasks*. 2nd edn. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Christology: A Global Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 3rd edn. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2001.

Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Its Traditions and Tasks*. 2nd edn. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Tanner, Kathryn. *Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity: A Brief Systematic Theology*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2001.