



BTS Mission:
Providing sound Biblical and practical theological training to equip leaders for Christ's Church.

2200 Briarwood Way • Birmingham, Alabama 35243 • (205) 776-5650

Semester:	Fall 2020	Course:	ST 3531 Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology)
Day & Time:	Thur. 5:30-7:30 pm	Room:	V/C
Professor:	Cooper Pinson	Credits:	2 Hours
E-mail:	jcooperpinson@gmail.com	Phone:	Email Preferred

SPECIAL NOTE: Please read this syllabus thoroughly before the first week of class; note there is reading due the first week. This class will be a bit different than, perhaps, you are used to but is in an effort to help you learn and truly digest the material covered.

Seminar-Style Class Times: In place of lectures, each class will consist of two hours of seminar discussion on the assigned reading for that week. This is in an effort to provide a place where we can all learn through mutual dialogue and interaction. To reflect the weight placed on seminars, the reading list has been expanded. Students are asked to turn in reading checklists before each class, in order to make sure the reading is being done.

Online Tutorials: A little over halfway through term, students are asked to submit to me a writing sample (at least 1,500 words) that reflects where they are going in their research paper. Each student will meet with me online for up to forty-five minutes to discuss both the writing sample and the student's vision for the paper. I will provide any helpful feedback that I can. These personal times will replace the lectures and aim to help students construct the best argument and piece of writing they can.

Research Paper (No Final Exams): There will be no final exam—only a research paper. This is so that the student can focus his or her time solely on reading and writing for the term and present a quality research paper.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Eschatology is the Doctrine of the Last Things. This class is a study concerning the nature and destiny of man following death, together with a consideration of the complexity of events surrounding the Second Coming of Christ, including the question of the millennium, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment and the final state.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Read and reflect critically upon systematic formulations of eschatology.
2. Competently and systematically explain and discuss various eschatological realities and their interdependence, forming a cohesive, overall doctrine of eschatology.
3. Argue and/or explore eschatological doctrines in the form of a final, scholarly research paper.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

Herman, Bavinck. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Vol. 4. *Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation*. Edited by John Bolt. Translated by John Vriend. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. (Part III: The Spirit Makes All Things New, 141 pages)

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993. (Part Six: The Doctrine of the Last Things, 77 pages)

Gaffin, Richard. *Resurrection and Redemption: A Study in Paul's Soteriology*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1987. (All: 143 Pages)

Kline, Meredith G. *God, Heaven and Har Magedon: A Covenantal Tale of Cosmos and Telos*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2006. (All: 293 pages)

Ridderbos, Herman. *The Coming of the Kingdom*. Philadelphia: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company. (All: 539 pages)

Vos, Geerhardus. *The Pauline Eschatology*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1994. (All: 365 Pages)

Total Pages of Reading:

1558. Approx. 100 pages/week (some weeks are much less; some weeks are a bit more)

OTHER SUGGESTED READINGS

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*. Vol 3. *Eighteenth Through Twentieth Topics*.

Edited by James. T. Dennison, Jr. Translated by George Musgrave Giger. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1997.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Vol. 5. *Ecclesiology, The Means of Grace, and Eschatology*. Edited and Translated by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. Bellingham: Lexham Press, 2016.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Reading Checklists: DUE EACH WEEK. Students will simply email me with the reading due that week and a statement saying, “I have read,” or “I have not read.”

Participation in Seminars: Students are required to participate in seminar discussions. Seminars are for students to ask questions of or push back on the readings to one another and myself, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of authors’ arguments, interact critically with the text and doctrines in question, and learn through mutual dialogue and interaction. I will facilitate the seminars but will not be responsible for lecturing during this time.

Online Tutorials: Students are asked to submit a 1500 word writing sample to me a little bit over halfway through term. They will sign up for slots, during which they will meet with me. The online tutorials are a place where I can provide personal help to each student, aiding students in producing the best piece of writing they can.

Final Research Paper: The Final Research Paper is a scholarly argument or exploration on an aspect of eschatology. The paper should be approx. 3,000 words, 8-10 pages. By scholarly, I mean this paper must situate itself within scholarly discussions that are or have gone on. The student must consult scholarly material and must support their own work with it. This is not an opinion piece but must be well researched.

The paper should contain the following constituent parts:

Title page (Must include name and title) (Title page does not count in word count)

Introduction with a thesis sentence stating what you are arguing or exploring

Supporting Evidence in the form of paragraphs and sections

Conclusion

Bibliography in Turabian Style (Bibliography does not count in word count)

For your Bibliography, you must consult and include Five (5) Relevant Commentaries; Five (5) Scholarly Articles; and Five (5) Scholarly Books

Suggested Topics:

The Now/Not-Yet Structure of Eschatology in the Gospels (or one Gospel)
 The Eschatological Spirit in 1 Corinthians
 What Happens to the Soul When the Body Dies?
 A Pre (or Post—, or A—) millennial defense of eschatological realities from the Book of Revelation
 The Spirit and the Resurrected Son as Eschatological Realities

GRADING WEIGHT & COMMENTS

COURSE REQUIREMENT	GRADE WEIGHT	COMMENTS
Reading Checklists	20%	DUE EACH WEEK
Seminar Participation	30%	
Online Tutorials	20%	WRITING SAMPLE (1,500 words) DUE 10/29 TUTORIALS: WEEK OF 11/12
Final Research Paper	30%	DUE 12/17, 11:59PM
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	AGENDA / TOPIC
Thursday Topic: Orientation to Eschatology	9/10	Readings For Seminars Bavinck, 589-663 Berkhof, 661-694 (Individual Eschatology) DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: Orientation to Eschatology	9/17	Readings For Seminars Bavinck, 664-730 Berkhof, 695-738 (General Eschatology) DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday	9/24	Readings For Seminars Ridderbos, Chapters 1-3

Topic: The Gospels		DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: The Gospels	10/1	Readings For Seminars Ridderbos, Chapters 4-5 DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: The Gospels	10/8	Readings For Seminars Ridderbos, Chapters 6-7 DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: The Gospels	10/15	Readings For Seminars Ridderbos, Chapter 8 DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: The Gospels	10/22	Readings For Seminars Ridderbos, Chapter 9-10 DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: Paul	10/29	Readings For Seminars Vos, Chapters 1-5 DUE: READING CHECKLIST DUE: WRITING SAMPLES FOR TUTORIAL
Thursday Topic: Paul	11/5	Readings For Seminars Vos, Chapters 6-9 DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: TUTORIALS	11/12	Finish On Your Own: Vos, Chapters 10-12 NO CLASS TUTORIAL WEEK: STUDENTS TO SIGN UP FOR SPOTS
Thursday	11/19	Readings For Seminars Gaffin, ALL

Topic: Paul		DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: Paul	11/26	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK
Thursday Topic: Paul	12/3	Readings For Seminars Kline, Chapters 1-10 DUE: READING CHECKLIST
Thursday Topic: A Biblical- Theological Approach	12/10	Readings For Seminars Kline, Chapter 11 DUE: READING CHECKLIST
FINAL RESEARCH PAPER		DUE 12/17, BY 11:59PM

BTS FORMAT, STYLE, AND WRITING STANDARDS

BTS has adopted Turabian as the standard form and style for writing formal papers. However, professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. Students should reference Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 9th Edition*. A Turabian Supplement is available through the seminary. Students should also refer to the BTS Student Handbook on academic integrity/plagiarism. Below is a Paper Grading Rubric for formal papers:

A to A-	B to B-	C to C-	D to D-
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Many errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are	Person and format are	Person and format are	Person and format

proper for assignment	inconsistent	not appropriate	are totally inappropriate
Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, overused, under used, or cited in error
Paper completely conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper generally conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper somewhat conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper does not conform to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor and/or seminary office prior to the absence. In the absence of professor approval, a student will be permitted two absences per semester in a course. Tardiness may be recorded and three unexcused tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence. Unexcused absences and tardies exceeding the allowance may result in the student being dropped from the course with an "F" grade.

CLASS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Refer to Student Handbook:

<https://bts.education/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Student-Handbook-2016-Current.pdf>

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. 3 Vols. Edited by John Bolt. Translated by John Vriend. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.

Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013.

Gaffin, Richard B., Jr. *Resurrection and Redemption: A Study in Paul's Soteriology*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1987.

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

Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. 3 Vols. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2008.

Murray, John. *Collected Writings of John Murray*. Vol. 2. *Systematic Theology*. Carlisle: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009.

Ridderbos, Herman. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Translated by John Richard De Witt. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*. 3 Vols. Edited by James T. Dennison, Jr. Translated by George Musgrave Giger. Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing, 1994.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth Trust, 2012.

Vos, Geerhardus. *The Pauline Eschatology*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1990.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos*. Edited by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2001.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Reformed Dogmatics*. 5 Vols. Edited and Translated by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. Bellingham: Lexham Press, 2016.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

Your signature below indicates that you have read this syllabus, understand it, and willing accept the requirements and responsibilities for successfully completing this course.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____