

THEO9404 – The Work of Christ
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Research Doctoral Seminar
Fall 2014

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Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

Core Value -- The primary core value addressed in this course is Doctrinal Integrity. The core value focus for the 2014–15 academic year is Spiritual Vitality.

Core Competencies -- The course will primarily address the competencies of Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

An intensive study of the doctrine of the work of Christ is made through an analysis of the biblical data in the light of historical and contemporary interpretations. A contemporary theological understanding of the work of Christ is developed.

Objectives

By the end of this seminar, students will be able to:

- Understand the varied perspectives in Christian history regarding the work of Christ.
- Be able to articulate a well-informed, biblically-based, and confessionally Baptist description of the doctrine of the work of Christ.
- Read and review primary and secondary literature on the doctrine of the work of Christ.
- Research and write one seminar paper on a theologian or significant view within the doctrine of the work of Christ.
- Provide thoughtful, well-researched critiques of peer research.

Textbooks

Torrance, Thomas F. *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*, ed. Robert. T. Walker. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

One book for review selected from the “Studies” section of the bibliography.

Two systematic theologies selected from the “Surveys” section of the bibliography.

Course Requirements

- **Systematic Summaries and Comparisons on the Work of Christ (10% of grade)**

Each student will present summaries and critiques of two systematic treatments on the doctrine of the work of Christ (to be selected from the “Surveys” section of the bibliography). Each summary should be single-spaced and comprised of the following:

- 1 page which provides a 2–3 sentence biography, outline of the doctrinal presentation, and definitions of the key terms.
- On the back of the page, the student should provide a ½ to 1 page critique of the systematic treatment. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation? Is the treatment proportional, or are particular areas given more or less treatment than is necessary? Is the order of the presentation significant? How does this treatment compare to others, both inside and outside his theological tradition?

- **Book Review #1: *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ* (10% of grade)**

Each student will read and review *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ* and report on a section of the book in the seminar.

- The review should be 4–5 single-spaced pages in length and should include a bibliographic entry, brief biographical data about the author (including dates, degrees, theological tradition, academic positions held, research interests, and significant works), a brief summary, critical analysis, and discussion questions.
- Students will present a section of the book in class.

- **Book Review #2 (20% of grade)**

Each student will read and review a book from the “Studies” section of the bibliography. The review should follow the guidelines for Book Review #1. **20%.**

- **Seminar Paper (50% of grade)**

Each student will prepare and present a research paper on a topic relevant to the seminar and approved by the professors. Papers should be distributed to the members of the seminar in the meeting prior to the scheduled presentation. (Exception: The first set of papers will be due Oct. 1.) For the seminar to be most effective, assignments must be submitted on time.

- Sample paper topics/theologians include (but are not limited to): the extent of the atonement, Jesus' descent into hell, the resurrection of Christ, non-violent atonement, Augustine, Anselm of Canterbury, John Calvin, Martin Luther, Fisher Humphries, Liberation theology, Roman Catholic theology, African Theology, Eastern Orthodox Theology.
- The paper should meet the following guidelines:
 - argue for a thesis, rather than present a summary of a topic or theologian.
 - format according to Turabian's 8th edition.
 - be 25–30 double-space pages (Times New Roman, 12-point font) in length, not including the bibliography or any appendices.
 - utilize at least 30 primary and secondary sources, including at least one article or chapter in a modern language which has not yet been translated into English.

- **Seminar Critiques (10% of grade)**

Each seminar paper will be critiqued by two peers. Accordingly, each student will critique two seminar papers. Each critique will be 1–2 single-spaced pages plus an errata sheet. The critique should highlight both strengths and weaknesses of the paper, focus on substantive biblical-theological issues, and ask critical questions. **10%.**

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to exercise the highest of ethics and integrity in keeping with the character of Christ when completing all assignments, especially regarding the Seminary's standards regarding plagiarism (see NOBTS catalog). The grading scale and attendance requirements will be those outlined in the current *Academic Catalog*. Late work may not be accepted.

Attendance Policy & Class Schedule

Attendance is required for the seminars, which are scheduled to meet on Wednesdays from 8:00–11:50 AM, on the following days (This schedule may be altered slightly according to the number of students in the seminar):

Aug. 20 – Presentations of Systematic Summaries and Comparisons on the Work of Christ

Aug. 27 – Presentations on book selected from “Studies” section of bibliography, pt. 1

Sept. 10 – Presentations on book selected from “Studies” section of bibliography, pt. 2

Sept. 24 – Presentations on Torrance, *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*

Oct. 8 – Seminar Paper Presentations and Critique

Oct. 22 – Seminar Paper Presentations and Critique

Nov. 5 – Seminar Paper Presentations and Critique

Nov. 12 – Seminar Paper Presentations and Critique

Dec. 3 – Seminar Paper Presentations and Critique

Selected Bibliography

Surveys

- Allison, Gregg R. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. 389–429.
- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*, New Combined Ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. 331–412.
- Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. 385–459.
- Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology, Volume 1: God, Authority, and Salvation*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 1982. 1:148–80.
- Boyce, James P. *Abstract of Systematic Theology*. Cape Coral, FL: Founders Press, 2006. 291–340.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2.15–3.1.
- Conner, W. T. *Christian Doctrine*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1937. 167–82.
- Dagg, John L. *Manual of Theology*. Harrisonburg, VA: Gano, 1990. 203–33.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013. 695–768.
- Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2013. 899–922.
- Garrett, James Leo Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, & Evangelical*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. 2:1–122.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Systematic Theology: In One Volume*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2011. 828–41, 923–52.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. 568–633.
- Hobbs, Herschel H. *Fundamentals of our Faith*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1960. 47–50, 77–88.
- Horton, Michael. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims On the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. 483–547.

- Lewis, Gordon R. and Bruce A. Demarest. *Integrative Theology: Three Volumes in One*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. 2:371–496.
- Moody, Dale. *The Word of Truth: A Summary of Christian Doctrine Based on Biblical Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. 366–85.
- Mullins, E. Y. *The Christian Religion in its Doctrinal Expression*. Nashville: Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1917. 303–37.
- Oden, Thomas. *Systematic Theology, Volume 2: The Word of Life*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2006. 279–525.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994. 2:397–464.
- Patterson, Paige. “The Work of Christ.” In *A Theology for the Church*, edited by Daniel L. Akin, 545–602. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2005.
- Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. 1:275–303, 353–413.

Studies

- Cole, Graham A. *God the Peacemaker: How Atonement Brings Shalom*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 25, ed. D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.
- Gibson, Jonathan and David Gibson, ed. *From Heaven He Came and Sought Her: Definite Atonement in Biblical, Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspective*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.
- Hill, Charles E. and Frank A. James III, ed. *The Glory of the Atonement: Biblical, Historical & Practical Perspectives*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.
- Kennedy, Kevin Dixon. *Union with Christ and the Extent of the Atonement in Calvin*. Studies in Biblical Literature 48, ed. Hemchand Gossai. New York: Peter Lang, 2002.
- Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.
- Sanders, John, ed. *Atonement and Violence: A Theological Conversation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006.
- Schultz, Gary L. Jr. *A Multi-Intentioned View of the Extent of the Atonement*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2014.
- Tidball, Derek, David Hilborn, and Justin Thacker, ed. *The Atonement Debate: Papers from the London Symposium on the Doctrine of the Atonement*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Williams, Jarvis J. *For Whom Did Christ Die?: The Extent of the Atonement in Paul's Theology*. Paternoster Biblical Monographs. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster, 2012.

Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God, vol. 3. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

Additional Resources

Allen, David L. "The Atonement: Limited or Universal?" In *Whosoever Will: A Biblical-Theological Critique of Five-Point Calvinism*, edited by David L. Allen and Steve W. Lemke, 61–107. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.

Letham, Robert. *The Work of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

Marshall, I. Howard. *Aspects of the Atonement*. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster, 2007.

Matera, Frank J. *New Testament Christology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1999.

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

Nelson, David P. "The Design, Nature, and Extent of the Atonement." In *Calvinism: A Southern Baptist Dialogue*, edited by E. Ray Clendenen and Brad J. Waggoner, 115–38. Nashville: B&H, 2008.

Stott, John R. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1986.

Waldron, Sam. "The Biblical Confirmation of Particular Redemption." In *Calvinism: A Southern Baptist Dialogue*, edited by E. Ray Clendenen and Brad J. Waggoner, 139–52. Nashville: B&H, 2008.