



**The Work of Christ \* THEO 9404**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Theological & Historical Studies Division**  
**Spring 2022 \* Wednesdays 8:30-11:00 AM**

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### **Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### **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. (**Note:** This seminar was developed in collaboration with Dr. Jeff Riley, with whom I co-taught the seminar in 2014 and 2017, and with helpful input by Dr. Tommy Doughty.)

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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.

### **Required Textbooks**

- Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Christ* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015).
- Thomas F. Torrance, *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*, ed. Robert T. Walker (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009).
- *T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, ed. Adam J. Johnson (London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017).
- Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*. Any edition.
- Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo* (Latin, *Why God became Man*). Any edition.
- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Any edition.
- Set of books selected by the student (see Seminar Requirements).

### Seminar Teaching Methodology

The professor will guide the students to read, summarize, and critique discuss significant primary and secondary sources on the work of Christ. Also, students will select, research, and write original research on a relevant topic; students will benefit from giving to and receiving from their colleagues formal critiques of their research—though the professor assigns the grades.

### Seminar Assignments

I. Summarize and critique relevant portions of two systematic theologies.

II. Read, submit reviews, and discuss:

- Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Christ*.
- Thomas F. Torrance, *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*.
- *T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, ed. Adam J. Johnson. \*18 chapters\*
- Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*; Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo*; and John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* 2.15.1–6.
- Book Set of student's choice.

III. Research Paper:

- Submit and defend one original research paper (6,000-8,000 words + footnotes and bib).
- Critique one colleague's paper (600-1,000 words + errata sheet).

### Evaluation of Grade

The student's seminar grade will be computed as follows:

5% Summary and Critique of Systematic Theology Sections

10% Rutledge book review

10% Torrance book review

10% *T&T Clark Companion* book review

10% Athanasius, Anselm, and Calvin (single, combined review)

15% Book set review

30% Research paper

10% Critique of colleague's papers

### Seminar Decorum

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 are outlined in the current *Academic Catalog*. Please use printed books and printed copies of book reviews and papers for the seminar. Please dress professionally. Late work may not be accepted.

### Seminar Schedule

Attendance (in person or online) is required for the seminars, which are scheduled to meet on Wednesdays from 8:30–11:00 AM, on the following days (This schedule may be altered slightly according to the number of students in the seminar):

Jan. 19	Presentations of <b>Summaries and Critiques of Systematic Theologies</b>
Jan. 26	Presentations of <b>Summaries and Critiques of Systematic Theologies</b> , cont'd
Feb. 2	Rutledge, <i>The Crucifixion</i> review due; book discussion
Feb. 9	Torrance, <i>Atonement</i> review due; book discussion
Feb. 16	<i>T&amp;T Clark Companion to Atonement</i> review due; book discussion

Feb. 23	Athanasius, Anselm, and Calvin (single, combined) review due; book discussion
Mar. 2	Seminar will not meet.
Mar. 9	<b>Research Thesis, ½ page Outline, &amp; Preliminary Bibliography</b> due (no grade assigned); discussion of research problems and resources
Mar. 16	Seminar will not meet.
Mar. 23	<b>Book Set Reviews</b> due; presentations begin
Mar. 30	Book Set Review presentations, cont'd
Apr. 6	TBD
Apr. 13	TBD
Apr. 20	TBD; <b>Seminar Papers</b> due to seminar today by 8:30 AM
Apr. 27	<b>Seminar Paper Presentations and Critiques</b> , pt. 1 (critiques due in seminar)
May 4	Seminar will not meet; <b>Seminar Papers</b> due to seminar today by 8:30 AM
May 11	<b>Seminar Paper Presentations and Critiques</b> , pt. 2 (critiques due in seminar)

### Detailed Instructions for Seminar Assignments

#### Assignment I.

Summarize and critique relevant portions of two systematic theologies. 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 below). Each summary should be 2–3 pages, single-spaced, and be comprised of the following:

- 1–1½ pages which provide a 2–3 sentence biography, an outline of the doctrinal presentation, and definitions of the key terms.
- 1–1½ pages of 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 necessary? Is the order of the presentation significant? How does this treatment compare to others, both inside and outside the author’s theological tradition?

List of Systematic Theologies (including the relevant page numbers):

- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*, New Combined Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996. 331–412.
- Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013. 385–459. (Or relevant section in the second edition.)
- Bloesch, Donald. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology, Volume 1: God, Authority, and Salvation*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1982. 1:148–80.
- Boyce, James P. *Abstract of Systematic Theology*. Cape Coral, FL: Founders Press, 2006. 291–340.
- Conner, W. T. *Christian Doctrine*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1937. 167–82.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: 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, MI: Eerdmans, 1995. 2:1–122.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Systematic Theology: In One Volume*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2011. 828–41, 923–52.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994. 568–633. (Or relevant section in the second edition.)

- Horton, Michael. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims On the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. 483–547.
- Letham, Robert. *Systematic Theology*. Wheaton: IL: Crossway, 2019. 545–94.
- 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, MI: Eerdmans, 1990. 366–85.
- Mullins, E. Y. *The Christian Religion in its Doctrinal Expression*. Nashville, TN: 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, MI: 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, TN: B&H Academic, 2005. (Or relevant section in the second edition.)
- Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996. 1:275–303, 353–413.

### **Assignment II.**

Students will read carefully the assigned works, submit **five reviews** (based on these bulleted groups) by the respective due dates, and be prepared to discuss:

- Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Christ*.
- Thomas F. Torrance, *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*.
- *T&T Clark Companion to Atonement*, ed. Adam J. Johnson. \*Only the 18 chapters\*
- Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*; Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo*; and John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* \*Only 2.15.1–6.\*
- Book Set of Student’s Choice.

The **first four reviews** should be 1,700–2,100 words (single-spaced) and include:

- bibliographic entry (not included in word count)
- brief biographical data about the author/s (including dates, degrees, theological tradition, academic positions held, research interests, and significant works), 100–150 words
- summary, 800–1,000 words
- critical analysis, 800–1,000 words
- set of 3–5 discussion questions (at the end of the review)

Students should be prepared to read their review to the seminar and discuss the day’s reading.

The **fifth review** will be a 6–8 page, single-spaced review of a Book Set selected by the student. Each set includes books that are related thematically. The theme should frame the review. The goal is to engage all the books by bringing them into conversation.

The Book Sets are listed below:

### **The Resurrection of Christ**

- Licona, Michael R. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.
- Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God, vol. 3. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003.

### **Analytic Theology**

Craig, William Lane. *Atonement and the Death of Christ: An Exegetical, Historical, and Philosophical Exploration*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2020.

McCall, Thomas H. *Forsaken: The Trinity and the Cross, and Why It Matters*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Stumpf, Eleonore. *Atonement*. Oxford Studies in Analytic Theology. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

### **The Extent of the Atonement**

Allen, David L. *The Extent of the Atonement: A Historical and Critical Review*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2016.

Gibson, Jonathan and David Gibson, ed. *From Heaven He Came and Sought Her: Definite Atonement in Biblical, Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspective*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.

### **Penal Substitutionary Atonement**

Gathercole, Simon. *Defending Substitution: An Essay on Atonement in Paul*. Acadia Studies in Bible and Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.

Hill, Charles E. and Frank A. James III, ed. *The Glory of the Atonement: Biblical, Historical & Practical Perspectives*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2004.

Humphreys, Fisher. *The Death of Christ*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1978.

Tidball, Derek, David Hilborn, and Justin Thacker, ed. *The Atonement Debate: Papers from the London Symposium on the Doctrine of the Atonement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

### **Atonement and Violence**

Boyd, Gregory A. *The Crucifixion of the Warrior God: Interpreting the Old Testament's Violent Portraits of God in Light of the Cross*. Vol. 1: The Cruciform Hermeneutic. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2017.

Boyd, Gregory A. *The Crucifixion of the Warrior God: Interpreting the Old Testament's Violent Portraits of God in Light of the Cross*. Vol. 2: The Cruciform Thesis. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2017.

Weaver, J. Denny. *The Nonviolent Atonement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.

Please use the guidance below for the Book Set review:

Introductory matters (1–1 ½ pages):

- Information on the authors. What are some of the author's working assumptions (e.g., his or her denominational background, field of research, or view of Scripture)?
- Situate the books together within the thematic context.
- What is the primary contribution of each book (relate theses, aims, approaches)?

Content of the book (2–3 pages)

- Draw out major ideas and arguments in each book and relate to the others
- Using the whole set, elaborate on the theme of the set.

Critical engagement (2–3 pages)

- Major insights communicated by the books—biblical, historical, or philosophical. What points are particularly helpful for understanding the work of Christ? What ideas or arguments find strong biblical, philosophical, and historical support?

- What ideas are interesting, novel, or problematic? What ideas changed or challenged your thinking? How and why?
- What insights practically relate to life and ministry, the life of the church, to the Christian life in other cultures?

#### Conclusion (1 page)

- This portion should conclude the review, not summarize the conclusion of the books.
- Sum up importance and/or liabilities of the books/themes/topics. If one or more books corrects the others or provides more appropriate content or theological formulation for the work of Christ, then highlight the book(s) and describe why it (or they) should be heard rather than another.
- Who should be the primary audience?
- Include a recommendation (or not) based on strengths and weaknesses for each book.

### **Assignment III.**

#### Research Paper & Critique.

- Submit and defend one original research paper (6,000-8,000 words + footnotes and bib).

Each student will prepare and present a research paper on a topic relevant to the seminar, presented to the seminar (see course schedule), and approved by the professor. Papers must be distributed to the members of the seminar the week prior to the scheduled presentation. 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, Christ's descent to hell, the resurrection of Christ, non-violent atonement, the ascent of Christ, or critique of the view of a particular theologian.

The paper should meet the following guidelines:

- ✓ Argue for a thesis rather than presenting only a summary of a topic or theologian's view.
  - ✓ Format the paper according to Turabian and NOBTS style guides (12-point, double-spaced text for the body of the text and footnotes).
  - ✓ Length: 6,000-8,000 words, not including the footnotes, 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.
- Critique one colleague's paper (600-1,000 words + errata sheet).

Each seminar paper will be critiqued by a peer. Accordingly, each student will critique one colleague's seminar paper. Each critique will be 600-1,000 words (single-spaced) plus an errata sheet (as lengthy as needed to address all errors in grammar, style, format, spelling, and content). The critique should highlight both strengths and weaknesses of the paper, focus on substantive biblical-theological issues, and end by asking several critical questions.

## Selected Bibliography

- Allen, David L. *The Atonement: A Biblical, Theological, and Historical Study of the Cross of Christ*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2019.
- Crisp, Oliver D. *Approaching the Atonement: The Reconciling Work of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020.
- Duesing, Jason G. “Humphreys/Patterson—1987: A Southern Baptist Debate on the Atonement.” *Midwestern Journal of Theology* 16.2 (Fall 2017): 112–35.
- Emerson, Matthew Y. *“He Descended to the Dead”: An Evangelical Theology of Holy Saturday*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019.
- Hastings, W. Ross. *Total Atonement: Trinitarian Participation in the Reconciliation of Humanity and Creation*. Lanham, MD: Lexington/Fortress, 2019.
- Johnson, Adam J. *Atonement: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015.
- 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.
- Letham, Robert. *The Work of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: 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.
- McNall, Joshua M. *The Mosaic of Atonement: An Integrated Approach to Christ’s Work*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2019.
- Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1965.
- Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids, MI: 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, TN: B&H, 2008.
- Rathel, Mark. “The Cross and the School of Providence and Prayer: Atonement Controversies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.” *Journal for Baptist Theology & Ministry* 14.2 (Fall 2017): 23–32.
- Shultz, Gary L. Jr. *A Multi-Intentioned View of the Extent of the Atonement*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2014.
- Stott, John R. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1986.
- Tanner, Kathryn. *Christ the Key*. Current Issues in Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Todd, Obbie Tyler. *A Baptist at the Crossroads: The Atonement in the Writings of Richard Furman (1755–1825)*. Monographs in Baptist History. Eugene, OR: 2021.
- Todd, Obbie Tyler. *The Moral Governmental Theory of Atonement: Re-envisioning Penal Substitution*. Re-envisioning Reformed Dogmatics. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2021.
- Treat, Jeremy R. *The Crucified King: Atonement and Kingdom in Biblical and Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.
- 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, TN: B&H, 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.