Course Description

This seminar focuses on the primary themes and fundamental issues shared by both Testaments. Students present papers for formal critique and discussion on relevant topics within the discipline of Biblical Theology. Prerequisites: At least one 600-level NT exegesis course and, for students taking Hebrew, a 600-level OT exegesis course.

Expanded Description

This course is intended to help students develop a Biblically grounded theology for life and ministry and to prepare students for ongoing reading and research in Biblical theology. It focuses on understanding the Bible’s unity and diversity by exploring methodological issues and topics in Biblical theology. Methodologically, the course will especially examine narrative approaches to Biblical theology. Thematically, the course focuses on the following themes in particular: the mission of God, covenant theology, Christology, Pneumatology, Kingdom, Gospel, Soteriology, and Ecclesiology. The course also explores how these themes relate to the Christian life and ministry. Online lectures allow class time on Saturdays to focus on discussion and group work.

Course Prerequisites and Relation to the Curriculum

Pre-requisites: Since this is an advanced, “capstone” course in the curriculum, students will have already taken the two Bible Survey courses, Greek, Hebrew, both OT and NT interpretation courses, and at least one 600 level OT exegesis course. This course is a required part of the Master of Divinity and the Master of Arts degrees in Biblical Studies (Biblical Studies, Old Testament Studies, and New Testament Studies). Be aware that there is an English-based Biblical Theology course, OT/NT517, that is an alternative to this course for students in other degree programs (ones lacking the Biblical languages; both courses should not be taken as they overlap).

The course relates to the mission of Gordon-Conwell to train people in a knowledge of the Bible and the correct use of Scripture. Graduates of the seminary are trained to think Biblically, and, since theological study and ministry practice should always proceed from a Biblical theology, this course carries the charge to prepare students accordingly.

Course Outcomes

The student completing this course of study will:
*acquire a greater knowledge of the Bible, both specific texts and, especially, its unity and diversity
*be able to analyze, evaluate, and critique proposals for Biblical theology from an understanding of hermeneutical and methodological issues
*be able to investigate Scripture theologically in the areas specified in the course description
*be able to apply methods of Biblical theology to other topics
*be able to synthesize several theological themes in Scripture
*be able to identify and explain ways in which Biblical theology relates to the Christian life and to ministry

Course Textbooks/Reading

Students will read approximately 1,750 pages for this course from the following textbooks:


Grams, Rollin. “The Church 1: Mission as Forming Gathered Communities of Christ.” Online at www.bibleandmission.com: https://www.blogger.com/blogger.g?blogID=6624706296388983899#editor/target=post;postID=9144007699581026806;onPublishedMenu=posts;onClosedMenu=posts;postNum=13;src=pathname

Niehaus, Jeffrey. ‘Chapter XX: The Missional Promise and Failure of the Mosaic Covenant.’ In Biblical Theology II. Forthcoming. [Chapter available on course website.] Pages: 19.


Course Requirements and Marking Criteria

The course, beginning with the week of 19 January, consists of the following required components which work together to guide the student’s learning:

- Weekly Reading (books, blogs, online material, ‘handouts’)
- Weekly Online Lectures (narrated PowerPoint lectures, 1 video interview)
- 1 forum post on lectures each week (except for when class meets; Saturday deadline)
- 2 forum posts responding to other students’ posts each week (Tuesday deadline)
- In-Class Discussion and Presentations on 3 weekends

1. Lectures

Lectures function to orient the student to the field of study—Biblical theology. They are intended to guide and demonstrate to students methodological issues as well as to explore certain themes in Biblical theology. Most Saturdays, students will post two or three ‘take-away’ points (presented briefly in bullet-format) from the lectures on the forum. Students are encouraged to read posts by other students and will be required to respond briefly to points identified by at least two other students. Listening to the lectures, posting weekly take-away points, and responding to points posted by two other students are requirements for passing the course.

A student is allowed to delay posting on the forum for one of the weeks in the course (e-mail the professor), but the forum post must be made at some point during the course. This is to allow some flexibility in an adult learning course, given that time for courses is a negotiation with competing responsibilities.

All lectures must be listened to in order to pass the course. Send an e-mail with “Lectures Complete” when this is the case by 2 May.

Grade: Listening to all the lectures is a pass/fail requirement for the course. Forum posts for the lectures and the reading are together worth 30% of the final course grade.
2. Reading

Students are to complete all the reading (between 1,500 and 2,000 pages). They are also to post 2 or 3 learning ‘take-away’ points (presented briefly in bullet-format) from the reading each week on the forum (in addition to the take-away points from the lectures and other students stated above). These may include questions and additional thoughts, and students have the option to dialogue (further dialogue is not required but is possible) with one another on the forum as the course advances. (This helps students see what others are learning, thus helping them to recall, affirm, and expand what they themselves are learning on the course. It also builds relationships in the course.)

Students do not have to reply to other students’ posts about the reading.

All reading must be completed in order to pass the course. Send an e-mail with “Reading for Biblical Theology” in the subject line and state your completion of this part of the course by the 2 May.

Grade: Reading all the required material for the course is a pass/fail grade for the course. See comment under “lectures” regarding forum posts and grades.

3. Essay

Students are to choose 1 of a possible 6 essays and write 2,000 words for the essay (a slight adjustment of 10% above this is allowable).

Style: The essay should be double-spaced and in 12 point font.
Footnotes: Use footnotes for secondary source references or brief explanations or comments only, and these words should not be counted for the essay. Do not include a bibliography. Follow the SBL style for footnotes (see online at: http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/SBLHSrevised2_09.pdf). References to lectures in the essay may simply be by lecturer name and lecture title in a footnote.
Research?: No further research than the student’s reading for this course, listening to the lectures, and the student’s own use of Scripture is requested for these essays. In this way, students will be able to give due reflection on the reading and lectures, as well as his or her own understanding of Scripture, in the essay.

A student’s essay will be posted on the appropriate forums on Sakai for this course so that other students may read and respond to it.

A student may focus the essay topic more narrowly, but some demonstration of broad awareness of the theme/topic in Scripture should feature in part of the essay (e.g., do not just write about Christology in Ephesians even if this is a focus in the essay). Be sure to clarify the exact focus of the essay in the introduction. The essay descriptions demonstrate how to handle the topics for Biblical theology.
The essay is worth 30% of the final grade. It is due on the 14th of March.

**Essay Descriptions and Directions:**

Students will choose 1 essay topic on which to write and will write 1 reply to another student who wrote on a different essay topic. As the essay is due the 2nd Saturday that the class meets—on 14 March, a student choosing essay 4, 5, or 6 will need to read ahead of the course schedule. Part of the second class meeting on the 14th of March will involve discussion of these topics.

**Essay 1:** What strengths and weaknesses are there in arguing that ‘covenant’ is the best way to explore the unity of Scripture? For this essay, use Niehaus (book and article), Pate et al., and Wright (ch. 10: ‘The Span of God’s missional Covenant’) in particular from the course reading, as well as the lectures. In a concluding paragraph or two, consider the helpfulness of this study of the unity of Scripture/covenant theology for (your?) Christian ministry.

**Essay 2:** Wright argues that certain Biblical books do not merely have a missional theme but that mission is something that runs throughout the books of the Bible—it is a roadmap through any journey through the Bible. Critically examine Wright’s statement that Biblical theology is missional—not a ‘Biblical theology of mission’ but ‘missional Biblical theology’? Engage whether there is a center to Scripture, whether ‘mission’ offers a more helpful synthesis of Scripture than other suggestions (such as covenant, kingdom), and where the weak parts of Wright’s suggestion arise. In a concluding paragraph or two, consider the helpfulness of this study for (your?) Christian ministry. Use the texts by Chris Wright, Pate et al., and Niehaus (book and article).

**Essay 3:** On what grounds does Bauckham argue that the earliest Christians held the highest Christology? Pay particular attention to the use of the Old Testament in early Christian Christology, and make clear reasons for your agreement or disagreement with Bauckham. Also use ch. 4 of Wright for this essay.

**Essay 4:** With reference to essays in Burke and Warrington, what is the relationship between the New Testament and the Old Testament in what the early Church taught about the Holy Spirit?

**Essay 5:** What is the Gospel according to Paul? What is the Old Testament basis for Paul’s understanding of the Gospel? What is the relationship between Jesus, his message of the Kingdom, and Paul’s Gospel? In a paragraph or two, reflect on how this study of the Gospel helps you think through how to share the Gospel in your context of ministry (e.g., cross-culturally, to a certain age group, to people in different life situations, etc.). For this essay, use Grams.

**Essay 6:** What is the Church? Focus this essay on the Church as God’s holy people or the Church as God’s missional people. Who are God’s people? What are they to do? What is the relationship between Israel and the Church? In a concluding paragraph or two, consider the helpfulness of this study on the Church for (your?) Christian ministry—how does this study help
to form some of your views on the local church? Use the text by Goheen and chs. 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15 in Wright.

4. Response to Another Student’s Essay

Students will post one written response of about 500 words to another student’s essay. The essay must be on a different topic from the one on which the student him/herself wrote.

The response will be posted on the course forum. Students are expected to read responses to their own essays and may read and comment on any others as well. The response should be about 500 words (give or take 10%).

Due: The response is due by the 21st March.
Grade: The response is worth 10% of the final grade.

5. Group Presentation and Responses

On the last day of class, students will present a group lecture on one of the following Biblical theological topics:

- Mission of God
- The Church
- The Divinity of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit
- Covenant Theology
- Pauline Soteriology

Groups will be formed in the first class meeting. In the first and second weekends of the class, students will have time for planning, discussion, and some research together in preparation for the final group presentation. The group presentation on the third weekend should show concern for methodology in Biblical theology, involve exegesis of key texts, demonstrate some additional research beyond the reading in this course, use handouts, involve a solid 50 minutes of lecture, include 30 minutes of questions and answers with the rest of the class, and offer a good overview of the topic.

Due: 18 April

Grade: 30% of final grade for the course. Each student will be asked to self-grade his or her own participation in the group presentation as a component of the final grade. Other students will participate in the grading of the group presentations. Thus, the grading involves:

- The grading by individuals in the class of the group’s presentation
- The grading of the professor of the group’s presentation
- The self-grade of each student in the group of his/her contribution to the presentation
Course Marking:

Grading rubrics will be provided on the course website to guide students in the assignments.

Summary of Course Requirements and Percentages for Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listening to Lectures, Forum Activity</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading, Forum Activity</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to Another Student’s Essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum Posts</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Meaning of Letter Grades for the Course

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<thead>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>Fine Work, Just Above Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
<td>Good, Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>Slightly below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>Satisfactory for passing, although below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
<td>satisfactory for graduate level work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-71%</td>
<td>satisfactory for graduate level work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
<td>Pass, although inadequate work at the graduate level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67%</td>
<td>satisfactory for graduate level work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>satisfactory for graduate level work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Outline

Overview:

Note: As this course is being developed for the first time for the fall of 2014, the course outline may still be changed. The following is a general outline for the course.

The course presents Biblical theology in historical-narrative terms. These narratives, it is argued, fit within a metanarrative of Scripture that is missional: God takes on the task of revealing His divine identity in a world in which this is difficult. One level of the Biblical story is personal: the story of individuals within God’s story. The next level of the Biblical story is corporate: the story of the people of God among the nations within God’s story. The third level of the Biblical story is cosmic and temporal: the apocalyptic narrative of heaven and earth, this age and the age to come.
I. Introduction: Approaches to Biblical Theology (Pate et al.)

II. Missional Biblical Theology: The Missio Dei in the Old and New Testaments (Wright)

III. Covenantal Biblical Theology: God and His People in the Old and New Testaments (Niehaus)

IV. Christological Biblical Theology: The Redeemer in the Old and New Testament (Bauckham)

V. Pneumatological Biblical Theology: The Spirit and God’s Empowering Presence (Burke and Warrington)

VI. Evangelical Biblical Theology: Kingdom, Gospel, and Salvation in the Old and New Testament (Grams)

VII. Ecclesiastical Biblical Theology: The People of God in the Old and New Testament (Goheen)

Detailed Course Outline and Dates

Personal Introductions: Week of 19th January: Post brief introduction to class on course website (name, family, place, ministry/work, church connections, future plans)—written or video.

I. Introduction: Approaches to Biblical Theology (Weeks 1 and 2; 19-24, 26-31 January)

Section 1 Overview
This introductory section of the course covers matters of history, scholarship, and method for Biblical theology. A particular focus on narrative Biblical theology is offered in the lectures and, especially, through the first textbook to read in the course (Pate et al.).

Learning Objectives
*to understand what Biblical theology is
*to have a basic understanding of some of the history, scholarship, and issues in Biblical theology
*to understand a narrative approach to Biblical theology
*to be able to articulate the Biblical theology of Pate et al. so as to have something to compare throughout the course as other authors are read

Lectures:
Lesson 1: Bases for Biblical Theology (49 minutes)
Lesson 2: What is Biblical Theology? (1 hour, 17 minutes)
Part 1
Part 2
Lesson 3: Introduction to Narrative Biblical Theology (52 minutes narrated)
Lesson 4: Metanarrative in Scripture (1 hour, 40 minutes narrated)

Part 1
Part 2
Part 3
Part 4

Reading:

Rollin Grams,
*“Issues Facing Missions Today 17: Six Uses and Misuses of Scripture in Leadership Studies.”* Online at [www.bibleandmission.com](http://www.bibleandmission.com):
[https://www.blogger.com/blogger.g?blogID=6624706296388983899#editor/target=post;postID=506056585498044896;onPublishedMenu=posts;onClosedMenu=posts;postNum=10;src=pathname]

*Working ahead?:* Begin reading Chris Wright (see chapters listed in Section 2).

II. Missional Biblical Theology: The Missio Dei in the Old and New Testaments (Weeks 3 and 4; 2-7, 9-14 February; Class on 14 February)

Description:
This section of the course takes up the somewhat recent idea in Biblical theology that ‘mission’ is a helpful way to understand the unity of not only the New Testament but also the Old Testament and the relationship between the Testaments—Biblical Theology. The focus in this section will be reading (most) of Chris Wright’s very readable and exciting book, The Mission of God. You will be able to compare this to Pate et al. from the first section of the course.

Learning Objectives
*to study Biblical Theology through the lens of mission (the Old Testament in particular), particularly through Chris Wright’s book The Mission of God
*to grasp an understanding of the character of God through Wright’s The Mission of God
*to understand how Chris Wright uses a narrative approach to Biblical theology along with other approaches (particularly ‘covenant,’ which we’ll take up in the next section, and ‘great texts’—notice which OT passages are often in focus).
*to be able to compare the views of Pate et al. to Chris Wright’s similar work, especially with attention to the Old Testament
*to see how certain Old Testament texts were used by the early Church in regard to its mission; specifically, to see how texts about the nations were used for a mission to the Gentiles and how certain Psalms (2, 8, and 110) were used to understand Jesus and his mission (especially in Ephesians).
Lectures:
OT Mission Theology, Pt. 1 (44 minutes narrated)
OT Mission Theology, Pt. 2 (30 minutes narrated)
God and Mission in the OT: The Nations in God’s Plan (29 ½ minutes)
Peace Among the Nations (36 minutes)
Paul’s Mission Goals & Methods and the Gospel (1 hour and 5 minutes narrated)

Reading:
Chris Wright, The Mission of God (read chs. 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, and 15)
Jeffrey Niehaus, ‘Chapter XX: The Missional Promise and Failure of the Mosaic Covenant’

III. Covenantal Biblical Theology: God and His People in the Old and New Testaments
(Weeks 5 and 6; 16-21, 23-28 February)

Description:
In Section III of Biblical Theology, we turn to an examination of “Covenant” as a means to explore unity and diversity in the Scriptures. American Evangelicalism saw a divide between a Dispensational approach to the Bible, which emphasizes diversity in the Bible, and a Reformed approach that emphasizes the covenants and their continuity, from Adam and Eve (a creation covenant—although some do not consider this a covenant) to Abraham, Moses (Israel), David, and then the promised New Covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. (Note: wider academic scholarship does not interreact with Dispensationalism as a legitimate option to consider.) We are not giving much space in this course to Dispensationalism, but for some of us it lies in the background of this discussion. Rather, this section explores the possibility of a Covenantal Biblical Theology.

You will explore Covenant Biblical Theology in your reading of Jeff Niehaus’s (a professor at Gordon-Conwell) recent book on the subject. The lecture most connected to this is the brief “Themes in Genesis” lecture, which is intended to broaden our focus from covenant to other themes in the narrative of Genesis. Narrative and Covenant, of course, overlap considerably and should not be seen as opposed approaches. Yet they can yield slightly different emphases, and you are asked to consider this issue as you proceed through this section.

Also in this section you will have lectures on OT Biblical Theology and NT Biblical Theology. The purpose of these lectures is to put you in the midst of scholarship so that you can get a sense of where discussions have gone in a broad sense for a course such as ours. You have, by this point, already engaged questions of methodologies and alternative proposals in Biblical theology, so these lectures will just locate your thinking in academic world a little more.

Objectives:
- To be able to define and explain the Covenantal approach to Biblical Theology.
- To understand methodological issues in Biblical Theology as it relates to Covenant theology, particularly in regard to approaches emphasizing narrative and mission (even though these are not mutually exclusive).
• To be able to locate the reading you have done so far in broader, Biblical Theology scholarship, particularly OT Biblical Theology and NT Biblical Theology.
• To articulate your own understanding and interact with another student on a certain issue in Biblical theology.
• To reflect on our relationship with God through the lens of Biblical covenants.

Lectures:

• Themes in Genesis
• Old Testament Biblical Theology
• New Testament Biblical Theology

Reading:
Jeffrey Niehaus, Biblical Theology, Vol. 1

IV. Christological Biblical Theology: The Redeemer in the Old and New Testament (Weeks 6 and 7; 2-7, 9-14 March; class on 14 March)

Description:

In this section, we will explore several issues in Biblical Christology. In particular, we will have in focus the question of the New Testament’s relation to the Old Testament in Christology. This relates to the questions of how the early Church came to see Jesus as participating in the divine identity, as Richard Bauckham phrases it, and whether there was a development from a low to a high Christology during the first century. The handout will be used to explore further the relationship between Jesus’ passion and the Old Testament.

Objectives:

• To explore the idea of “development” or even “evolution” of doctrine in Scripture for Biblical theology on this topic
• To identify key Old Testament texts and understand issues of interpretation for the early Church’s theological reflection on Jesus
• To understand the importance of functional, ontological, and “divine identity” approaches to Christology
• To develop facility in explaining the orthodox Christian view on Jesus’ identity for ministry, particularly claims as to his divinity in relation to Jewish monotheism

Lectures:

• Jesus’ Narrative and Intertextual Self-Understanding
• Christological Titles in OT and Jewish Backgrounds
• New Testament Christology

Reading:
Richard Bauckham, Jesus and the God of Israel
Handout: ‘The Old Testament and the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Exaltation of Jesus’


Section Overview:

One normally does not think of the ‘Holy Spirit’ as a unifying theme in the Old and New Testaments. Yet there is a renewed interest in the Holy Spirit in theology and in Biblical studies. In this section, we are particularly interested in the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. Is there a different understanding of the Holy Spirit in the two Testaments? Does Pentecost usher in a new era of the Spirit for the Church and for Christian ethics? How does the Spirit relate to Christian life, ministry, and the Church today? You might note that this section also fulfills a goal of examining the Triune God in Biblical theology, for earlier sections brought out a focus on God: his mission, character, and covenants. We then looked at the second person of the Trinity in both Testaments, and now this section focuses on the Spirit.

Objectives:

* Articulate the unity and diversity in the Old and New Testaments on the Holy Spirit.
* Be able to discuss the Holy Spirit in Scripture in regard to certain Biblical themes, such as eschatology, mission, and ethics.
* Be able to understand the role of the Holy Spirit and critique contemporary perspectives on the Holy Spirit in the Christian life, ministry, and the Church.

Lectures:

- The Spirit in the OT
- The Spirit in the NT

Reading:


Read 168 pages out of the 268 pages, as follows:
- David Firth, ‘The Historical Books,’ pp. 12-23
- Craig Bartholomew, ‘The Wisdom Literature,’ pp. 24-33
- James Robson, ‘Ezekiel,’ pp. 57-70
- Martin Clay, ‘The Book of the Twelve,’ pp. 71-83
- Keith Warrington, ‘The Synoptic Gospels,’ pp. 84-103
- Trevor Burke, ‘Romans,’ pp. 129-145
- James D. G. Dunn, ‘Galatians,’ pp. 175-186
- Max Turner, ‘Ephesians,’ pp. 187-197
- William Atkinson, ‘1 Corinthians,’ pp. 146-159
- John Thomas, ‘Revelation,’ pp. 257-266
VI. Evangelical Biblical Theology: Kingdom, Gospel, and Salvation in the Old and New Testaments (Weeks 11 and 12; 6-11, 13-18 April; class on 18 April)

Description
This section explores three related subjects: the Kingdom of God/Heaven, the Gospel in Paul, and Paul’s soteriology. As for the rest of this course, the focus in the Synoptic Gospels and Paul is a starting point to investigate not only those parts of the canon but also the relationship with other parts of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. A major goal in this section is to see that these notions are connected. Another goal is to understand what the Kingdom, Gospel, and salvation are all about—no small undertaking of no small importance for the believer and minister! This module includes one lecture on the Kingdom, reading on the Gospel, and an outline of salvation terms in Paul that should launch students into significant discussion on the forum for the course.

Objectives
- To understand the relationship between Jesus’ Kingdom message and the OT
- To understand the relationship between Jesus’ Kingdom message and the Early Church’s Gospel
- To understand the meaning of the Kingdom of God/Heaven in the Synoptic Gospels
- To understand the content of the Gospel according to Paul
- To understand the diverse terms and their OT background for salvation in Paul

Lectures:
- Jesus and Paul: Kingdom and Gospel

Reading:
Grams, According to My Gospel
Handout: Paul’s Soteriological Terms

VIII. Ecclesiastical Biblical Theology: The People of God in the Old and New Testament (Weeks 13 and 14; 20-25 April, 27 April-2 May)

Description:
In this final theme of our course, we focus on the people of God—the people of Israel (OT) and the Church (NT). We will be reading a work by Michael Goheen that will connect the Old and New Testaments together on this theme and connect the theme of the people of God to mission. There is also, instead of a lecture, a video interview (1-2 hours) with Dr. Steve Klipowicz, Director of Ministry Formation a professor in Practical Theology, on the theme of the Church, with a focus on both Ephesians and the current situation of ecclesiology and ecclesiastical practice in America. We intentionally end this course with such an interview in order to make the connection between Biblical theology and ministry practice.

Objectives:
- To explore the unity and diversity of the Old and New Testaments on the theme of the people of God, Israel and the Church.
- To explore the connectivity of ecclesiology with other Biblical theological themes, particularly mission.
- To engage Biblical ecclesiology with current thoughts and practices of the Church in North America.

**Video Discussion:** Ecclesiastical Biblical Theology with Dr. Steve Klipowicz (1 hour and 30 minutes)

**Reading:**
Rollin Grams, “The Church 1: Mission as Forming *Gathered* Communities of Christ,”
Online: https://www.blogger.com/blogger.g?blogID=6624706296388983899#editor/target=post;postID=9144007699581026806;onPublishedMenu=posts;onClosedMenu=posts;postNumber=13;src=pathname

**Bibliography**

A bibliography for Biblical Theology is posted on the Course website.
Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures [they will for this course]. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancellation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

Returned Work
Submitted course work will be returned to the student provided s/he provides a self-addressed and postage paid envelope with his/her final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed once the grade has been assessed and issued.

Since the exegesis paper is submitted electronically, only comments and not the paper will be sent to the student once everything is graded.