TH 607 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY III

Spring Term, 2016

Thursdays, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-Noon

Introduction:

TH 607 is a continuation of TH 605 and includes a study of the doctrines of salvation, the Christian life, the church, sacraments, and eschatology. The goals of the course are to study the biblical foundations of these doctrines; to understand them in the context of their historical development; and to understand their application to the various ministries of the church and to worship, personal discipleship, and spiritual formation. The instructor will also provide bibliographic help for further study.

These course goals are believed to be in keeping with the stated goals of the Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement: to increase knowledge of the Word of God (Art.1); to cultivate spiritual maturity (Art.4; see also the scripture meditation assignments below); to promote an effective evangelical presence in church and society (Art.5); and to cultivate a vision for God's redemptive work throughout the world (Art.6; see topics on mission of the church and eschatology).

Textbooks:


John Jefferson Davis, Christ's Victorious Kingdom (ISBN 9780974236520)

___________________, Handbook of Basic Bible Texts (ISBN 0310437113)

___________________, Meditation & Communion with God (ISBN 9780830839766)

___________________, Practicing Ministry in the Presence of God

Requirements:
I. Sustain a final exam (Thursday, April 28th)

3. Complete “Scripture Meditation” assignment: due April 28th

4. Write a personal statement of faith (12-15 pages; due Thursday, April 28th)

Evaluation

For the final evaluation, the statement of faith will count one half, and the Final + Scripture Meditation assignment will count one half.

Grade Scale:

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 88-89; B = 83-87; B- = 80-82;

C+ = 78-79; C = 73-77; C- = 70-72; D = 65-69; F = 0-64.

Order of Course Topics:

1. Introduction to Course; Calling and Regeneration [E: 42; 44]

2. Faith, Repentance, Justification [E:45; Meditation: chpts.1-3; PMPG, 1,2]

3. Adoption; Sanctification [E:47; Meditation: chpt.4; PMPG, 6]

4. Predestination [E:43; Meditation: chpt.5]

5. Gifts of the Spirit; Perseverance [E:39-41; 47,48; Meditation: chpts. 6,7]

6. Doctrine of the Church [E: 49-51; PMPG, 3,5]

7. Meaning, Mode, Subjects of Baptism [E:52; PMPG, 10]

8. Theology of Worship; Lord’s Supper [E:53; PMPG, 8,9]

9. Millennial Views; Postmillennialism [E:54-57; Davis, CVK]

10. The Eternal State; Heaven, Hell, New Creation [E: 58; PMPG, 14,15]

11. April 28th: Final Exam; Statement of Faith & Meditation Assignment due:

Collateral Readings
Systematic Theologies:

K. Barth, *Church Dogmatics*

L. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*

D. Bloesch, *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*

C. Hodge, *Systematic Theology*

F. Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics*

A. H. Strong, *Systematic Theology*

H. O. Wiley, *Christian Theology*

Topical Studies:

I. Holy Spirit


II. Salvation


Westcott, 1970.


III. Scripture


IV. Church and Sacraments


Cunningham, W., *Discussions on Church Principles*, T. and T. Clark, 1863.


_____________, *The Eucharistic Words of Jesus*, Allenson, I966.


V. Eschatology


____________, *Crucial Questions About the Kingdom of God*, Eerdmans, 1952.


Scripture Meditation Assignment:

1. **Text Selection:**

   It is suggested that you choose a text from among the following: Psalm 23; Jn.1:1-18; Jn.10:1-18 (Good Shepherd); Jn.15:1-17 (True Vine); Jn.17:20-26 (High Priestly Prayer); Matt.17:1-9 (Transfiguration; cf. 2Cor.3:17,18); Eph.1:1-23; Rom.8:1-17 (Spirit & Sonship); Matt.3:13-17 (Baptism of Jesus); Lk.15 (Prodigal Son). You may, however, choose another extended text that is meaningful to you; or, perhaps, the “Jesus Prayer” (“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”).

   Text(s) selected: _______________________________________________

2. **Text Meditation:**

   Your assignment is to meditate on your chosen text for at least 20 minutes a day for five days. Indicate below the month/day that you fulfilled this assignment:

   Days completed: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

   It is suggested that you follow the following classic pattern of *lectio divina* reading: first, place yourself in the presence of God and ask for the illumination of the Holy Spirit; second, reflect in a leisurely and contemplative way on the text for at least 20 minutes; third, thank God for any insights or “touches” received; fourth, reflect again on the text and any insights received at some later time during the day.

3. **Text Reflection:**

   Report below on your reflections on the text and this exercise in biblical meditation. What new insights, if any, did you receive? Did you have any trouble concentrating? How was this different from your previous patterns of scripture study and devotion?
Name: ______________________________________________________________