

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
AGTS West @ Sacramento Branch
BTHE 529 FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL THEOLOGY
(3 credits)

Rev. Glen Davis
Glen.davis@gmail.com

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 6-10 p.m.
Capital Christian Center, Room S-10
Summer, 2008

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the discipline of biblical theology. The methodology, benefits and limitations of Biblical theology will be explored, especially as compared to systematic theology. The course includes an examination of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures and the unity and diversity of the biblical revelation. Significant time will be spent examining the dominant themes of the Bible. The course will have a particular focus on using insights from Biblical theology ministry.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, you should

1. Be able to explain the discipline of biblical theology and distinguish it from systematic or historical theology.
2. Understand the vital role that Biblical theology plays in validating Pentecostalism.
3. Be able to identify and extract themes from a whole book of a Bible (and in some cases the whole corpus of a prolific author).
4. Preach with greater Biblical insight.

TEXTBOOKS

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture: The Application of Biblical Theology to Expository Preaching*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000. 264 pages. This short book emphasizes that the unity of the Bible is found in Christ and that every sermon must also find its locus in Him. Very practical. He comes from a Reformed Anglican position.

Marshall, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004. 714 pages. Comes from a Methodist Arminian position. You will only have to read pages 17-56, 129-206, 305-343, 420-490, and 567-704 for class (361 pages).

Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984. 90 pages. This slim volume is an excellent example of doing Biblical theology. It studies the Lukan contribution to pneumatology from a Pentecostal perspective.

Waltke, Bruce, with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. 960 pages. Comes from a

Reformed perspective. Very readable. You will only have to read pages 1-511 plus one additional chapter for class.

These books total to approximately 1,250 pages. If you have already read any of these books, choose a replacement from the bibliography of similar page length. It is a violation of academic policy to include in the required reading any books previously read for credit.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Session Requirements

For each session, you will have assigned readings as well as a one-page paper due. Keep to the one-page limit. Anything between 85% of a page and 100% of a page is acceptable. Keeping to a single page does not mean that you have to be superficial; rather, it means that you must think deeply so that you can write clearly. Don't procrastinate on this - a quality single-page paper is much more difficult to write than a 3-5 page paper. The purpose of this assignment is to cultivate brevity and clarity. Your paper may be distributed to other students.

As far the reading assignments go, you should order the books and **begin reading as soon as you receive this syllabus**. Waiting until the class is in session will result in needless late nights.

Session #1: Thursday, May 1

Assignments Due

1. *Read Waltke & Yu pages 9-169.*
2. *Read Marshall pages 17-47 and 707-731.*
3. *Read Goldsworthy pages xi-30.*
4. *Read Schreiner pdf pages 9-15.* Tom Schreiner has written a New Testament theology (forthcoming) with a different approach which he explains in this pre-publication excerpt. You can download this file from the course webpage or just email glen.davis@gmail.com to get a copy.
5. *Write a one-page initial perspective on biblical theology.* The textbooks have different approaches to biblical theology. Define and defend your own; it does not need to be one of the methods espoused in the texts. If you feel biblical theology is a fundamentally-flawed approach you may critique the entire concept.

Discussion Focus

- What is biblical theology and how does it compare to systematic theology?
- What are the limits of biblical theology?
- How does this matter for ministry?
- Old Testament example: Pentateuch with an eye on the Primeval History (Gen 1-11)

Session #2: Thursday, May 8

Assignments Due

1. *Read Marshall pages 51-56, 129-206, 305-343, 420-490, and 567-704.*

2. *Write a one-page response to Marshall.* Pick one aspect of Marshall's work and respond to it by either disagreeing with it or by extending it. You'll have to select a very narrow slice of Marshall's work to fit it onto one page.

Discussion Focus

- Theology of Paul
- Theology of John

Session #3: Thursday, May 15

Assignments Due This Day

1. *Read Stronstad.*
2. *Write a one-page response to Stronstad.* Assess Stronstad's argument for subsequence and agree or disagree with it.

Discussion Focus

- Theology of Luke
- The role of biblical theology in Pentecostal identity

Session #4: Thursday, May 22

Assignments Due

1. *Finish Waltke & Yu through page 511, plus one additional chapter of your choice.*
2. *Write a one-page response to Waltke & Yu.* Pick one aspect of their work and respond to it by either disagreeing with it or by extending it.

Discussion Focus

- Old Testament theology and Christian ministry
- Various themes in the Old Testament

Session #5: Thursday, May 29

Assignments Due

1. *Finish Goldsworthy.*
2. *Write a one-page response to Goldsworthy.* Pick one aspect of his work and respond to it by either disagreeing with it or by extending it.
3. *Submit the Reading Report.*

Discussion Focus

- Making it practical: How should we preach? How should we counsel? How should we evangelize?

Post-Session (Articulating a response to the issues)

Write a 20-25 page paper using one of the methodologies presented in class. This paper must draw on the readings and class sessions, but is not limited to these resources. Conclusions must be derived from Scripture, and should demonstrate sound biblical exegesis and biblical theology. You may either analyze the theology of one book of the Bible or of one author, or you may pick a narrow theme and synthesize the entire biblical teaching on it.

All written work is to be formatted according to the *Turabian* style manual 6th edition. Writing from previous academic work may not be recycled.

Post-session project due date: August 1, 2008

- Please mail your paper postmarked on or before August 1st to
Rev. Glen Davis
908 Middle Ave., Apt E
Menlo Park, CA 94025
- Please do not use email. I will have to print it anyway in order to make notes on it.
- All papers should include a cover sheet with title, course information, name, address, and email.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Expectations are high. An “A” is awarded for excellent work, a “B” for a good effort; a “C” is marginal, etc. Grading is a composite of points earned in each phase of the course:

Required Reading	20 points*
Class Participation	10 points (this includes both attendance and engagement)
One Page Papers	20 points (each is worth 4 points)
<u>Post-Session Project</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total	100 points

Post Session Project Grading:

1. *Compelling*
Are the major assertions clear, specific, adequately supported, and well organized? **20 points**
 2. *Insightful*
Are the ideas in the paper important and substantial, being the product of high-quality reflective thinking with clear ministry application? **20 points**
 3. *Professional*
Is the writing clear, grammatical, and consistent with Turabian? **10 points**
- Total: 50 points**

*Completion of the reading is required to receive a passing grade.

Grade Scale

- 92+ points = A
- 82+ points = B
- 72+ points = C, etc.

Late Work

Any participant may have a two-week extension simply by requesting it. After that, the maximum paper grade will decline by one letter grade for each week beyond the extended due date.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (SOME ANNOTATED)

- Alexander, T., and Brian Rosner. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 2000. 778 pages. Different from most theological dictionaries because it is meant to be read (as opposed to merely serving as a reference). The three sections are an introductory set of essays on Biblical theology, an overview of sections of the Bible (Pentateuch, Pauline letters, etc) from a biblical-theological perspective, and a closing set of essays on dominant themes in the Bible. The section on closing themes is excellent but suffers from typical evangelical blind spots (it doesn't have much to say about justice, for example).
- Childs, Brevard. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993. 745 pages. A liberal theologian who nonetheless respects the Bible and insists that it be taken on its own terms. Must reading if you intend to pursue an academic career.
- Fee, Gordon D. *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. 1996. 992 pages. This is an excellent example of doing biblical theology on the entire corpus of an author. Fee examines every verse in which Paul discusses the Holy Spirit and then synthesizes his findings. Fee is Pentecostal.
- Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology: Israel's Gospel (Volume 1)*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003. 940 pages.
- Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology: Israel's Faith (Volume 2)*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press 2006. 891 pages. These two volumes (part of an as-yet incomplete trilogy) are long and rambly and full of insights. Goldingay is an Episcopal professor at Fuller.
- Hafemann, Scott, and Paul House. *Central Themes in Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007. 336 pages.
- House, Paul. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998. 655 pages. One of the standard evangelical OT volumes. House is a Baptist.
- Kaiser, Walter. *The Promise-Plan of God: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. 400 pages.
- Ladd, George. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. 778 pages. This is the evangelical standard in New Testament theologies. It's over 30 years old and holds up very well. The '93 revised edition adds some chapters posthumously to address some gaps in the original.
- Mead, James. *Biblical Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. 328 pages.
- Robertson, O. Palmer. *Christ of the Covenants*. Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 1981. 304 pages.
- Stuhlmacher, Peter. *How to Do Biblical Theology*. Allison Park: Pickwick Publications, 1995. 138 pages.
- Thielman, Frank,. *Theology of the New Testament: A Canonical and Synthetic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. 800 pages. Reformed.
- Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology*. City: Banner of Truth, 1996. 436 pages. Vos is considered the father of Reformed Biblical theology.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Glen Davis on March 2, 2008.

BTHB 529 Foundations of Biblical Theology
Rev. Glen Davis, professor

Reading Report

Name: _____

Please verify the books from the assigned “Required Textbook List” which you have read in preparation for this course. (Where substitutions have been made, note accordingly. Total pages read should be approximately 1,250.) *This form is to be turned in on the last day of the course.*

A question that frequently comes up – what counts as reading? You have read a book when you have comprehended the author’s argument and assessed his or her supporting evidence. Sometimes that requires reading word for word, and sometimes skimming suffices. This is particularly true when reading commentaries and other reference works. Successfully completing graduate school requires that you learn when each reading style is appropriate.

Author	Title	Pages read
Goldsworthy	<i>Preaching The Whole Bible...</i>	_____
Marshall	<i>New Testament Theology</i>	_____
Stronstad	<i>The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke</i>	_____
Waltke & Yu	<i>An Old Testament Theology</i>	_____
Substitute:		_____
Substitute:		_____
Total number of pages read		_____

Are there any textbooks you recommend that we use in the future?

Are there any books we used that you wish we had not used? (will not affect your grade)

Signature