

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry
PTH 902 *Biblical Theology and Ministry*
Core Course 2, June 3-7, 2002
Benny C. Aker, PhD

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Selected texts related to issues in ministry will be addressed from the perspectives of exegesis and biblical theology for the purpose of developing a personal theology of ministry.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

The following objectives and outcomes will be realized in the context of a vigorous Pentecostal & charismatic evaluation of Scripture:

Cognitive Outcomes

1. The participant will consider current approaches to doing biblical theology.
2. The participant will reflect on their awareness of current interpretive methods.
3. The participant will formulate analytical responses to pertinent theological issues facing Pentecostal leaders today.

Character/Attitude Outcomes

1. The participant will internalize values and themes significant to Christian ministry leaders through biblical exegesis and theological reflection.
2. The participant will enhance personal understanding and appreciation of the biblical text.
3. The participant will more profoundly manifest a life and ministry commensurate with biblical principles.

Skill Outcomes

1. The participant will develop or enhance interpretative skills, enabling a serious engagement of genre, literary, and social science techniques of analysis.
2. The participant will integrate theology into daily life and ministry.
3. The participant will consider several biblical/theological insights in church life and identify how they can be integrated into the practice of ministry.

III. SESSION OUTLINE

During the week-long class session the following outline will be followed:

I. Monday Through Thursday Noon

1. Introduction
2. Preparedness for Biblical Theology and Interpretation: DMin Project and Later Ministry
 - Current Interpretative Methods reflected in Commentaries and Other Preaching and Ministry Tools
 - Current Biblical Theological Issues for Ministry Foundation
 - Foundational Bibliography

3. Overcoming an Exegetical Fallacy: Starting Again (Consult “*Charismata: Gifts, Enablements, or Ministries?*” a paper posted on Aker’s AGTS web site)
 - A Stable Theology of the Church: Romans and Beyond
 - Spiritual Ministries: A Stable Theology of Ministry: Romans and Beyond
4. Spiritual Formation and Confrontation of Culture:
 - Joshua 1
 - i. The Role of Scripture
 - ii. The Role of Memory and the Past
 - Church, Culture, and Mission:
 - i. First Example: John 2-4
 - ii. Second Example: Acts 2-3
5. Ministry and Community: Matthew’s Gospel

II. Thursday Afternoon Through Friday

- Guest speaker: the perspectives of a pastor on practical issues and implementation of a biblical theology of ministry.

III. Wrap up

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES

A. Pre-Session

1. Complete assigned reading

Prior to coming to the course participants must complete the reading list (approximately 1500 pages) and submit the attached reading report on the first day of class. The purpose of the pre-session reading is to heighten the participant’s awareness of current methods of interpretation and biblical theology, ideas, principles and values, as well as enhance skills in this area. (Remember: this course intends to assist the participant to be a better exegete of Scripture, knowing how to synthesize the results and integrate them into a viable theology of ministry.) These books are meant to serve as models of, and stimulation toward, interpretation and application.

Note: It is a violation of academic policy to include in the required reading any books previously read for credit. If you have read any of the required texts for credit, please substitute another book from the corresponding section of the course bibliography.

2. Engage in reflection on study guide questions

Following is a list of focused study guide questions the student should keep in mind as he or she reads. These questions (and the reading) are meant to bring a degree of equal footing to all the students at the beginning of the session. The student should make sure that he or she can respond to each skill that is built into each focus question. *The study guide questions do NOT have to be submitted in writing, but they are to assist you in keeping focus while reading.*

3. Review scripture texts in preparation for class discussion

In the “SESSION OUTLINE” portion of this syllabus, the student will find a number of biblical texts which will be highlighted in classroom discussion. The student should look up and review all biblical texts in order to have a basic familiarity with each. During the session, we will interact with each text hermeneutically, theologically, and practically, as we examine them in relation to the questions we are dealing with. These texts will be used to provide an opportunity to demonstrate points, field questions, and discuss a number of issues relevant to the objectives of the course. It is appropriate that Pentecostal methods, theology, and ministry will loom largely throughout the course.

4. Turn in a one or two page list of major Biblical principles and insights you have learned or been reminded of in these readings that relate to ministry and being the church today.

B. Session

1. Submit reading report.
2. Attend all class sessions, and take an active role in classroom discussion, exercises, etc.

C. Post-Session

Write a 20-25 page paper on the biblical foundations for developing a theology of ministry. This paper will include the following 5 foundational elements of a theology of ministry, but is not limited to these areas.

- The biblical response to the nature and purpose of the Church
- A personal biblical theology of ministry
- The role of clergy and laity in ministry
- The role of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and spiritual gifts in ministry

Students may elect to include other topics as deemed appropriate. Conclusions must be derived from Scripture, and should demonstrate sound biblical exegesis and biblical theology. The instructions will be discussed in class.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK LIST

Note: Certain lengthy books have page numbers at the end of the entry. These pages direct the participant to the most relevant material and indicate that the participant need not read the rest of the book for this course.

Interpretive Skills Reading List

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Toward an Exegetical Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1981. (pp. 69-210 and 235-248 Moving from exegesis to theology in the pulpit)

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr.. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1993.

Rohrbaugh, Richard, ed. *The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996)

Biblical Theology Skills Reading List

Alexander, T. Desmond, Brian S. Rosner, D.A. Carson, Graeme Goldsworthy, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2000. PP. 3-112 excellent for issues; the rest of the book, divided into two parts provide discussions on theological themes. This book shows where the issues are in biblical theology and provides cutting edge concerns for evangelicals.

Fee, Gordon D. God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994. (Preface and Introduction pp. 1-13, 24-36; Selections from 1 Corinthians 12, 14, Romans 12, Ephesians; Chapters 15 and 16, and Appendix.)

OR _____. Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.

France, R.T. Matthew: Evangelist and Teacher. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989. Read chapter 7, "Matthew's Gospel and the Church." (photocopied)

Theology of Ministry Reading List

Harrison, Paul V. "Pastoral Turnover and the Call to Preach." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44:1 (March 2001): 87-105.

Warren, Rick. The Purpose Driven Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

White, James Emery. Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.

Davis, Billie. People, Tasks, & Goals: Studies in Christian Leadership. Irving, TX: ICI University, 1983. (This book is not written for graduate level, but is rich in principles derived from the major Bible examples.)

Study Questions to Help You Focus Your Reading

As you do your required readings, ask the following questions of your authors as they relate.

A. Hermeneutics:

1. What role does Scripture play in the formation of theology and in the life of the church?
2. What is role does the authors give to the interpreter of the biblical text. Who or what controls the meaning of the text?
3. Do the authors have a clearly articulated method of biblical interpretation?

4. Do the authors have an interpretive approach that is sensitive to the various concerns and perspectives of diverse literary genre and how they one would use such literature in the formation of theological truth.
5. Do the authors provide guidelines for deriving theological value from various genre within the Scripture and discuss the difficulties of such an enterprise from genres like narrative, wisdom literature, prophecy, etc.

B. Biblical Theology

1. How do the authors define theology?
2. Do the authors distinguish biblical and systematic theology in an intelligible and discernible way, or do they seem to indistinguishable.
3. Do the authors view the Scriptures as possessing organic theological unity/coherence? Do they articulate a difference between OT and NT theology beyond that of the difference in subject matter?
4. How do the authors handle the question of diversity and unity in theological perspectives within the writings of Scripture?

C. Theology of Ministry

1. Do the authors work with a declared model of ministry?
2. Do the authors map out or articulate a clear philosophy of ministry?
3. Do the authors attempt to find theological underpinnings or justification for their models of philosophies of ministry?
4. Do the goals and purposes espoused for the Church reflect the Scripturally derived redemptive purposes of the church or contemporary need and/or crisis?

Study Questions to Help You Focus For Your Theology of Ministry Paper

Please keep the following questions in mind as you read. They will assist you in focusing on key elements, pertinent to the writing project.

1. What are the “People of God” according to the Bible?
2. What is their purpose?
3. How are they to fulfill their purpose?
4. Is there any prescribed biblical structure for the Church and method how to best fulfill its purpose?
5. What roles should there be, and relationships, between leaders and laity within the Church?
6. What are the biblical principles of leadership (attitudes, functions, requirements, relationship)?
7. What are the possible metaphors for understanding the church?
8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church and ministry?
9. What is unchangeable, nonnegotiable about the Church and ministry according to the Bible and what needs to keep changing to meet people where they are?
10. How does what we do as a church relate to visitors?
11. Why should people want to be a part of our church?
12. Whom are we trying to reach?
13. Is your current ministry model the most effective way to fulfill the purpose of the Church?
14. In what ways could your church or ministry be more biblical?

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Interpretive Skills

- Anderson, Gordon. "Pentecostal Hermeneutics" in the Conference Papers for the 1992 Society of Pentecostal Studies, vol. 2.
- Black, David Alan, and David S. Dockery, eds. New Testament Criticism & Interpretation. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.
- Dockery, David S., Kenneth A. Matthews, and Robert B. Sloan. Foundations for Biblical Interpretation: A Complete Library of Tools and Resources. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.
- Fee, Gordon. God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.
- Goldingay, John. Models for Interpretation of Scripture. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.
- Goldingay, John. Models for Scripture. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1994.
- Long, V. Philips. The Art of Biblical History. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.
- Longman, Tremper III. Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1987.
- Longnecker, Richard. Biblical Exegesis in the Apostolic Period. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1975.
- McQueen, Larry R. Joel and the Spirit: The Cry of a Prophetic Hermeneutic. Sheffield, England: Sheffield, 1995.
- Osborne, Grant R. The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991.
- Rohrbaugh, Richard, ed. The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1996.
- Ryken, Leland. How To Read the Bible as Literature and Get More Out of It. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.
- Ryken, Leland and Tremper Longman III. A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993. Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Toward an Exegetical Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1981.

Biblical Theology Skills

- Aker, Benny C. "Matthew, Gospel of." In Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements. eds. Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, 588-98. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.
- Bartlett, David L. Ministry in the New Testament. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Black, David Alan, and David S. Dockery, eds. New Testament Criticism & Interpretation. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.
- Childs, Brevard S. Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Cotton, Roger D. "Leviticus: Commentary." In *The Old Testament Study Bible: Leviticus-Numbers; The Complete Biblical Library*, vol. 3, ed. Thoralf Gilbrant and Gregory A. Lindt. Springfield, MO: World Library Press, 1995.
- Dockery, David S., Kenneth A. Matthews, and Robert B. Sloan. Foundations for Biblical Interpretation: A Complete Library of Tools and Resources. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.
- Ellis, E. Earle. Pauline Theology: Ministry and Society. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1989.
- Fee, Gordon. Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1996.
- Goppelt, Leonhard. Theology of the New Testament. 2 vols. Translated by John Alsup. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, vol. 1, 1981; vol. 2, 1982.
- Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994. (Recommended portion: pp. 634-656 Knowing God through the Spirit and pp. 1016-1090 The anointed minister)
- Guthrie, Donald. New Testament Theology. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1981.
- Hasel, Gerhard F. New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Debate. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company. 220 pages.
- Hasel, Gerhard F. Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Debate. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, Revised and Expanded Fourth Edition, 1991.
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- Horton, Stanley. What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1977.
- Hubbard, Robert, Jr., Robert K. Johnston, and Robert P. Meye. Studies in Old Testament Theology. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1992.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Toward an Old Testament Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1978.
- Keener, Craig S. 3 Crucial Questions About the Holy Spirit. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.
- Keener, Craig S. The Spirit in the Gospels and Acts. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
- Ladd, George E. A Theology of the New Testament. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993. (pp. 1-28; 684-719)
- Lim, David. Spiritual Gifts: A Fresh Look. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1991..
- Longnecker, Richard N. Patterns of Discipleship in the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.
- MacDonald, William. "Temple Theology." *Pneuma* 1:1 (1979):39-48.
- Morris, Leon. New Testament Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986.
- Motyer, J. Alec. The Prophecy of Isaiah: Introduction & Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1981.
- Ollenburger, Ben C., Elmer A. Martens and Gerhard F. Hasel. The Flowering of Old Testament Theology. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- Palma, Anthony D. "Spiritual Gifts—Basic Considerations." *Pneuma* 1:2 (1979):3-26.
- Patte, Daniel. Discipleship According to the Sermon on the Mount. Valley Forge, Penn.: Trinity Press, 1996.
- Powell, Mark Allen. God with Us: A Pastoral Theology of Matthew's Gospel. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995.
- Ruthven, Jon. "Charismatic Theology and Biblical Emphases." *Evangelical Quarterly* 69:3 (1997):217-36.
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Smith, Ralph L. Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method and Message. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993.

Stronstad, Roger. The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke. Downers Grove, IL: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1984 (Recommended portion: pp. 13-32 and 49-62, "The gift of the Spirit").

Wehrli, Eugene S. Leadership Roles in the New Testament: Gifted By Their Spirit. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1992.

Woodbridge, J. D. and T. McComiskey eds. Doing Theology in Today's World. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. (Recommended portion: pp. 147-170 "On Method and Means in Theology" by Harold O.J. Brown; pp. 291-318 by Russell Spittler)

Wright, Christopher J.H. Walking In the Ways of the LORD: The Ethical Authority of the Old Testament. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996.

Theology of Ministry

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Bittlinger, Arnold. "Charismatic Renewal: An Opportunity for the Church." *The Ecumenical Review* 31, 7 (1979):247-251.

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George, Carl. Prepare Your Church for the Future. Old Tappan, NJ: Revell, 1991.

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- Hull, Bill. The Disciple Making Church. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1990.
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- Hunter, George. How to Reach Secular People. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1992.
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- Lorritts, Crawford W. A Passionate Commitment. San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, 1989.
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- Ogden, Greg. The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990.
- Ortlund, Raymond C. Let the Church Be the Church. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1983.
- Petersen, Jim. Church Without Walls. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991.
- Radmacher, Earl D. The Nature of the Church. Portland, OR: Western Baptist Press, 1972.
- Rainer, Thom. Effective Evangelistic Churches. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996.
- Russell, Keith A. In Search of the Church: New Testament Images for Tomorrow's Churches. Bethesda, MD: The Alban Institute.
- Snyder, Howard. Models of the Kingdom. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1991. 169 pages.
- Stevens, R. Paul & Phil Colins. The Equipping Pastor.
- Strobel, Lee. Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary.

Tillapaugh, Frank. Unleashing the Church. Regal, 1985.

Watson, David. I Believe in the Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1978.

Wilkes, C. Gene. Jesus on Leadership: Becoming a Servant Leader. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 1996.

Wright, Timothy. A Community of Joy: How to Create Contemporary Worship.

Doctor of Ministry

Cohort 8, Core Course 2

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 1500.) *This form is to be turned in on the first day of the course.*

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Pages Read</i>
Rohrbaugh, Richard.	<i>The Social Sciences and New Testament ...</i>	_____
Kaiser, Walter C., Jr.	<u>Toward an Exegetical Theology</u>	_____
Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard,	<u>Intro to Biblical Interp.</u>	_____
Alexander, Rosner, Carson and Goldsworthy,	<i>New Dictionary ...</i>	_____
Fee, Gordon D.	<u>God’s Empowering Presence</u>	_____
OR _____	<u>Paul, The Spirit and The People of God</u>	_____
France, R.T.	<u>Matthew: Evangelist and Teacher.</u>	_____
Harrison, Paul V.	“Pastoral Turnover and the Call to Preach	_____
Warren, Rick.	<u>The Purpose Driven Church.</u>	_____
White, James Emery.	<u>Rethinking the Church</u>	_____
Davis, Billie.	<u>People, Tasks, & Goals</u>	_____
Substitute:		_____
Substitute:		_____
Substitute:		_____
Total number of pages read:		_____

Signature