

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE 633 Divine Healing

James H. Railey

Spring 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The healing ministry of God in today's world will be considered. The course will survey the biblical and theological perspectives and the history of divine healing in the Church. Special emphasis will be placed upon the role of the doctrine and practice of divine healing in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movements in the twentieth century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student should be able:

1. To understand better the biblical teachings relating to divine healing
2. To analyze the popular approaches to healing both within and outside of the modern church, and to be able to compare and contrast these approaches with sound Scriptural teaching.
3. To examine, develop, and/or reformulate one's own personal theology of healing and suffering in accord with a correct interpretation of Scripture.
4. To be prepared better to minister to those who are in need of healing, as well as to those who continue to suffer.
5. To develop a practical and theological approach to the ministry of divine healing in the local church.

TEXTBOOKS

Bosworth, F. F. *Christ the Healer*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1973.

Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity with Power: Your Worldview and Your Experience of the Supernatural*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1989.

Kydd, Ronald A. N. *Healing Through The Centuries: Models for Understanding*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

Wimber, John, and Kevin Springer. *Power Healing*. San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins Publisher, 1987.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

Thomas, Robert L. and Stanley N. Gundry, ed. *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1988..

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - a. Definition of Divine Healing
 - b. An Understanding of Sickness and Disease
 - c. A Case Against Christian Healing
 - d. The Doctrine of God in Relation to Healing
 - e. The Relation of Healing to the Atonement
- II. Biblical Teaching About Healing
 - a. Old Testament Teaching
 - b. Healing in Jesus' Ministry
 - c. Healing in the Early Church
 - d. Apostolic Teaching About Healing
- III. Healing in the Christian Church
- IV. The Modern Healing Movement
- V. Problems with Healing
- VI. Constructing a Doctrine of Divine Healing
- VII. Implementing a Doctrine of Divine Healing

METHODOLOGY

The primary method of instruction will be the lecture, with ample time devoted to the discussion of ideas and issues germane to the course. The student will be expected to take notes consistently during the sessions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student is expected to attend all class sessions. Absences should be for extreme circumstances only. The limits established by the Seminary will be observed. ("Barring a serious medical emergency, credit cannot be granted for courses in which a student has been absent beyond the equivalent of more than 2 weeks . . ." Catalog 74).
2. The student is expected to submit a 3-5-page critique of each of the assigned texts. They will be due according to the following schedule: January 28 – Bosworth; February 25 – Kydd; March 24 – Kraft; April 14 – Wimber/Springer. The critiques should reflect graduate level interaction with the argumentation and positions taken by the authors.
3. The student will submit a term paper (10-15 pages) on a topic relevant to the course and approved by the professor. The paper should conform to the format in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (current edition), employing footnotes to document source usage. (Note: students in the counseling programs may use the author-date format of chapter 10, "Parenthetical References and Reference Lists"). The paper should make use of ten to twelve sources, no more than one-half of which may be from Internet sources, and will be graded on grammar, composition, form, and content. The paper is due at class time April 7, 2004. Late work will receive a grade penalty commensurate with the lateness.

4. There will be a final exam on Wednesday, April 21, 7:30-10:00 A.M. The exam will be essay in nature and designed to allow the student to reflect his/her experience and learning during the class.

GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Book Critiques	50%
Term Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

Grades are recorded and averaged on the basis of the following grade scale: A=12; A-=11; B+=10; B=9; B-=8; C+=7; C=6; C-=5; D+=4; D=3; D-=2; F=1. Classroom participation will also be considered in the assignment of the final grade.

To receive a passing grade for the course all work must be submitted. The grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted only for extenuating circumstances upon the request of the student. Except in the case of severe extenuating circumstances the course grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barron, Bruce. *The Health and Wealth Gospel*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.
- Baxter, J. Sidlow. *Divine Healing of the Body*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1979.
- Becton, Randy. *Does God Care When We Suffer?* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988.
- Bosworth, F. F. *Christ the Healer*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1973.
- Carson, D. A. *How Long, Lord?* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1990.
- Chappell, Paul G. "Healing Movements." In *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, ed. Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, 353-374. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1988.
- Crabb, Larry. *Connecting: A Radical New Vision*. Nashville, TN: World Publishing, 1997.
- Fee, Gordon D. *The Disease of the Health and Wealth Gospels*. Costa Mesa, CA: The Word for Today, 1979.

Gerstenberger, Erhard S., and Wolfgang Schrage. *Suffering*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1980.

Gordon, Adoniram Judson. *The Ministry of Healing*. Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publishers, Inc., n.d.

Harper, Michael. *The Healings of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.

Hauerwas, Stanley. *Naming the Silences: God, Medicine, and the Problem of Suffering*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

Henry, Carl. F. H. *Christ the Great Physician*. Oakland, CA: by the author, 1946.

Hick, John. *Evil and the God of Love*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1978.

Holdcroft, L. Thomas. *Divine Healing: A Comparative Study*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1967.

Kaiser, Walter. *A Biblical Approach to Personal Suffering*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1982.

Kelsey, Morton T. *Healing and Christianity*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1973.

Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity With Power: Your Worldview and Your Experience of the Supernatural*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1989.

Kushner, Harold S. *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. New York, NY: Avon, 1983.

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_____. *Healing Through the Centuries: Models for Understanding*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

Lewis, C. S. *The Problem of Pain*. New York, NY: Macmillan, 1962.

MacNutt, Francis. *Healing*. South Bend, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1974.

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- Murray, Andrew. *Divine Healing*. Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1982.
- Nouwen, Henri. *The Wounded Healer*. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1979.
- Pearson, Mark A. *Christian Healing: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 1995.
- Reichenbach, Bruce R. *Evil and a Good God*. New York, NY: Fordham University Press, 1982.
- Schaeffer, Edith. *Affliction*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1978.
- Schuchardt, Erika. *Why is This Happening to Me?* Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Press, 1989.
- Simpson, A. B. *The Gospel of Healing*. Houston, TX: The Full Gospel Advocate, 1915.
- Tournier, Paul. *Creative Suffering*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1982.
- Van de Beck, A. *Why? On Suffering, Guilt, and God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.
- Wimber, John, and Kevin Springer. *Power Healing*. San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins Publisher, 1987.
- Wright, Gordon. *In Quest of Healing*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1984.

SPECIFIC DATA

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