

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
BTHM/PCSM 640 Sp. Stu.: The Holy Spirit & Salvation
May 31-June 4 M-F, 1:00-5:00/6:00-10:00 p.m.

Frank D. Macchia, D.Theol.
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fmacchia@vanguard.edu

Summer,

I. Course Description:

This course will examine the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation and the Christian life. The themes of election, justification, regeneration, sanctification, Spirit baptism, and spirituality will be discussed in order to arrive at a richly pneumatological understanding of salvation.

II. Objectives:

- A. To understand the biblical foundations of a pneumatological understanding of salvation.
- B. To become aware of the major historical paradigms for understanding the experience of salvation.
- C. To arrive at a systematic understanding of salvation from a pneumatological view.

III. Textbooks:

James D. G. Dunn, *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Re-Examination of the New Testament Teaching on the Gift of the Holy Spirit in Relation to Pentecostalism Today* (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996), 260 pp.

Frank D. Macchia, "Justification through New Creation: The Holy Spirit and the Doctrine by which the Church Stands or Falls," *Theology Today*, July, 2001.

Carl Braaten and Robert Jenson, eds. *Union with Christ: The New Finnish Interpretation of Luther* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998), 192 pp.

Clark Pinnock, *Flame of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit* (InterVarsity Press, 1999), 280 pp.

IV. Outline:

Day 1

- A. Trinitarian Background
 - 1. The West versus the East

2. The Social Doctrine
- B. Creation and Redemption
 1. Greek and Hebrew Notions: Immortality or Resurrection?
 2. Beyond Revelation: The Gnostic Challenge
 3. The Breath of God in Ordinary and Extraordinary tasks
 4. Continuity and Discontinuity
 5. Ethical Implications

Day 2

- C. Christ and the Spirit
 1. Logos and Adoptionist models
 2. Toward Integration
- D. The Spirit, the Church and the Kingdom
- E. The Sacraments, the Gifts, and Salvation

Day 3

- F. The Spirit and Election
- G. The Spirit and Justification, Pt. 1

Day 4

- H. The Spirit and Justification, Pt. 2
- I. Spirit and Sanctification

Day 5

- J. Spirit Baptism
- K. Models of Spirituality and Prayer

V. Methodology

The method used will be that of systematic theology. Biblical reflections, historical issues, and contextual challenges will be synthesized in a topical fashion in order to arrive at a creative vision of the role of the Spirit in salvation and the Christian life.

VI. Course Requirements:

A. Pre-Course:

1) To prepare for our week together, students will be required to carefully read all of the assigned reading **except** the book by Pinnock (*The Flame of Love*). The following materials will be read before our week in class together:

James D. G. Dunn, *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Re-Examination of the New Testament Teaching on the Gift of the Holy Spirit in Relation to Pentecostalism Today* (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996), 260 pp.

Frank D. Macchia, "Justification through New Creation: The Holy Spirit and the Doctrine by which the Church Stands or Falls," *Theology Today*, July, 2001.

Carl Braaten and Robert Jenson, eds. *Union with Christ: The New Finnish Interpretation of Luther* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998), 192 pp.

2) Three short analytical papers will be prepared beforehand (2-3 pages each, double-spaced) answering the following three questions on justification:

- a) Paper 1: Luther is traditionally interpreted as advocating a “forensic” understanding of justification as a legal acquittal received by faith alone. The book, *Union with Christ* takes a different viewpoint. Write a 2- 3 page paper explaining concisely but in detail how the essays of the book understand Luther’s justification doctrine in relation to the forensic view.
- b) Paper 2: The forensic view of justification is commonly understood as “objective” and detached from the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is then viewed as given “with” justification as something additional. Read Macchia’s article on justification (“Justification through New Creation”) and explain concisely but in detail how Macchia understands justification in relation to the gift of the Spirit.
- c) Paper 3: Read Dunn’s book carefully. Laying aside his criticism of the Pentecostal view of Spirit baptism, write a 2 - 3 page paper on the decisive role of the Spirit in salvation according to Dunn. Include Dunn’s view of the role of water baptism in salvation.

Papers due on the first day of class.

B. Course:

Attending all of our sessions together throughout the five days of class is absolutely necessary for successful completion of the course. Students will take careful and thorough notes of all lectures and discussions.

C. Post-Course:

- 1) Write a 2 - 3 page book review of Pinnock’s book, *Flame of Love*. Include a brief summary of the major points of the book and a brief response to the most significant or controversial arguments made (e.g., his view of the role of water baptism in salvation, the role of the Spirit in Christ’s work for our salvation, the universality of the Spirit’s work). Be concise but detailed in your comments. Due date fixed in class.
- 2) Write an 8 - 10 page research paper on a key biblical text or topic related to the role of the Spirit in salvation. More information given on this in class. Due date fixed in class.

VII. Select Bibliography:

Karl Barth, *The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life: The Theological Basis of Ethics* (Westminster/John Knox, 1993).

Hendrikus Berkhof, *Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* (Westminster/John Knox, 1976).

Stanley Burgess, *The Holy Spirit: Medieval Roman Catholic and Reformation Traditions* (Hendrickson Pub., 1997).

Yves Congar, *I Believe in the Holy Spirit* (Seabury Press, 1984).

James Dunn, *Jesus and the Spirit* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1980).

Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul* (Hendrickson Pub., 1994).

Veli-Matti Kerkkainen, *The Holy Spirit in Ecumenical, International, and Contextual Perspective* (Baker Book House, 2002).

Kilian McDonnell, *The Other Hand of God: The Holy Spirit as the Universal Touch and Goal* (Liturgical Press, 2003).

Jürgen Moltmann, *The Source of Life: The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life* (Fortress Press, 1997).

_____, *The Spirit of Life: A Universal Affirmation* (Fortress Press, 2003).

Roger Stronstad, *Charismatic Theology of St. Luke* (Hendrickson Pub., 1989).