

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTHD 529 Foundations of Biblical Theology

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Oct 4, 11, 18, Nov 1, 8, 2005

COURSE SYLLABUS

DESCRIPTION

An introduction to biblical theology covering methodology, history, basic issues, and the foundational content of the field. Correlation between biblical and systematic theology is explored and discussed. The course includes an examination of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures and the unity and diversity of the biblical revelation.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Expound upon the history of biblical theology as a discipline and make it relevant to the hermeneutical task.
2. Synthesize a theology of inspiration with the history of the process that produced the canon.
3. Properly process the fruit of exegesis into a working biblical theology through careful consideration of various hermeneutical principles.
4. Prepare a sermon, lesson, or article through the application of the aforementioned disciplines.

TEXTBOOKS

Carson, D.A., et. al., editors. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000. (Available on CD with other IVP titles through Logos)

Green, Joel B. and Max Turner, editors. *Between Two Horizons: Spanning New Testament Studies and Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

OUTLINE

October 4

READ: Pages 1-27 in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (articles ‘Biblical Theology,’ ‘History of Biblical Theology,’ and ‘Challenges to Biblical Theology.’)

LESSON: Introductory issues; history of the discipline; the hermeneutical spiral.

DUE: Interactive review of Green and Turner, pages 23-204 (i.e., entire book minus first and last chapters). Detail of assignment provided in following pages.

October 11

READ: Pages 27-51 in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (articles ‘Canon of Scripture,’ ‘Scripture,’ and ‘Biblical History.’)

LESSON: Inspiration; The Canon.

October 18

READ: Pages 52-64 in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* ('Exegesis and Hermeneutics')

LESSON: Exegesis: hermeneutical issues and 'raw' theology.

November 1

READ: Pages 64-72, 81-89 in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* ('New Testament Use of the Old Testament' and 'Relationship of Old Testament to New Testament').

LESSON: Biblical theology: Unity and diversity, continuity and discontinuity, and center.

DUE: Paper on hermeneutical dynamic between Old and New Testaments. Detail of assignment in following pages.

November 11

READ: Pages 89-111, 104-112 in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (articles 'Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology' and 'Preaching and Biblical Theology').

LESSON: Biblical theology and practical issues; relationship to systematics.

DUE: Biblical sermon or lesson plan. Detail of assignment in following pages. Also due is signed statement testifying to *careful* reading of all assigned books and articles.

METHODOLOGY

1. Class attendance and participation.
2. Lecture and discussion.
3. Written assignments.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Essentially perfect class attendance and punctuality is a basic requirement in a degree completion course. In case of emergency, one absence may be allowed, though if at all possible cleared in advance with the professor. Attendance assumes appropriate class participation.
2. Completion of reading assignments, with signed statement testifying thereto due on last day of class.
3. Writing assignments:
 - a. Interactive review of Green and Turner, pages 23-204. The student will write 8-10 pages, roughly 25% of which will be dedicated to review for the purpose of rhetorical orientation, and the rest of which will be critical interaction. Questions dealt with should be ones such as: What is the overall flow of the book? What are the editors' purposes in assembling and organizing a reader such as this? What was the most helpful chapter? The least helpful? How has

this impacted your understanding of the hermeneutical task and your formation of a biblical theology? Due October 4th.

- b. Paper (10-12 pages) on the hermeneutical dynamic between the Old and New Testaments. This paper is an exercise of the student's exegetical/expositional and interpretive skills within the crosscurrents of Old and New Testament studies. Its goals are both an interdisciplinary synthesis between often disparate schools of thought *and* a concrete and practical grappling with the text. These goals will be met through a comparison of an Old Testament text or genre of texts with its appearance and use in the New Testament. The student should provide brief exposition of each in its own context using a variety of scholarly works and (primarily) their own insights, then attempt a synthesis that will enable them to develop a sound, workable biblical theology as well as preach and teach the Scripture with integrity. See handout for a selection of texts. Due November 1st.
- c. A longhand, approximately 10 page sermon or lesson employing specific biblical texts (rather than just topics or themes). The Old/New Testament paper may be used as a basis, or the student may choose to use another text or texts, not necessarily from both Testaments. The goal is integration of hermeneutical principles and the translation of abstract biblical theology into practical oral exposition for the church world. Due November 11th.

GRADING

1. Class participation: 10%
2. Interactive review of Green and Turner: 30%
3. Old and New Testament dynamic paper: 30%
4. Biblical theology sermon/lesson: 30%

Scale: 100-96=A; 95-92=A-; 91-89=B+; 88-86=B; 85-83=B-; 82-79=C+; 78-75=C; 74-70=D.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

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