

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Degree Completion Program
Springfield, Missouri

THED 633 DIVINE HEALING
November 17-December 15, 2005
3 credits

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

1. Understand and articulate the overall biblical teaching on divine healing.
2. Develop and formulate his or her own theology of healing and suffering on the basis of Scripture.
3. Evaluate aberrant approaches to divine healing.
4. Minister more effectively to the sick and suffering.
5. 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.

Grudem, Wayne A., ed. *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

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

The Bible (a modern translation such as NASB, NRSV, NIV, ESV)

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

Thomas, Robert L. and Stanley N. Gundry, eds. *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1988 [or a similar "Harmony of the Gospels" text]

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

Definitions of important terminology
Relevant matters of theology proper, anthropology, and soteriology

I. The Old Testament and Divine Healing

The divine self-designation
The Garden of Eden
Miracles of healing and resurrection

II. The New Testament and Divine Healing

The eschatological aspect of Jesus' earthly ministry
Jesus' commissioning of his disciples
Healings and resurrections in the Gospels
Healings and resurrections in the book of Acts

III. Theological and Exegetical Considerations

Healing and the Atonement
Cessationism
The gifts of healings

IV. Pastoral Concerns

Exegesis and application of James 5:13-18
The function of suffering
The failure of some to be healed

V. Divine Healing and Church History

Views of selected individuals and groups within and outside of the Church

COURSE METHODOLOGY

Class time will be devoted to lectures, discussion of relevant ideas and problems, student interaction with the professor, and brief presentations by class members.

Much of the course will be an inductive study of the biblical evidence for divine healing, including a treatment of theological and exegetical problems.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Because of the limited number of contact hours, students are required to spend considerable time outside the classroom in preparation for class sessions. Basic course requirements are:

1. Attendance at all class sessions (see the seminary *Catalog*, p. 74).
2. A critique (3 pages) of each textbook. By definition, a critique is "a critical estimate or discussion" and not a summary of contents. In essence, it is an evaluation of the work; the evaluation will reflect the student's careful reading of the book (see Appendix B for submission dates).
3. Completion and submission of "homework" assignments (see Appendix A).
NOTE: These assignments are the basis for much of the term paper.
4. Submission of a term paper titled "A Biblical Theology of Divine Healing". It will be a composite, synthetic study of the biblical data and will focus on matters of theology rather than matters of history, geography or chronology (see Appendix C).
5. A class presentation of about 20 minutes on an assigned topic (see Appendix B).
6. Approximately 10 hours of browsing the internet on the subject of divine healing. (Consult with the professor for an alternative assignment.)

GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be computed on the following basis:

Class Participation	10%
Weekly Assignments	20%
Book Critiques	20%
Class Presentation of Topic	15%
Term Paper	35%

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.
- Chappell, Paul G. "Healing Movements." In *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, eds. 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.
- Graber, Friedrich and Dietrich Mueller. "Heal." In *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, gen. ed. Colin Brown, vol. 2, 163-172. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1967.
- Grudem, Wayne A., gen. ed. *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.
- Harper, Michael. *The Healings of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity 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.
- Kydd, Ronald A. N. *Charismatic Gifts in the Early Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984.
- _____. *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.
- Martin, Bernard. *The Healing Ministry in the Church*. Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1960.
- Martin, Francis. "Healing, Gift of." In *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, eds. Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, 350-353. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1988.
- McCrossan, Thomas J. *Bodily Healing and the Atonement*. 4th ed. Seattle, WA: n.p., 1930. [2nd ed. re-edited by Roy Hicks and Kenneth E. Hagen. Tulsa, OK: Faith Publications, 1982]
- 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. [Rev. ed. – Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, Inc., 1915]
- Tournier, Paul. *Creative Suffering*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1982.
- Van de Beck. *Why? On Suffering, Guilt, and God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

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Warfield, Benjamin B. *Counterfeit Miracles*. New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1918.

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

Syllabus prepared by Anthony D. Palma, July 2005, and may be modified at the instructor's
discretion.

APPENDIX A

OT and NT Miracles – Homework Guidelines

For each healing or resurrection, make note of the following whenever applicable. (I suggest you make a copy of this for each miracle, to facilitate writing of the term paper.)

IDENTIFICATION (NAME) OF THE MIRACLE

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE(S)

Nature of the sickness

Cause of the sickness (or death)

Severity of the sickness

The petitioner (if other than the sick person)

Conditions/requirements for healing

Means/instrument for healing

The role of faith

Whether the healing was instantaneous or incremental

Other significant observations

Student's Name _____

APPENDIX B

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS – Due Dates

NOTE: Turn in your "guidelines" papers to the instructor at the conclusion of the class session. Assignments are due on the scheduled dates. Spend three to four hours on each of the four assignments.

Thursday, November 17

Critique of Bosworth

Study of the following passages, using the guidelines form (Appendix A):

The widow's son – 1 Kings 17:17-24

The Shunammite's son – 2 Kings 4:18-37

Naaman – 2 Kings 5:1-14

The Brazen Serpent – Numbers 21:4-9

Hezekiah – 2 Kings 10:1-7; Isaiah 38:1-6

Tuesday, November 22

Critique of Wimber/Springer

Study of the first 12 miracles of healing/resurrection in the order found in Thomas/Gundry's *Harmony*, utilizing the guidelines form (Appendix A).

Thursday, December 1

Critique of Grudem

Study of the remaining miracles in the Gospels, utilizing the guidelines form.

Thursday, December 8

Critique of Kydd

Study of the miracles in the book of Acts, utilizing the guidelines form.

Thursday, December 15

Submission of term paper

Certification of having spent 10 hours on relevant Internet browsing

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CLASS PRESENTATION

Preparation time: no more than 10 hours

Schedule and topics will be determined the first day of class.

Procedure: Make use of handouts, overhead projector, chalkboard, Power Point.

Allow some time for interaction.

APPENDIX C

THE TERM PAPER

A Biblical Theology of Divine Healing

Guidelines

The paper will reflect the student's understanding of the biblical teaching on divine healing. It will be synthetic in nature, not a miracle-by-miracle treatment. The grade assigned will be based primarily on content and organization (80%), but format, grammar, punctuation, spelling and clarity of expression will also be considered (20%).

Format and Style

1. The paper should consist of:

- Cover sheet
- Table of contents or outline
- The essay, with a brief introduction and a conclusion/summary
- Bibliography, if secondary sources were consulted

2. Turabian (latest edition) should be followed.

Specific Instructions

1. Length of paper: 10-12 pages (approximately 2500 words)
2. All statements, with the following exceptions, should be supported by at least one Scripture reference (see the example below). Exceptions: the introduction, the summary/conclusion, and the leading sentence of a paragraph. Standard abbreviations for Bible books should be used.

- (1) References should be placed within parentheses at the end of the applicable sentence or clause but before the period, semicolon or comma.
- (2) Chapters in a series of references should be separated by a semicolon.
- (3) Long lists of Bible references (more than three) should appear as footnotes/notes. Footnotes are preferable for this type of study.

Example

Mary had a little lamb (Acts 29:4; 32::12). Its fleece was white as snow (Acts 30:14,19; Gal. 7:9; Rev. 23:4), but it always looked dirty because it loved mud puddles

(Acts 31:52; Rom.18:12).