

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH 529 Foundations of Biblical Theology

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Fall 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. discern between the nature of biblical and systematic theology;
2. know the issues in biblical theology and possible Pentecostal responses;
3. work in other biblical theology courses with greater efficiency;
4. apply insights gained from biblical theology to the interpretation of the Scriptures;
5. appreciate more fully the rich and variegated tapestry of biblical revelation;
6. reflect an awareness of the basic content of biblical theology.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Carson, D.A., et. al., editors. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Recommended:

*Black, D. A., and D. S. Dockery. *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

*Woodbridge, J. D., and T. McComiskey. *Doing Theology in Today's World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

(* indicates book is on reserve in library; also in bibliography)

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction: Overview of the general nature of theology

The introduction seeks to clarify an understanding of theology in general as it is done in various systems and cultures of the world and to distinguish between systematic theology and biblical theology, noting how one relates to the other.

- A. Overview of systematic theology:
 - 1. The nature of theology : (Read *NDBT* [textbook] pp.89-104)
 - 2. The function of theology
 - 3. The methods of theology (Read *NDBT* [textbook], pp.52-64)
- B. Various approaches of [systematic] theology:
 - 1. Reformed: Baptist/Presbyterian/Lutheran
 - 2. Liberation theology (Black or Hispanic)
 - 3. Roman Catholic
 - 4. Orthodox
 - 5. Black African (Evangelical)
 - 6. Methodist
 - 7. Asian (Chinese, Korean, or Japanese) (Evangelical)
 - 8. Classical Pentecostal (AG; Church of God; Four Square)

II. Biblical Theology (Read *NDBT* [textbook] pp.3-27; pp. 27-51)

This section surveys the various issues relating to a theological understanding of Scripture, notes the reasons for the various issues, and attempts to respond to them in light of biblical revelation.

- A. Old Testament issues
 - 1. The issue of a center (Read *NDBT*, pp. 64-72)
 - 2. The issue of unity and diversity
 - 3. The issue of method
- B. Various approaches to Old Testament theology

The following Old Testament theologians are provided so the student may see how and why these issues emerge.

- 1. Samuel L. Terrien
- 2. Theodorus C. Vriezen
- 3. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.
- 4. Gerhard vonRad
- 5. Elmer A. Martens
- 6. Walther Eichrodt
- 7. John L. McKenzie
- 8. Brevard Childs
- C. New Testament issues
 - 1. The issue of a center
 - 2. The issue of unity and diversity
 - 3. The issue of method
 - 4. The issue of a starting point
 - 5. The issue of a developmental theology
- D. Various approaches to New Testament theology

The following New Testament theologians are provided so the student may see how and why these issues emerge.

- 1. Leon Morris

2. George E. Ladd
 3. Leonhard Goppelt
 4. Werner Georg Kümmel
 5. Hans Conzelmann
 6. Alan Richardson
 7. Donald Guthrie
 8. Charles C. Ryrie)
- E. Old and New Testament theology issues (Read NDBT [textbook] pp. 104-111)
1. The issue of continuity and discontinuity (Read NDBT pp.72-89)
 2. The place of the Old Testament in biblical theology
 3. Prescription versus description
 4. Integration versus Harmonization

III. Comprehensive Exam

IV. Application: Doing Biblical Theology

We will apply here an appropriate method and deal with the issues listed above. The rest of *NDBT* should be used to prepare for the classes and for the paper. For instance, under the topic of “salvation,” the term itself as well as other connected terms, i.e., “forgiveness,” in each OT or NT book should be consulted.

A. Salvation

- In the Old Testament
 - Torah
 - Historical Books
 - Writings
 - Prophets
- In the New Testament
 - Gospels
 - Acts
 - Epistles

B. Temple

- In the Old Testament
 - Torah
 - Historical Books
 - Prophets
- In the New Testament
 - Gospels
 - Paul
 - Writer to the Hebrews

V. Research Paper Due November 15, 2002, by 4:00PM in professor’s or faculty secretary’s office.

VI. Final Examination

METHODOLOGY

1. Class preparation: Reading of textbooks and other related material
2. Participation in small class groups
3. Lectures
4. Class discussion/participation in class.

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- *Gasque, W. Ward, and William Sanford LeSor. *Scripture, Tradition and Interpretation*. ICBI Foundation, series 6, 1983.
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SPECIFIC DATA

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