

COURSE SYLLABUS – ####
A THEOLOGICAL VISION OF CHURCH AND MINISTRY

Date: Fall 2019

Thursdays: 7:00pm – 9:30pm

September 5–December 12 (skipping October 17, November 21, 28)

Redeeming Grace Church – Room TBA

Professor: David Schrock Ph.D.

Cell: 703.582.2718

E-mail: dschrock@sbts.edu

Class Hours: 2

Revised: August 2, 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE TOPICS

Course topics will include:

Theology (Wells and Packer; plus Calvin *Institutes* I.1)

- What is Theology and Why Does It Matter?
- Sources for Theology—Scripture, Reason, History, Experience, Culture
- Biblical Theology of Exposition
- Systematic Theology—The Church: Universal and Local
- Church History—Music as a Case Study

Church (Dever and Assigned Articles)

- The Church: A Creature of the Word
- The History of Our Church—From the Upper Room to Occoquan Bible Church
- All Things for the Glory of God
- Why the Church Needs Theology
- Disciple-making and the Church

Ministry (Goldsworthy and Eswine)

- A Theological Vision of Scripture, Church, and Ministry
- Theological Triage—Christianity, Confessionalism, Cooperation
- What Makes a Church Healthy?
- Received (not Achieved) Ministry
- Serving from Rest
- Ministry *with* God, not *for* God

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bible

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, 3rd Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013. 304 pp.

Eswine, Zach. *Sensing Jesus: Life and Ministry as a Human Being*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012. 322 pp.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002. 251 pp.

Packer, J. I., *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*. Tyndale House, 1993. 288 pp.

Wells, David. *The Courage to Be Protestant: Reformation Faith in Today's World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017. 232 pp.

Additional Chapters and Articles

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, ch. 1.
- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1:1.
- C. S. Lewis, "Preface" in *The Incarnation of the Word* by Athanasius
- Albert Mohler, "Theological Triage and Christian Maturity"
- Francis Schaeffer, "[The Lord's Work in the Lord's Way](#)" in *No Little People*.
- David Schrock, *Collected Essays on Ecclesiology*
- Others to be assigned

1. ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is mandatory.

2. GRADES

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| Papers | 60% |
| Reading | 40% |

3. PAPERS

You will submit three five-page papers. Each paper will cover respectively the topics of (1) ministry, (2) church, and (3) theology. These papers will aim to answer a question(s) related to classroom discussions and should be written for the purpose of explaining a doctrine, passage, or principle to a church member.

Formatting requirements: (a) Include a title page. (b) Use Times New Roman font and 12-point type. (c) Number pages in the body of the paper; do not number the title page. (d) Use one-inch margins on all four edges of the paper. (e) Lines must be double-spaced. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a letter grade reduction.

In your paper, you will provide the reader with (a) the problem or question you aim to answer, (2) the biblical data that helps you answer the question, (c) relevant input from your course reading, (d) practical application for the local church.

4. READINGS

All required textbooks must be read by the end of the class.

5. GRADING SCALE

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| 97-100% | A |
| 94-96% | A- |
| 91-93% | B+ |
| 88-90% | B |
| 86-87% | B- |
| 83-85% | C+ |
| 80-82% | C |
| 78-79% | C- |
| 75-77% | D+ |
| 72-74% | D |
| 70-71% | D- |
| 0-69% | F |

6. DISCLAIMER

The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester. Students are expected to keep up with syllabus revisions, which are posted on the course website.

7. Course Website

A webpage for the course will be created for announcements and updates to the syllabus. The site address will be sent to each student upon registration.

| Date | Lesson | Pre-Reading |
|----------------|---|---|
| Sept 5 | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Theology? • What is the Church? • What is Ministry? | N/A |
| Sept 12 | A Theological Vision for the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State of the Church • Gospel-Centered Theology | Review of Charles Taylor, <i>A Secular Age</i> John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> , 1:1. |
| Sept 19 | THEOLOGY DISCUSSION | David Wells, <i>The Courage to be Protestant</i> |
| Sept 26 | Sources for Doing Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture • History / Tradition • Reason • Experience / Culture | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Goldsworthy, Graeme. <i>According to Plan</i> . |
| Oct 3 | Church: A Biblical Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God’s Plan for a People • The Biblical Covenants • Israel and the Church | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Goldsworthy, Graeme. <i>According to Plan</i> . |
| Oct 10 | Church: Church History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early <i>Church</i> • The Reformation <i>Church</i> • The American <i>Church</i> • Confessional and Ecumenism | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> C. S. Lewis, “Preface” in <i>The Incarnation of the Word</i> by Athanasius |
| Oct 17 | OFF | Elder Meeting |
| Oct 24 | Church: Systematic Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic • Many, Unholy, Local, Congregational | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Dietrich Bonhoeffer, <i>Life Together</i> , ch. 1. |
| Oct 31 | Church: Practical Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Discipleship • Congregations / Membership • Elders / Deacons • Gathering & Scattering | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Selection of articles from <i>Via Emmaus</i> |
| Nov 7 | Ministry: What (Healthy) Churches Do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9Marks of a Healthy Church • Biblical Exposition • The Great Commission – Evangelism | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Mark Dever. <i>Nine Marks of a Healthy</i> |

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|---------------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Commandment – Mercy | <i>Church</i> |
| Nov 14 | Ministry: What Individuals Do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling (e.g., internal and external calls, training, etc.) • Serving (e.g., a received ministry, etc) • Spiritual Gifts and the Body of Christ | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Francis Schaeffer, “ The Lord’s Work in the Lord’s Way ” in <i>No Little People</i> . |
| Nov 21 | THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION | Zach Eswine, <i>Sensing Jesus</i> |
| Nov 28 | OFF | Thanksgiving |
| Dec 5 | Ministry: Theological Convictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Glory of God • The Sufficiency of Scripture • The Necessity of the Spirit • The Purpose of the Church • Theological Triage and Christian Maturity | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Albert Mohler, “Theological Triage and Christian Maturity” |
| Dec 12 | Ministry: Pastoral Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching/Preaching • Leading Small Groups • Counseling / Listening – Mark Mullery | J. I. Packer, <i>Concise Theology</i> Mortimer Adler SELECTION |