

Saint Louis Christian College
BTH 302 **CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY II**
Professor Jim Claycomb
3 Credit Hours

Spring Semester, 2012

Tuesday 6:15 – 9 pm

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant-leaders for urban, suburban, rural and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students search the Scriptures to build a systematic theology of Christian teaching. Selected topics are given an historical examination. The course will survey the Doctrines of Sin, Redemption Applied & the Church. Systematic theology is descriptive of that systematized and holistic study which has as its purpose the determination of what the Biblical teaching is on the major subjects of Holy Scripture. This presupposes the methodological approach of both identifying and interpreting the relevant passages in the Bible on specific topics and then summarizing the conclusions reached in a manner that is in harmony with and under the authority of the Scripture itself.

COURSE RATIONALE

It might be asked, however, what the value or advantage of Systematic Theology is over just simple Bible knowledge. The answer to this is in part found in that *God-breathed* passage in which Timothy and by extension, all Christians are, exhorted to "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Timothy 2:15; KJV)

Consider the importance of sound doctrine from the Apostle John's warning. "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son" (1 John 1:9; ESV) Again from the KJV, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

The "*teaching of Christ*", or "*doctrine of Christ*", is that category of systematic theology called Christology. Here implicitly stated is the prime importance of systematically theologizing about the Biblical teaching concerning Christ; His Person and His Work. I assert on the basis of this, and many other passages of Holy Scripture, that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, using Biblically based time honored hermeneutical approaches, while also pondering the wisdom of preceding ages Christians today must be about serious Systematic Theologizing.

Doctrinal error is no less prevalent in our day than it was in the days of the First Council of Nicea (A.D. 325). Vitally important was, and is today, that Council for the Doctrine of Christ - Christology. The individual believer or Church that simply trusts to tradition and/or superficial Bible reading and teaching that does not seek to plumb the depths of Scriptural wisdom and doctrine, will be poorly equipped for the multitudinous "*winds of doctrine*" that blow in every generation (Ephesians 4:14).

In the words of one who rejected many former beliefs to embrace what he found the Scripture teaching, "Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen."(Martin Luther, Imperial Diet of Worms, 1521 A.D.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Course objectives are related to the following selected Divisional Objectives which are being addressed in this course:

1. Given instruction in the Bible and in biblical theology, the student will exhibit knowledge of the messages of the various Old and New Testament books and the saving message of the Bible as a whole.
2. Shown how to use tools and sound methods for interpreting the Bible, the student will demonstrate the ability to properly interpret, apply and communicate Scripture.
3. Presented with the Biblical message, mandate and models, the students will know how to witness effectively within various cultural contexts leading to the worship of God.

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe the framework of systematic theology.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the doctrines covered.
3. Apply the Scriptural doctrines to the student's spiritual growth in Christ as well as contemporary issues within the Church.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbooks

The Faith Once For All: Bible Doctrine for Today, Jack Cottrell

Know What You Believe, Paul Little

Theology: The Basics, Alister McGrath

Is Hell For Real or Does Everyone Go to Heaven? Morgan & Peterson

Students will memorize the major doctrines of Systematic Theology. Students will be tested at the beginning of the Session Four. Only the emboldened titles are required for the memorization. The traditional listing of the major doctrines of systematic theology is as follows:

Scripture	(Bibliology)
God	(Theology)
Man	(Anthropology)
Christ	(Christology)
Holy Spirit	(Pneumatology)
Sin & Redemption	(Soteriology)
The Church	(Ecclesiology)
Angels	(Angelology)
The Future	(Eschatology)

Scriptural Memorization

The student will memorize the assigned passages for the assigned sessions using only the English Standard Version; ESV. Each quiz may accumulatively include the previous memorizations.

Written Assignments

All papers, except tests, are to be typed. The Doctrinal Paper will follow MLA style. ALL typing is to be *Times New Roman*, font 12, black ink only. Two or more pages are to be stapled.

1. **A typed HHH Reflection** (Head, Heart & Hand) is due per session based on the reading assigned for that session. Each is due on the session they are named. Exactly one is due for each

session; not one for each book assigned, but only one per session for all the readings of that session combined. How were you impacted at a **head level**; intellectual? How has your understanding of God’s Word been changed, made stronger or more firmly rooted? How were you impacted at a **heart level**? Was there a new conviction of sin or conviction of a duty in your life or your church? How has your position in Christ been solidified, your affections toward God intensified? How were you impacted on a **hand level**; in other words, what behavioral change will you pursue as a result of this session’s reading? Be specific. Do not generalize. A Head, Heart & Hand Reflection should be between 1-2 pages in length (double spaced) & typed using MLA style. A 10% reduction in grade will be applied for each week late (beginning after the class session has begun). A total of 681 pages of assigned reading is spread over the 16 week period.

2. **Sermon/Lesson Outlines**

Four (4) typed outlines, for either a “sermon” or a “lesson”, are assigned & due on the scheduled dates. The outlines must heavily take into account what you are learning through your readings & the lectures. Listed below are the topics & sessions due:

- Session Five – Outline #1 “*The doctrine of Revelation & Holy Scripture*”
- Session Eight – Outline #2 “*The doctrine of sin with emphasis on Exodus 34:7*”
- Session Eleven – Outline #3 “*The doctrine of Christ*”
- Session Fifteen – Outline #4 “*The doctrines of heaven & hell*”

3. **A typed doctrinal paper** shall be turned in to the professor the final session. The paper shall have as its focus – ***The Doctrine of Christ***. It is your purpose to demonstrate a sound & full understanding of the Scriptural teaching concerning “Christology”. In addition to class lectures and textbooks, make use of at least one other book. **You MUST clear the additional book with the professor.** The following is required: 8-10 pages in length; make minimal quotations of other sources, instead providing thoughtful analysis of your own. This paper is to be your thoughts, your summarization & your conclusions.

4. **A comprehensive Final Exam** will be given the last session of class.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Attentive participation, readings & ‘HHH Reflections’	10%
Scripture memory & pop quizzes	10%
Outlines (sermon/lesson)	20%
Final Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Pre-Class Reading: *The reading & subsequent written assignment for Session One is due at the beginning of Session One.* Assigned readings due on the session they appear. Page totals are approximations. Assigned readings preceded by three astericks *** may be found at the Library desk.

SESSION 1 (87 pages; topic - *Presuppositions*)

Know what you believe, chapter 1

*** “The Acquisition of Upper Story Knowledge”, (Ch 2) from ***The Quest for Truth*** by Forlines

*** “Understanding our Postmodern World”, (Ch 7) from ***Think Biblically*** by MacArthur

SESSION 2 (64 pages; topic – *The Bible*) **Memorization Due** - 2 Tim 3:16 & Psa 119:105
The Faith once for all, chapter 2
Theology: the Basics, ‘Preface’ & ‘Getting Started’ (xii-xxxii)
*** “God’s Self-Revelation”, (Ch 3) from *The Quest for Truth* by Forlines

SESSION 3 (60 pages – topic – *God*)
Know What You Believe, chapter 2
Theology: the Basics, chapters 2 & 3

SESSION 4 (61 pages; topic - *God*)
The Faith once for all, chapters 3 & 4

SESSION 5 (47 pages; topic - *The Trinity*) **Outline #1 Due**
*** “Christology in John’s Trinitarian perspective: Jesus’ filial identity” & “The Trinity and John’s Gospel” (Chapters 7 & 10) from *Father, Son and Spirit* by Kostenberger & Swain

SESSION 6 (70 pages; topic – *Man & Sin*) **Memorization Due** - Gen 1:27 & Ex 34:6-7
Know What You Believe, chapter 5
*** “Coming to Grips with Sin” (Ch 4), from *Think Biblically* by MacArthur
*** “Profiling Christian Masculinity” (Ch 8), from *Think Biblically* by MacArthur
*** “Profiling Christian Femininity” (Ch 9), from *Think Biblically* by MacArthur

SESSION 7 (40 pages; topic - *Christ*) **Resources for Doctrinal Paper must be turned in on this date to be cleared by professor**
Know What You Believe, chapter 3
Theology: the Basics, chapter 4

SESSION 8 (81 pages; topic - *Christ*) **Outline #2 Due**
Know What You Believe, chapter 4
The Faith once for all, chapters 13-14

SESSION 9 (32 pages; *Salvation*) **Memorization Due** - Colossians 1:15-16, 19
Know What You Believe, chapter 7
Theology: the Basics, chapter 5

SESSION 10 (36 pages; topic - *Salvation*)
The Faith once for all, chapters 16-17
*** “The Promise of Justification”, (Ch 19), from *The Gospel According to Jesus* by MacArthur

SESSION 11 (62 pages; topic - *Salvation*) **Outline #3 Due**
The Faith once for all, chapters 18-20
*** “The Way of Salvation” & “The Certainty of Judgment”, (Chapters 20-21), from *The Gospel According to Jesus* by MacArthur

SESSION 12 (39 pages; topic – *Holy Spirit & Church*) **Memorization Due** - John 16:7-8
Know What You Believe, chapters 6 & 9
Theology: the Basics, chapter 6

SESSION 13 (20 pages; topic - *The Church*)
Know What You Believe, chapter 10

SESSION 14 (78 pages; topic – *Heaven & Hell*)
Is Hell for Real? Pages 7-83

Memorization Due – Matthew 25:46

SESSION 15 (20 pages - *Heaven*)
Theology: the Basics, chapter 10

Outline #4 Due

SESSION 16
Doctrine of Christ Final Paper Due
Final Exam in class

All Memorizations will be due in the Exam

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: The expectation is that the student will be neither tardy nor absent. Given the nature of the subject material attendance at each session is necessary. Tardiness or absenteeism will be dealt with in consultation with the Academic Dean.

Absences: The burden is on the student to determining what was missed. This is critical given the frequency of Pop Quizzes. Absence the week before does not excuse you from the Pop Quiz you return to find yourself facing.

Late Work: Assignments are due on stated dates at the beginning of the class period. Late work for extenuating circumstances (illness, emergency, etc...) will be accepted for full credit. Other late assignments will be accepted on the basis of a 10% reduction in grade per each week late. All extenuating circumstances must be explained in written form.

Missed Exams: Exams missed due to an excused absence (extenuating circumstances) may be made up with the professor's permission. The exam will be taken within one week. Exams missed due to an unexcused absence may NOT be made up and will receive a 0%. Make-up tests will be administered in the 100.

Incompletes: See college catalog for the conditions under which an incomplete may be granted.

Special Circumstances – Students with a diagnosed learning disability will need to see The Hundred (Student Center for Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance the learning experience.

Computers: Computers may be used in the classroom provided you secure permission from the professor and that you use the computer for note-taking only; both immediately before & during class. Any other use will result in the permanent loss of this privilege.

No Cell Phones: Possession means student will be dismissed from & assigned a 0% for that session.

Honesty: Dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a 0% for the session & assignment involved. See the college catalog.

Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to modify the course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even assignments so long as the change does not add to the student's work load.

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Claycomb
312 East E. St. Belleville, IL 62220
(618) 623-2395 home
jtclaycomb@gmail.com

Christian Theology II Select Bibliography

Introduction

Berkhof, Louis. *Introduction to Systematic Theology*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.

Henry, C.F.H. *God, Revelation and Authority*. Vol. I, *God Who Speaks and Shows: Preliminary Considerations*. Waco: Word, 1976.

Theological Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

Kittel, Gerhard and Gerhard Friedrich, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. 10 vols. Trans. Geoffrey Bromilley. Grand Rapids; Eerdmans, 1964.

Ramm, Bernard. *A Handbook of Contemporary Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966.

Systematic Theologies

Cottrell, Jack. *Faith's Fundamentals: Seven Essentials of Christian Belief*. Cincinnati: Standard, 1995.

Forlines, Pinson & Ashby. *The Quest for Truth: Answering Life's Inescapable Questions*. Randall House Publications, 2001.

Geisler, Norman. *Systematic Theology* (4 vols). Bethany House, 2005.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Holy Scripture

Bruce, F.F. *The Books and the Parchments*. Rev. ed. Westwood, NJ: Revell, 1963.

--- *The Canon of Scripture*. Chapter House, 1988.

---. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.

Geisler, Norman L., ed. Inerrancy: *The Extent of Biblical Authority*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford UP, 1992.

God

Cottrell, Jack. *What the Bible says about God the Creator*. Joplin, MO: College P. 1983.

---. *What the Bible says about God the Redeemer*. Joplin, MO: College P. 1987.

---. *What the Bible says about God the Ruler*. Joplin, MO: College P. 1984.

Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1973.

White, James. *The Forgotten Trinity*. Bethany House, 1998.

Jesus Christ

Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*. SVS Press, 2000.

Erickson, Millard, *The Word Became Flesh*. Baker, 1991.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *The Cross*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1986.

Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.

---. *The Atonement: Its Meaning and Significance*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1983.

---. *The Cross of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Spurgeon, Charles H., *Christ's Glorious Achievements: What Jesus has done for you*. Christian Focus Publications, 2003.

Stott, John, *The Incomparable Christ*. Inter-Varsity Press, 2004.

Holy Spirit

Green, Michael. *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
Packer, J.I. *Keep in Step with the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1984.
Stott, John R. W. *Baptism and Fullness: The Work of the Holy Spirit Today*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1976.

Man and Sin

Geisler, Norman L. *Is Man the Measure?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983.
Hoekema, Anthony A. *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

The Future

Hanegraaff, Hank. *The Apocalypse Code*. Thomas Nelson, 2007.
Hoekema, Anthony A. *The Bible and the Future*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
Zodhiates, Spiros. *Life after Death?* Ridgefield, NJ: AMG, 1977.

Journals

The SLCC Library does or has subscribed to the following journals related to the area of theology. Not all represent conservative evangelicalism.

Ashland Theological Journal

Biblical Theology Bulletin

Bibliotheca Sacra

Catholic Biblical Quarterly

Concordia Theological Quarterly

The Evangelical Quarterly

Interpretation

Journal of Biblical Literature

Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society

Old Testament Abstracts

New Testament Abstracts

Presbyterion

Quarterly Review

Restoration Quarterly

Sojourners

Stone-Campbell Journal

Theology Today

Trinity Journal

The Westminster Theological Journal