This is a class that is meant to aid in your preparation for ministry. In my estimation, the best way to prepare to do ministry is to be thoroughly grounded in Scripture and its theology, including its apologetic. So, our study together will focus on the biblical and theological basis for apologetics, as well as on apologetics itself.

We will begin our study by looking at the biblical and theological foundations for apologetics, especially as those foundations have their focus in some of the standard loci of Systematic Theology.

We will then set our sights on the necessity of thinking covenantally as we think about God's relationship to creation, including to man, and then as we look to a proper, biblical apologetic method.

Class assignments

Other than class attendance, the course assignments will consist of two online exams and one paper.

1. The online exams will be multiple choice, fill in the blank and true/false. The first exam will include material from *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*. The second exam will include material from *Covenantal Apologetics*. These quizzes will be 50% of your grade.

2. You will be required to write an apologetic paper that deals with a specific "ministry" area or problem. An apologetic paper is a paper in which you are defending the truth of Christianity in light of some aspect or element of unbelief. This can be a paper that recounts something with which you have already dealt, but it must interact with the material in this course. In other words, the paper must take into account the lectures and reading that have been set forth in this class. (For any who might disagree with the approach taken in this class, please see me about your topic. You will not be downgraded for disagreeing).

The paper can be no longer than 10 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font.
Please number the pages, use footnotes, not endnotes, and include a bibliography. Failure to follow these instructions will result in a lesser grade.

According to the seminary, papers are due **six weeks** from the last day of class.

**Required Reading:**

You will notice that virtually all of the required reading includes my own books. I am requiring these, not necessarily because they are the best resources out there, but because they will best serve to support the lecture material. If you have other readings you would prefer, except for the two from which the quizzes will be taken, please see me.

*Covenantal Apologetics*, K. Scott Oliphint
*The Battle Belongs to the Lord*, K. Scott Oliphint
*God With Us*, (Chapters 1-4), K. Scott Oliphint
*Reasons for Faith* (Sections 1-4), K. Scott Oliphint
"Cornelius Van Til, V.D.M." Edmund P. Clowney
"Van Til the Evangelist," K. Scott Oliphint
I. Introduction
   I.A. Is there a Postmodern Context?
   I.B. What is our current context?
      B.1. Does our context matter?
   I.C. What is the Proper Approach to Ministry? [CVT VDM]

II. The Theological Basis for Ministry
   II. A. Apologetics and Theology Generally
   II. B. The Doctrine of Scripture
      II.B.(1) . The Essence of Scripture
      II.B.(2) . The necessity of Special Revelation
      II.B.(3) . The Sufficiency of Revelation
      II.B.(4) . The Authority of Revelation
      II.B.(5) . The Perspicuity of Scripture
   II. C. The Doctrine of God
      II.C.1. The Triune God
         II.C.1.a. The Trinity in Scripture
      II.C.2. Essential and Covenantal Attributes
         II.C.2.a. The Essence of God
      II.C.3. Christological Constraints
         II.C.3.a. Biblical considerations
         II.C.3.b. Chalcedonian Controversies
      II.C.4. Speaking of Christ
         II.C.4.a. Communicatio Idiomatum
         II.C.4.b. Extra Calvinisticum
         II.C.4.c. Reduplicative Strategy
      II.C.5. Christology Guides Theology Proper
      II.C.6. Covenant Properties and God's will
   II. D. The Doctrine of Man
   II. E. The Doctrine of Salvation
   II. F. Common Grace

III. Worldview and Ministry
   III. A. Tentative Definition
   III. B. Its History
III.B.(1). In Christianity
   III.B.1.(a) James Orr
   III.B.1.(b) Abraham Kuyper
   III.B.1.(c) Herman Dooyeweerd
III. C. Worldview and Postmodernity
   III.C.(1). Explaining the Definition-Heart Responses

IV. Revelation as Apologetic/Ministerial Foundation
   IV. A. The authority of special revelation
   IV. B. The authority of natural revelation
      IV.B.(1) Self-authentication
      IV.B.(2) Facts and creation
         IV.B.2.(a) Knowledge of God
         IV.B.2.(b) The Logos Principle
      IV.B.(3) Knowledge of God and Natural Theology
         IV.B.3.(a) Self-deception
         IV.B.3.(b) Natural Theology Again
         IV.B.3.(c) Conclusion on the Knowledge of God and the
            Covenantal approach
      IV.B.(4) Anknüpfungspunkt
      IV.B.(5) The Antithesis - Kuyper and Warfield

V. Persuasion and Apologetics/Ministry