

Systematic Theology 4ST615 (Sections 1 & 2): The Doctrine of Baptism

Fall 2008

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Course Description

This course is an elective study of the doctrine of baptism. It covers the history of the doctrine from the patristics through the modern period. It also surveys the doctrine from the biblical theological perspective. It concludes with a positive systematic theological construction of the doctrine. Subjects covered include the development of the doctrine, baptism as a means of grace, as a sacrament, the doctrine itself, the recipients, as well as the question of whether baptisms of the Roman Catholic Church are valid.

The **basic course** has no prerequisites. Some of the readings are therefore basic and the metric is one examination that covers materials from the lectures as well as from the readings. The exam covers terminology and key concepts, which is evaluated by term definition, short answer, and brief essay questions.

The **advanced course** requires the prerequisites of ST I-IV (some exceptions might be made depending upon the courses taken). Some of the readings overlap with the basic course, but knowledge of systematic theology and its basic concepts is assumed. Therefore, there are advanced readings. The metric for this course is a 15-20 page research paper (see research paper guidelines).

Class Schedule

19-20 September: Fri, 6.30-8.30pm; Sat, 8.30-4.30pm

10-11 October: Fri, 6.30-8.30pm; Sat, 8.30-4.30pm

7-8 November: Fri, 6.30-8.30pm; Sat, 8.30-4.30pm

Student Evaluation

Section 1: Basic Course

- 1 Comprehensive Final Exam (worth 90% of final grade) and will cover both material delivered in lecture as well as material from the class texts. **FINAL EXAM DUE and must be post-marked by 12 December 2008. Submit via snail-mail.**
- Completion of all required reading (worth 10% of final grade). **READING REPORT DUE 12 September 2008 (reported on final exam).**

Section 2: Advanced Course

- 15-20 page research paper (worth 90% of final grade). **DUE AND MUST BE POST-MARKED BY 12 December 2008. Submit via snail-mail.**

- Completion of all required reading (worth 10% of final grade). **READING REPORT DUE 12 September 2008 (reported on submitted paper).**

Academic Policies

Class academic policies are those that are outlined in the current RTS Course Catalog (grading scale, class attendance policy, conduct, and examination policies).

Taping of Class Lectures

You are permitted to tape class lectures for note taking purposes or in the event that you miss a portion of a class day (students are responsible for getting a member of the class to tape the lecture for them).

Obtaining Class Lecture Notes in event of an absence

You are responsible for obtaining lecture notes in the event of your absence from a fellow student. The professor will not provide lecture notes.

Failure to turn in required materials

In the event that you fail to turn in required assignments, you will receive the grade of an "F." In the event that you need a time extension, you must obtain an official extension request form from the administration, which must be approved by the professor and academic dean. If an extension is granted, you will receive an "INC" until all assignments are completed. Extensions will be granted only in the event of extenuating circumstances such as severe illness or death in the family.

Required Textbooks

Holy Bible (any version)

Section 1: Basic course

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology: Combined Edition* (1949; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996).

James V. Brownson, *The Promise of Baptism: An Introduction to Baptism in Scripture and the Reformed Tradition* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).

* B. B. Warfield, "The Task and Method of Systematic Theology," in *Works*, v. 9, ed. E. D. Warfield, et al. (1931; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981), pp. 91-108.

* Geerhardus Vos, "The Idea of Biblical Theology as a Science and as a Theological Discipline," in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, ed. Richard B. Gaffin (Phillipsburg: P & R, 1980), pp. 3-24.

Section 2: Advanced Course

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008).

James D. G. Dunn, *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1970).

Both sections

Karl Barth, *The Teaching of the Church Regarding Baptism* (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2006).

Pierre-Charles Marcel, *The Biblical Doctrine of Infant Baptism* (Cambridge: James Clark, 1953).

John Murray, *Christian Baptism* (Phillipsburg: P & R, 1980).

Westminster Confession of Faith with Larger and Shorter Catechisms (preferably w/ Scripture Proofs) * note, bring a copy with you to class, as frequent reference will be made to these documents.

<http://www.opc.org/confessions.html>

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles, Library of Christian Classics, vols. 20-21 (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960).

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes.html>

*Available from on IQ web

Lecture Schedule (approximate—will have approximately 1 hr 15 mins for lunch each Saturday)

Topic	Time	Day	Reading
Course Introduction	6.30-7.30	Fri Sept 19th	Warfield, “Task and Method of ST” Vos, “Idea of BT as a Science”
Patristics, Middle Ages, Counter Reformation	7.30-8.30		
Luther and Lutheranism	8.30-9.30	Sat Sept 20th	
Zwingli and the Anabaptists	9.30-10.30		
Reformation Reformed theology	10.30-11.30		Both sections: Calvin, <i>Institutes</i> , 4.14-16 (pp. 1276-1359)
Early Orthodoxy	1.00-2.00		
High Orthodoxy	2.00-3.00		
Modern Theology	3.00-4.00		Both sections: Barth, <i>Baptism</i> .
Baptism as new creation	6.30-7.30	Fri Oct 10 th	Advanced: Dunn, <i>Baptism in the HS</i>
Baptism as new creation	7.30-8.30		
Baptism as covenant judgment	8.30-9.30	Sat Oct 11th	

Baptism as covenant judgment	9.30-10.30		
Baptism eschatological judgment	10.30-11.30		
Baptism as a means of grace	1.00-2.00		Basic: Berkhof, 604-15 Advanced: Bavinck, 441-95
Baptism as a means of grace	2.00-3.00		Basic: Brownson, 1-44 Both sections: Marcel, <i>Baptism</i> , 63-138.
Baptism as a sacrament	3.00-4.00		Basic: Berkhof, 616-21. Both sections Marcel, <i>Baptism</i> , 1-62
Baptism as a sacrament	6.30-7.30	Fri Dec 7th	
Baptism as a doctrine	7.30-8.30		Basic: Berkhof, 622-43 Basic: Brownson, 45-112, 145-72. Advanced: Bavinck, 496-539 Both sections: Murray, <i>Christian Baptism</i> ; Marcel, 139-86
Baptism as a doctrine	8.30-9.30	Sat Dec 8th	
Baptism and its recipients	9.30-10.30		Basic: Brownson, 113-42, 173-214. Both sections: Marcel, 187-244
Baptism and its recipients	10.30-11.30		
Baptism and ecclesiology	1.00-2.00		
Baptism and ecclesiology	2.00-3.00		
Buffer	3.00-4.00		