

RTS Atlanta

Worship {4PT526 - 3 hours}

Fall 2010

Course Dates / Times: October 8-9 (Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. / Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.); October 21-24 (Thursday evening through Sunday); November 19-20 (Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. / Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Instructors

Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old

Dr. David W. Hall (email: david.hall@midwaypca.org)

Dr. Jon D. Payne (email: jdpgracepca@mac.com)

Course Description

Worship is the preeminent calling and task of every true church and every sincere Christian believer. This course will attempt to set forth a Biblical / Reformed understanding of the nature, form and practice of Lord's Day public worship. We will examine the worship of God's covenant people throughout history, from the days of Adam to the present. This will include, among other things, the development and transformation of worship from Old Covenant to New Covenant, the preparation of a biblical liturgy, worship as covenant-renewal, the public reading and preaching of Scripture, music, congregational singing, and public prayer.

Course Objectives

1. Cultivate a Biblical understanding of the nature, form and practice of public worship.
2. Gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the theology and history of Christian worship.
3. To teach future / current ministers how to best prepare, and lead, Lord's Day worship services that are Reformed according to Scripture.

Course Requirements

1. Required Reading (20%)

- a. *Worship* by Hughes Oliphant Old
- b. *A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of God-Centered Worship* by Michael Horton
- c. *In The Splendor Of Holiness: Rediscovering the Beauty of Reformed Worship for the 21st Century* by Jon D. Payne (122 pgs)
- d. *The Patristic Roots of Reformed Worship* by Hughes Oliphant Old
- e. *Reformed Worship* by Terry Johnson (80 pgs)

2. Class Seminars (15%)

Class seminars will be based on the lectures and select portions of the required reading. Each student, as a part of a seminar group, will be responsible for preparation and active participation in a presentation / discussion of an assigned topic. Specific instructions on class seminars will be provided six-weeks before the first class meeting.

3. Reformation Worship Conference (20%)

Attendance and participation at the first annual *Reformation Worship Conference* on the weekend of October 21-24, 2010 at Midway Presbyterian Church in Powder Springs, Georgia (Thursday evening through Sunday). The three day conference on worship will be a combination of scholarly lectures, workshops and worship services. Speakers will include Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old, Dr. David W. Hall, Dr. Mark E. Ross, Dr. Paul S. Jones, Dr. Jon D. Payne, and Dr. Terry L. Johnson. Students will also be invited to attend Lord's Day worship services at either Midway Presbyterian Church or Grace Presbyterian Church, Douglasville, GA.

**Housing may be available for out-of-town students.*

4. Essay (45%)

The essay will be 12-15 pages on one of the topics below ... more.

- a. The Nature and Practice of Public Prayer
- b. Visible Words of Love: Baptism and the Lord's Supper in Christian Worship
- c. "Reverence and Awe" in Public Worship
- d. Worship & the Means of Grace
- e. Worship and Culture
- f. Worship and the Christian Sabbath
- g. Worship, Music and Singing
- h. Calvin, Luther and Protestant Worship
- i. Worship and the English Puritans
- j. Extensive Review of *Gospel Worship* by Jeremiah Burroughs