Fall 2005

PT502 Introduction to Ministry

Tuesday 1-3 pm

Instructor: Allen D. Curry

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 11-12

Expectations:

All students who take this course have at least a B.A. or its equivalent. Therefore, I expect that students will be familiar with the rudiments of written and spoken English, research procedures, exam taking and paper writing. If you feel deficient in any of these areas, please contact me early in the course.

Since this is a graduate course, I do not provide worksheets or study guides. A Master's degree indicates the ability to organize and formulate ideas of your own as well as of others. The process of organizing and formulating ideas is an important step in your academic program. I expect that you will master a body of material to such an extent that you will be able to present it to others, not simply feed back what someone has presented to you.

I recognize that all students will not have the same abilities or interest level. Nevertheless, I expect that all students will perform in a manner consistent with graduate level education. Fundamentally this means that the students are expected to take the initiative in all educational endeavors. The professor is simply a resource to help the student master the material at hand.

The end of all education is for the student to be able to acquire knowledge and use it in a way that honors the Lord. Education is not simply mimicking the professor or repeating exactly what he said. Rather it involves the integration of material so that the student can transform what is learned and in doing so become a more effective servant of the Lord.

In my view education requires the mastery of content, critical evaluation of what is learned and the application of that knowledge in either a theoretical or practical setting. I will expect you to demonstrate these skills in this course.

Course description:

This course introduces the student to exegetical, theological, historical and practical aspects of ministry. The student will be required to analyze his call to ministry, his habits of piety and make a judgment about his fitness for ministry. The course is designed to enable the student to use the practice of ministry as the integrating concept for all of his theological studies.

Course objectives:

The student will be able to show how the Bible defines the role of the minister and to analyze how well that description matches his practice and interests.

The student will be able to relate various loci of theology to the practice of ministry and to explain how he will adjust his practice accordingly.

The student will be able to analyze themes from the history of the church that impinge on the prac-
tice of ministry and compare and contrast his approach to ministry on the basis of his analysis.

The student will be able to evaluate practical elements in the contemporary practice of ministry and explain how they are or are not based in biblical exegesis or theological reflection.

The student will be able to explain the role of piety in the ministry and describe how he will endeavor to grow in piety.

The student will outline criteria for determining whether one is called to the ministry and examine his call to the ministry on the basis of that criteria showing where he is confident that he meets the requirements and indicating how he will address those areas where he finds himself unsure.

Course requirements:

Textbooks:

Derek Tidball, *Skillful Shepherds*

Thomas Oden, *Pastoral Theology*

Edmund Clowney, *Called to the Ministry*

Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*

Reading:


Exams/Papers:

There are three papers of five pages each and a final exam required in this course. Each will count for twenty-five percent of your grade. Papers submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of two points per day they are late.

The final exam must be taken during finals week. It will cover all the lecture material as well as all the reading. It will be a combination of objective and essay. You will need to know both the details of the lectures and reading as well as the broad concepts, their relationships and implications for ministry.

PAPER #1 An essay describing how you will encourage your growth in piety. It is to be five pages in length. You are to read a book dealing with the development of piety (for example, something from D. Willard, Jerry Bridges, Foster, Whitney). On the basis of your reading and reflection, you are to write an essay stating how you intend to foster your growth in godliness during your seminary career. Your paper will be evaluated on the basis of how well you reflect the material from the book you read, how comprehensive (but not exhaustive) you are, how concrete your plans are and how realistic your essay is. Please note, books required for the course *Classics of Personal Devotion* may not be used to satisfy this requirement. Due 10/4/05

PAPER #2 An examination of your call to the ministry. It is to be five pages in length. You will read Clowney *Called to the Ministry*, restate his arguments and show why you believe you are called to the ministry or what areas you must address in order to be assured of your call. Your paper will be judged on the basis of clarity, how faithfully you restate Clowney's position, how well you apply it to your situation and the
degree to which you have answered or shown what you must do to determine whether you are called to the ministry. Due 11/1/05

PAPER # 3 An exegesis of a passage from 2 Timothy. It is to be five pages in length. Select a section from 2 Timothy and explain the meaning of the text, its implications for ministry and how you will apply your conclusions to your preparation for ministry. You will be evaluated on the basis of clarity, your ability to reflect the teaching of the commentary you have selected, how well you apply the teaching of the text to ministry, reflection on your needs and desires in ministry and originality. As an alternative, you may select at least three but no more than five words from the NT that are directly related to ministry and examine the relevant sections of *The New International Dictionary of the New Testament Theology* by Colin Brown. In your paper explain what the words mean, how they inform the practice of ministry, and how you will apply your conclusions to your preparation for ministry. The same evaluative criteria apply. Due 12/7/05.
Course Outline:

8/30
Course overview and definitions

9/6, 13
An examination of some biblical words that are significant in understanding ministry.
Reading: Oden, 49-81 Brown on poimen, diakonia, doulos

9/20
An overview of the OT teaching on ministry.
Reading: Oden, X-15 Tidball 7-54

9/27
An overview of the NT teaching on ministry.
Reading: Tidball, 55-146

10/4
An examination of the role that character and piety play in ministry
Reading: Baxter, 9-172
Essay on practice of piety due.

10/18
The implications of the loci of theology for ministry.
Reading: Oden, Chapters 8, 9 Clowney, All

10/25
The implications of the loci of theology for ministry.
Reading: Oden, Chapters 10, 11

11/1
The implications of the loci of theology for ministry.
Reading: Oden, Chapters 12, 13, 14
Paper on call to ministry due.

11/8, 15
An examination of the role that history plays in understanding ministry.
Reading: Oden, Chapters 3, Tidball, 147-246

11/22
An examination of some of the practical issues that shape our understanding and practice of ministry.
Reading: Oden, Chapters 15, 16 Baxter 172-256 Tidball, 247-338

12/29
An examination of some of the practical issues that shape our understanding and practice of ministry.
Reading: Oden, Chapters 17, 18

12/7/03 Final paper due
Bibliography:


Hull, Bill. *Can We Save the Evangelical Church?* Grand Rapids: Baker 1993.


Litwin, George H. *Motivation and Organizational Climate.* Boston: Harvard University, 1968.


McIntosh, I.F. *Pastoral Care and Pastoral Theology.* Edinburgh: St Andrew Press, 1972.


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