

# ThM SEMINAR ON JOHN OWEN

2HT834

January 2008

**Professor:** Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas

**Dates:** January 14-18, 2008

**Place:** RTS Seminar Room

## **TEXTBOOKS: Required**

Students will be required to read the following books BEFORE the seminar:

*In the interests of getting to know John Owen rather than what scholars have written about John Owen, we will concentrate on primary literature. A survey of the highlights of the most important, current secondary literature will be given during the lectures.*

**Any 500 pages of material from *John Owen's* writings. These 500 pages must comprise at least two different sources of roughly equal length:**

The Works of John Owen Ed by William Goold. 24 vols. Edinburgh  
London: Johnstone and Hunter, 1850-53; vols. 1-16 reprint ed.,  
London: Banner of Truth, 1987.

An Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews Edited by William Goold.  
24 vols. Edinburgh: Johnstone and Hunter; vols 18-23 reprint ed.,  
Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991.

Owen, John Biblical Theology Pittsburgh, PA: Soli Deo Gloria,  
1994 (vol 17 of the Goold edition).

In addition, you are required to read the following:

Kapic, Kelly, *Communion With God: The Divine and the Human in the Theology of John Owen* (Baker, 2007)

Trueman, Carl, *The Claims of Truth: John Owen's Trinitarian Theology* (Paternoster, 1998). *This is currently out of print.*

## **OBJECTIVES:**

This is a graduate seminar with three basic components – lectures, student presentations and tutorials. This seminar is a designated to introduce the graduate student to the historical contours and theological development of doctrine in the seventeenth century, particular in England and among the puritans. It is the goal of this program to provide students with graduate level critical and analytical skills, a good broad background in the field of Reformation studies as well as a high level of competence in the area of their thesis research and primary sources.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

There will be **1 major research paper (20+ pages)** on a topic approved by the professor. The complete first draft is due **26 March**. The final draft of the research paper is due **4 April**.

There are also **two Response Papers (7-10 pages)** on the reading assignments which are to be completed **BEFORE** the January sessions. Each paper is to be a formal, well-written, footnoted, balanced, summary, analysis and critical response to **any two chapters from the assigned reading**.

These response papers will be presented informally in the morning sessions and will provide the basis for seminar discussions. In afternoon tutorials, the Professor will work with the student to help (i) to assess and develop scholarly skills and (ii) to begin work on research paper for the seminar.

Student presentation (30 mins) of the fruits of his/her Response Paper, followed by class discussion.

The major research paper is 80% of the final grade. Each response paper will be 10% of the final grade.

## **SEMINAR SCHEDULE:      9 am - Noon**

14 Jan -----      Reformation and Early Puritan Theological Context

15 Jan -----      Covenant Theology

- 16 Jan ----- Issues of Reformed Piety
- 17 Jan ----- Calvinism and disputed loci (inc. limited atonement)
- 18 Jan ----- Ecclesiology and the wider vision

**TUTORIALS:** 1 pm - 3 pm (Location to be decided)

**INTERNET SCHEDULE:**

- Week of 4 Feb                      3-5 page draft to Professor
- Week of 11 Feb                     Professor responds to Student Papers
- Week of 18 Feb                     5-7 pages to Professor
- Week of 25 Feb                     Professor responds to Student Papers
- Week of 10 Mar                     10-13 pages to Professor

*Nota bene: Each student should also send a copy of this draft to all seminary participants for feedback*

- Week of 17 Mar                     All Seminar participants provide feedback for Student Paper
- Week 24 Mar                        First Draft to Professor

*Nota Bene: Each student should also send a copy of this draft to all seminary participants for feedback*

- Week 31 Mar                        All Seminar participants provide feedback
- Week 7 April                        Final Draft due to Professor

<b>FINAL DRAFT DUE 11 APRIL 2008</b>
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**Nota Bene:** All preliminary drafts will be via email. The final draft should be hard copy and mailed to: Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas, Reformed Theological Seminary, 5422 Clinton Blvd, Jackson, MS 39209

## Criteria for Evaluation of THM Papers

### I. Grammar and Style (25%)

- \* Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
- \* Is the text punctuated correctly?
- \* Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
- \* Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (Turabian, A Manual for Writers).
- \* Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (e.g., the guidelines in Strunk and White, The Elements of Style)?

### II. Organization (25%)

- \* Is the subject of the paper clearly delimited? Is it significant, but still manageable?
- \* Does the subject correspond to what was assigned in the syllabus?
- \* Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
- \* Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
- \* Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?

### III. Clarity and Force of Argument (25%)

- \* Is a convincing case made to support the thesis statement?
- \* Is the evidence marshalled to support the argument used judiciously?
- \* Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
- \* Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
- \* Is there evidence of mature Christian reflection on the subject matter?

### IV. Research (25%)

- \* Does the paper draw on primary sources for its main evidence?
- \* Are the secondary sources selected and used judiciously?
- \* Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?

## Recommended Sources:

### Primary Sources

Owen, John. A Display of Arminianism reprint ed. Edmonton: Still waters Revival Books, 1989.

Owen, John. A Sermon Preached to the Parliament, October 13, 1652 Oxford: Leonard Lichfield, 1652.

Owen, John. A Vision of Unchangeable Free Mercy London: Philemon Stephens, 1646.

Owen, John. An Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews Edited by William Goold. 24 vols. Edinburgh: Johnstone and Hunter; vols 17-23 reprint ed., Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991.

Owen, John. Evangelical Theology: A Translation of the Sixth Book of Dr. Owen's Latin Work Entitled Theologoumena Trans. John Craig. Edinburgh: M. Paterson, 1837.

Owen, John Meditations and Discourses on the Glory of Christ Glasgow: Ebenezer Miller, 1790.

Owen, John Oxford Orations of Dr John Owen. Ed. Peter Toon. Liukinhorne, Cornwall: Gospel Communications, 1971.

Owen, John Perilous Times Grand Rapids: Inheritance Publishing Co., [between 1940 and 1970].

Owen, John The Death of Death in the Death of Christ. Edinburgh: Johnstone and Hunter, 1852; with introduction by J. I. Packer, reprint ed. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1989.

Owen, John The Glory of Christ ed. Wilbur M Smith. Reprint ed. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Owen, John The Holy Spirit: His Gifts and Power Evansville: Sovereign Grace Publishers, 1954.

Owen, John The Works of John Owen Ed by William Goold. 24 vols. Edinburgh London: Johnstone and Hunter, 1850-53; vols. 1-16 reprint ed., London: Banner of Truth, 1987.

Owen, John Biblical Theology Pittsburgh, PA: Soli Deo Gloria, 1994

### Secondary Sources

Beeke, Joel R. Assurance of Faith: Calvin, English Puritanism, and the Dutch Second Reformation New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 1991.

Clifford, A. C. Atonement and Justification: English Evangelical Theology 1640-1790, An Evaluation (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990)

Ferguson, Sinclair B. John Owen on the Christian Life. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1987.

\_\_\_\_\_, "John Owen on Conversion", Banner of Truth, 134: November, 1974, pp. 20-25.

\_\_\_\_\_, "John Owen on Piety", Banner of Truth, 191-192: August-September 1979, pp. 47-60, 194: November 1979, pp. 6-19.

\_\_\_\_\_, "John Owen on the Spirit in the Life of Christ", Banner of Truth, 294: March 1988, pp. 10-14.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Some Thoughts on Reading the Works of John Owen", Banner of Truth, 152: March 1976, pp. 3-10.

Gleason, Randall John Calvin and John Owen on Mortification: A Comparative Study in Reformed Spirituality New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc, 1995.

Golding, Peter "Owen on the Mortification of Sin" Banner of Truth, 32:1 June 1990, pp. 13-16; 322: July 1990, pp. 20-24.

Griffiths, Steve Redeem The Time: Sin in the Writings of John Owen Fearn, Rosshire:Mentor/Christian Focus Publications, 2001.

Hannah John D. "John Owen and the 'normal': Christian Life or Sanctification in an Era of Confusion". Web site:

<http://www.alliancenet.org/pub/mr/mr96/1996.06.NovDec/mr9606.jh.johnowen.html>.

Houston, James M. abridged *Sin and temptation: The Challenge to Personal Godliness* Basingstoke: Pickering and Inglis, 1983; reprint 1997\* .

Howson, Barry H. "The Puritan Hermeneutics of John Owen: A Recommendation," in Westminster Theological Journal 63 (2001) 351-76.

Law, R. J. K., abridged John Owen: Communion with God. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991.

\_\_\_\_\_, abridged The Natures and Causes of Apostasy from the Gospel Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1992.

Lawrence, H. abridged, Christians are For Ever! From "The Doctrine of the saints' Perseverance Explained and Confirmed" by John Owen, gen. Ed. J. K. Davies. London: Grace Publications, 1987.

Lewis, Peter The Genius of Puritanism Haywards Heath, Essex: Carey Publications, 1979.

Lloyd, Glynne John Owen: Commonwealth Puritan Pontypridd: Modern Welsh Publications Ltd, 1972.

Lloyd-Jones, D. M. The Puritans Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1987.

Murray, Iain, H. The Reformation of the Church Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, reprint 1987.

Oliver, Robert (Ed.). John Owen: The Man and His Theology Grand Rapids, MI: Presbyterian and Reformed; Darlington: Evangelical Press, 2003.

Orme, William Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Religious Connexions of John Owen, D.D. London: printed for T. Hamilton, 1820.

Packer, J. I. A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1990.

Rehman, Sebastian "John Owen: A Reformed Scholastic at Oxford," in Reformation and Scholasticism edited by Willem J. van Asselt & Eef Dekker Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001, 181-204.

\_\_\_\_\_Divine Discourse: The Theological Methodology of John Owen Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.

Ryken, Leland Worldly saints: The Puritans as They Really Were Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.

Thomson, Andrew John Owen: Prince of the Puritans Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 1996.

Toon, Peter God's Statesman: The Life and Work of John Owen, Pastor, Educator, Theologian. Greenwood: Attic Press, 1971.

Trueman, Carl The Claims of Truth (Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster, 1998).

\_\_\_\_\_"Puritan Theology as Historical Event: A Linguistic Approach to the Ecumenical Context," in Reformation and Scholasticism edited by Willem J. van Asselt & Eef Dekker Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001, 253-275.

\_\_\_\_\_ and R. S. Clark (eds) Protestant Scholasticism: Essays in Reassessment Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster Press, 1999.

Vernon, George A Letter to a Friend Concerning Some of Dr. Owen's Principles and Practices London: Spencer Hickman, 1670.

Wray, Daniel E. "The Spiritual Man in the Teachings of John Owen" Banner of Truth, 182: November, 1978, pp. 10-20.