Thursdays, 9-12

Instructor, John M. Frame

My stated office hours this term are Mondays, 8-11 AM, others by appointment. I’m in my office most mornings, and if my door is ajar I’ll be happy to see you. Feel free to write me at jframe@rts.edu. I will probably give a better answer to your question by email than in person, but I realize that sometimes face-to-face meetings are better.

Teaching Assistant, Berek Smith

Berek has done great work in my courses. I believe he can answer most all of your questions, both about procedures and course content. Do feel free to write him, at berek.qinah@gmail.com, or berek@berek.net. He will be writing and grading the class exams, with my assistance. If you have a problem with an exam or with your grade, please talk to him first. If you can’t come to agreement with him, I’ll be willing to arbitrate.

Texts and Abbreviations:

RC: Reformed Confessions, any edition (available online for download at http://www.tulip.org/refcon/, or for reading at http://www.creeds.net/reformed/creeds.htm.)
SD: Supplementary Documents (available at www.reformedperspectives.org. Click on “Hall of Frame,” then on this course. )
Frame, *Doctrine of God* (Lecture Outline) (DGLO)
Frame, *Doctrine of God* Study Guide (DGSG)
Frame, *Doctrine of the Word of God* (Lecture Outline) (DWGLO)
Frame, *Doctrine of the Word of God* Study Guide (DWGSG)
Frame, *Doctrine of the Word of God* (Manuscript of forthcoming book)
Frame, “Introduction to the Reformed Faith”
Warfield, “A Brief and Untechnical Statement of the Reformed Faith”
Van Til, “Nature and Scripture”
John Murray, “The Attestation of Scripture”
Frame, “Covenant and the Unity of Scripture”
Frame, “In Defense of Something Close to Biblicism”
Frame, “Traditionalism”

Recommended:

_The Collected Works of John M. Frame_ (P&R and Bits and Bytes, 2008), Vol. 1: three CDs or one DVD, including six books, many articles, and 70 hours of audio lectures on MP3s, including my lectures on Scripture and God. This volume focuses on systematic theology. Vol. 2 will deal specifically with apologetics, vol. 3 with ethics and worship. It costs a lot, but the cost per book (and other materials) is pretty low.

Objectives

1. To give reasons for confidence in the absolute authority of Scripture as God’s Word.

2. To show that disbelief and disobedience to Scripture are inconsistent with faith in Jesus Christ.

3. To present God as covenant Lord and ways of speaking about him consistent with his Lordship as revealed in Scripture.

4. To elicit a greater love for our Triune God and his revelation.

Assignments

1. Class attendance is required. I won’t call the roll, but students who are often absent or late without excuse will be penalized.

2. You are asked to complete all reading assignments on the days indicated below. For the first part of the course (Doctrine of God) I have supplied a Study Guide (DGSG). For each class period, you are to prepare the material for the lesson assigned for that day. That means, you should be prepared to define any of the key terms or answer any of the questions. During this part of the course, I will not lecture, as a rule, but will call on individual students to respond to Study Guide questions. I may also ask questions that are not on the Study Guide, to determine how well you understand the issues.

3. Midterm Test on the Doctrine of God unit (everything we have covered to that point). The test will be given in the library, and you may take it any time from the opening of the library on Monday, Oct. 26, to its closing on Saturday, Oct. 31. _Important note:_
Please do not use exams from past years to study for the Midterm or the Final. If you do, it will be considered cheating.

4. Final Exam, only on the Doctrine of the Word of God unit (material covered since the midterm). Time and place will be announced. See important note under 3, above.

Grading

All assignments will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Your final grade will be calculated thus, based on assignments 2-4 above:

Passing work on assignments 2-4: A.
Passing work on two of three assignments: B.
Passing work on one of three: C.
No passing work: F.

Weekly Assignments

All dates are Thursdays.

Aug. 27: Introduction to the Doctrine of God

DG, 1-46, 80-115.
DGSG, Lessons 1-3, 5-7.
SD: Frame, “Introduction to the Reformed Faith”
Warfield, “A Brief and Untechnical Statement of the Reformed Faith”

Sept. 3: God’s Sovereignty, Human Responsibility, Evil

CTR, God’s Sovereignty, Human Responsibility, Evil.
Irenaeus, 179-80.
Origen, 184-85.
Augustine, 199-200.
Bonaventure, 215-216.
John Owen, 221-222.
DG, Chapters 4, 8, 9. For assignments in DG, you may find it helpful to consult DGLO as well, which provides an outline of DG. We may occasionally use that outline in class as well. Large Roman numerals in the outline correspond to chapter numbers in the book.
DGSG, Questions on the above chapters (similarly each week from now on).
Second Helvetic Confession, 9.
Westminster Confession of Faith, 3.1, 9.1-5.
Sept. 10: Philosophy of Lordship, Miracle and Providence

DG, Chapters 10-14.

RC

Belgic Confession, 15.
Second Helvetic Confession, 6.
Westminster Confession of Faith, 2, 5.
Westminster Larger Catechism, 18-19.
Westminster Shorter Catechism, 11.

Sept. 17: Creation and the Decrees

CTR

Tertullian, 181-82.
Origen, 183-84.
Swinburne, 230-33.
DG and DGSG, Chapters 15-16.

RC

BC 14, 16.
CD: First Head, Articles 1-18 and Rejection of Errors.
DG 15, 16.
HC 26.
SHC 7, 10.
WCF 3, 4.
WLC 12-17.
WSC 7-10.

Sept. 24: Names and Images of God; Moral Attributes

CTR:

Juliana of Norwich, 216-218.
Jewett on Non-inclusive Language, 248-250.
Anne Carr, 251-53.
Anselm on God’s Compassion, 210.
Sarah Coakley, 253-55.
DG and DGSG, 17-21.

RC:

Westminster Confession of Faith, 2.1-2 (review)
Westminster Larger Catechism 7 (“)

Oct. 1: God’s Knowledge and Power

CTR:
Oct. 8: God, Time, and Space; God’s Aseity

DG and DGSG, Chapters 24-26.
CTR:
  - Origen on God’s Suffering, Changelessness, 185-87.
  - Spinoza, 222-23.
  - Moltmann on Divine Suffering, 226-30.
  - Küng on Immutability, 239-42
  - Jüngel on Divine Suffering, 242-43.

Oct. 15: Reading week. No class.

Oct. 22: The Trinity

DG and DGSG, Chapters 27-29.
CTR:
  - Irenaeus, 180-81.
  - Gregory of Nazianzen, 192-93.
  - Hilary of Poitiers, 193-94.
  - Augustine, 194-99.
  - Epiphanius on Sabellianism, 204-205.
  - Cyril on the Spirit, 205-206.
  - Richard of St. Victor on love within the Trinity (review), 211-212.
  - Schleiermacher, 223-24.
  - Leonardo Boff, 234-36.
  - Walter Kasper, rationality, 246-248.
  - Paul Jewett, 248-50 (review).
  - Sarah Coakley, social models, 253-55, review.

Oct. 26-31: MID-TERM EXAMINATION. Take the exam in the library, any time from its opening on Monday the 26th to its closing on Saturday the 31st. The exam will deal only with the Doctrine of God, that is, the assignments made through Oct. 22.

Oct. 29: The Word of God
At this point in the course, I hope to introduce *Doctrine of the Word of God*, manuscript of a forthcoming book of mine. I have no idea how far along the book will be at the time. To the extent that it is finished, I will substitute readings in that book for other assignments below, and I will ask you to read a portion of the book for discussion in each class. To the extent that the book is unfinished, I will lecture on the topics not covered by the book. The following are assignments I have given in past years. These assume that the book manuscript is *not* available.

Have available DWGLO. Look over pp. 1-9.
  Barth, on revelation, 146-48.
  Orr, on centrality of revelation, 140-43.
  Herrmann, on nature of revelation, 143-46.
  Brunner, 148-50.
  Packer, nature of revelation, 166-68.
  Spener, 118-120, on importance of the Scriptures.

DG, 469-75 (review).
DWGSG, Lesson 1
PWG, vii-viii, 1-16.

Nov. 5: The Media of the Word

CTR
  Martin Luther on Revelation in Christ, 98-100.
  John Calvin on the Natural Knowledge of God, 100-102.
  Sir Thomas Browne, 115-117.
  Zinzendorf, 120-22.
  Edwards, 122-23.
  Paley, 123-27.
  Gerard Manley Hopkins, 137-38.
  Thomas Torrance on Karl Barth’s Natural Theology, 168-171.
DWGLO, 9-14
DWGSG, Lesson 2
SD: Van Til, “Nature and Scripture” Don’t worry about all the philosophers discussed in this article. I’m mainly interested in his argument for the parallel between nature and Scripture, as to their necessity, authority, perspicuity, and sufficiency.
PWG, 19-24
RC
  Belgic Confession, Articles I-VII
  Confession of 1967, I, C, 2
  Canons of Dordt, Third and Fourth Heads, I-V
  Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 1-3, 19, 21-23, 67
  Second Helvetic Confession, I-II
Westminster Confession of Faith I, XIV
Westminster Larger Catechism, Questions 1-5
Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 1-3

Nov. 12: The Inspiration of Scripture

CTR
Jerome, 87—89.
Rudolf Bultmann on Demythologization, 150-52.
James I. Packer on the Nature of Revelation, 166-68, review.

DWG, 14-21.
DWGSG, Lesson 3.
GI, 3-22, 39-53, 151-193, 229-264, 276-287.
PWG, 24-35.
SD: John Murray, “The Attestation of Scripture”

Nov. 19: The Inerrancy of Scripture

CTR
Karl Rahner on the Authority of Scripture, 145-49.

DWG, 21-35.
DWGSG, Lesson 4.
GI, 22-36, 57-113, 267-304.
SD: Frame, “Covenant and the Unity of Scripture.”

Nov. 26: Thanksgiving break; no class.

Dec. 3: Necessity, Clarity, and Sufficiency of Scripture

CTR, (Scripture and Tradition)
Irenaeus, 79-80,
Tertullian, 82-84.
Cyril, 85-87.
Vincent of Lerins, 89-91.
Trent, 103-104.
Formula of Concord, 109-110.
Francis White, 117-118.
Johann Mohler, 127-29.
Gore, 138-40.
Karl Rahner, 152-56 (review).
Meyendorff, 165-66.
Catechism of the Catholic Church, 172-75.
Course Bibliographies

Introduction to the Reformed Faith

See also the Reformed systematic theologies listed under “Systematic Theology and Theological Method”

Bavinck, Herman, Our Reasonable Faith (Baker, 1956). Bavinck was the leading Dutch dogmatician of the late 19th, early 20th centuries. This is his brief, 568 page (!) summary of his four-volume Dogmatics. His full Dogmatics has recently been translated into English and is invaluable.


Bratt, J., ed., The Heritage of John Calvin (1973). Essays on Calvin and his influence. Note comparisons between Calvin and Thomas Aquinas (Breen) and between Calvin and Arminius (Bangs).

Calvin, John, Concerning the Eternal Predestination of God (“Calvin’s Calvinism.” His argument against Pighius on predestination.) --, Institutes of the Christian Religion. The definitive formulation. You must read this before leaving seminary.


Elwell, Walter, ed., Handbook of Evangelical Theologians (Baker, 1993). Biographies and emphases of various thinkers, including Warfield, Berkhof, Machen, Van Til, Murray, Clark, Berkouwer, Schaeffer, Henry, Hoekema, Carnell, Packer, McGrath.


Kline, Meredith, The Structure of Biblical Authority (Eerdmans,


Kuyper, A., Lectures on Calvinism (Eerdmans, 1961). Another “must read.” Kuyper was a great genius: philosopher, founder of a university, newspaper editor, preacher, founder of a new denomination, devotional writer. These lectures seek to apply Calvinism to all areas of life, thus expressing the major thrust of his thought.

Luther, Martin, The Bondage of the Will (Luther had great affection for this volume, but his Lutheran successors didn’t follow its teaching. Shows how important the doctrine of predestination was to the early Reformation.)


McKim, Donald K., ed., Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992). Some contributors are liberal and/or limited inerrantist, but on the whole this is a valuable reference work.

Murray, J., Calvin on Scripture and the Sovereignty of God (Baker, 1960). These articles are also found in Vol. IV of Murray’s Collected Writings (Banner of Truth, 1982).


Sproul, R. C., many popular books and tapes on Reformed doctrines, available through the Ligonier Valley Study Center in Orlando, Florida. Sproul is the best popular communicator of Reformed doctrine around. Ligonier also sells tapes and booklets by the late John H. Gerstner, Sproul’s mentor. These should not be missed.

Warfield, B. B., Calvin and Calvinism.
   --, Calvin and Augustine.

*Revelation and Scripture*

See also the various systematic theologies listed in the “Theology” bibliography below.

Archer, G., Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1982).
Barr, James, Fundamentalism. Critique of evangelical views of scripture.
Barth, Karl, Church Dogmatics, I/2, 457-740. Fountainhead of neo-orthodoxy.
Bavinck, Herman,
   --, The Philosophy of Revelation (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979).
   Limited inerrancy.
   --, Holy Scripture (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1975).
   A sophisticated statement of a limited inerrancy position.
Bloesch, Donald, Holy Scripture (Downers Grove, Inter-Varsity Press, 1994). Limited inerrancy.
Bruce, F. F., The Canon of Scripture (IVP, 1988)
   --, Hermeneutics, Authority and Canon (Zondervan, 1986, 1995); includes essay by Frame on the internal testimony of the Spirit.
Clark, G., God’s Hammer (Jefferson, Md., Trinity Publishing Co.,1982).
Demarest, B., General Revelation (Zondervan, 1982)-- Baptist from
Denver Seminary.


Hannah, J., ed., Inerrancy and the Church (Chicago, Moody Press, 1984). Like the Boice and Geisler volumes, this book is a project of ICBI.


Henry, Carl F. H., God, Revelation and Authority, 6 volumes (Waco, Word, 1976 to 1984). The first four volumes deal with the doctrine of revelation, the last two with the doctrine of God. This is a fine work, certainly the definitive evangelical treatment to date.


Kline, Meredith G., The Structure of Biblical Authority (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1972). The most significant re-thinking of the orthodox position since Warfield.

Kuyper, Abraham, Principles of Sacred Theology (Eerdmans, 1965). Part of his Encyclopedia. Deals with the nature of theology and revelation. K. was a great Reformed leader of the 19th century.

Lewis, Gordon, and Demarest, Bruce, ed., Challenges to Inerrancy (Chicago, Moody, 1984). Another ICBI symposium, this one on theological attacks against inerrancy.

Lindsell, Harold, The Battle for the Bible (Grand Rapids,
Zondervan, 1976). This states a “full inerrantist” position and attacks limited inerrancy. At points, however, it betrays a somewhat wooden hermeneutic. The limited inerrantists like to quote him as an extreme example of what they oppose.


Montgomery, John W., ed., God’s Inerrant Word (Bethany, 1975). Contains a number of useful articles by Packer, Montgomery, Pinnock, Peter Jones, R. C. Sproul, John Gerstner, and John Frame.

Morris, Leon, I Believe in Revelation (Eerdmans, 1976).

Murray, John, Calvin on Scripture and Divine Sovereignty (Grand Rapids, Baker, 1960).


Orr, James, Revelation and Inspiration (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1969, originally published in 1910.) Fountainhead of limited inerrancy views.

Packer, J. I., Beyond the Battle for the Bible (Westchester, Ill., Cornerstone Books, 1980).


Polman, A., Barth (Presbyterian and Reformed), 16-30. Pretty good summary and critique of Barth’s view.


Articles defending limited inerrancy.

Rogers, J., and McKim, D., The Authority and Interpretation of the Bible (N.Y., Harper, 1979)-- the definitive statement of a “limited inerrancy” position.

Runia, Klaas, Karl Barth’s Doctrine of Holy Scripture.


Turretin, F., The Doctrine of Scripture (Grand Rapids, Baker, 1981)-- part of Turretin’s Institutes dealing with Scripture. Of course, the whole of the Institutes is also available now; see below under Systematic Theology and Theological Method.


Van Til, Cornelius, The Protestant Doctrine of Scripture.

Warfield, B. B., The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible (P&R). Definitive.

Van Til, Cornelius, Limited Inspiration (P&R).

Weeks, Noel, The Sufficiency of Scripture (Edinburgh, Banner of Truth, 1988). WTS graduate, teaches ancient history at Univ. of Sydney, Australia. Very stimulating.

Woodbridge, J., Biblical Authority (Zondervan, 1982)-- excellent critique of the Rogers-McKim volume.


*Systematic Theology and Theological Method*
In this bibliography, I have included both complete systems of theology and writings about theology and theological method. You will find that many of the systematic theologies begin with discussions of theology and theological method. They are, of course, also important for our study of the Doctrine of God.

Barth, Karl, Church Dogmatics (Macmillan). The fountainhead of neo-orthodoxy. Probably the most influential theology of the 20th century. See especially I/1, 1-25, II/1, 1ff. on the nature and method of theology.

Bavinck, Herman, Reformed Dogmatics: Prolegomena (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003). At last, Bavinck’s four-volume Dogmatics is being translated into English. This is the first volume, dealing with theological method and Scripture.


--, Systematic Theology (Banner of Truth). Standard one-volume Reformed work. Good summary, based primarily on Hodge and on Herman Bavinck’s four-volume Dutch work which is still untranslated into English.

Buswell, James O., Systematic Theology (Zondervan). Buswell was a professing Calvinist, though I believe he occasionally veered in an Arminian direction. Premillenial.


Chafer, Lewis Sperry, Systematic Theology (Dallas Theological Seminary Press). This seven volume work is the standard statement of “original dispensationalism.”


--, Eternal Word and Changing Worlds (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984). Concerned with “contextualization:” the process of translating scripture into the thought-forms of various cultures.


Erickson, Millard, Christian Theology (Baker). Middle of the road evangelicalism. Amyraldian.

See significant articles here on the nature and method of theology, particularly those by Hodge (Reformed), Mullins (Baptist emphasizing experience), De Wolf (liberal), Hordern (neo-orthodox), Van Til (Reformed), Tillich (radical liberal), Bultmann (radical liberal), and Gill (language analyst).


Grudem, Wayne, Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994). Excellent in many ways; incorporates some of Frame’s lecture material from Grudem’s years as F’s student. Reformed, but defends continuing charismatic gifts.


Hoeksema, Herman, Reformed Dogmatics (Reformed Free Publishing Assn.) Often called a “hyper-Calvinist,” Hoeksema denied the doctrine of common grace and left the Christian Reformed Church to form the Protestant Reformed Church. A very brilliant thinker.


Wittgensteinian account of the nature of theology. See Frame’s review in WTJ 42:1 (Fall, 1979), 219-231.

Horton, Michael S., Covenant and Eschatology (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002). Horton and I have some major differences, but I must admit that he has read a great many historic and contemporary theologians and has illuminated their contributions. The book is, however, essentially a “triangulation” (in terms of my “Traditionalism” paper).
Jewett, Paul K., God, Creation, and Revelation: a Neo-
“Neo-evangelical” these days tends to mean limited
inerrancy and feminism, both of which Jewett endorses.

Kelsey, David, The Uses of Scripture in Recent Theology. See
also Frame’s review in WTJ 39:2 (Spring, 1977): 328-353.
Explores the methods of modern theologians from Warfield
to Bultmann; shows that they mean very different things
when they claim to do theology “in accord with
Scripture.”

Kuyper, Abraham, Principles of Sacred Theology (Eerdmans, 1965).
Part of his Encyclopedia. Deals with the nature of

Lewis, Gordon, and Demarest, B., Integrative Theology
(Zondervan), 3 vols. Baptist writers trying to combine
historical, exegetical, biblical, and systematic
theology. I don’t think it’s very successful. That
project requires many more pages and more careful
scholarship.

Lindbeck, George, The Nature of Doctrine (Phila.: Westminster
See Frame, DKG, pp. 380-81. It has recently been cited
as the original document of “postliberalism.”

McGrath, Alister, Christian Theology, An Introduction (Cambridge:

McKim, Donald, Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith (Westminster/
positions are represented here.

known contemporary liberal theologian argues that
theology must stress hope for the future. But for him
the future is always “open.”

one-volume conservative Lutheran theology.

Murray, John, Collected Writings (4 Volumes) (Banner of Truth).
Murray taught for many years at Westminster in
Philadelphia. His formulations of Reformed theology are,
altogether, the best available. The exegesis is thorough
and cogent. Volume 2 of this set contains his basic
seminary lectures in Systematic Theology. See also his
articles on “Systematic Theology.” Murray was conservative
in many ways, noticeably in his advocacy of the exclusive
use of Psalms in worship. But his lectures were not,
for the most part, reviews of Reformed traditions, but
almost entirely exegetical. And in his accounts of theological
method, he emphasizes independence from tradition.


--., The Study of Theology (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991). A discussion of theological method by a professor at Calvin Seminary. See my review in WTJ 56 (1994), 133-151, and Muller’s reply to me in the following issue. I am unmoved.

Pannenberg, Wolfhart, Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988), 3 volumes. Pannenberg’s theology is not orthodox, despite some appearances to the contrary. He is deeply influenced by Hegelian rationalism. But the intellectual quality of his work, including the very fine distinctions he regularly draws, is quite remarkable.


Rushdoony, R. J., Systematic Theology (Ross House, 1994). A two-volume Reformed work. Rushdoony is the founder of the Christian Reconstruction or Theonomy movement, and his political and social interests are evident here. It is not an exegetically developed exposition of Reformed theology; it is rather a series of the author’s thoughts relating various doctrines to his concerns. Nevertheless it is a book of some interest.


Thielicke, Helmut, The Evangelical Faith (Eerdmans). A three-volume Lutheran theology from the mid-20th century. Somewhat influenced by neo-orthodoxy, but often quite conservative.

--., A Little Exercise for Young Theologians. It’s important to read this before you get very far along in your theological study.
Tillich, Paul, Systematic Theology, 3 vols. Radically liberal, hardly affirms anything that can be recognized as Christian. A philosophy of being and non-being with some Christian language attached.

Turretin, F., Institutes of Elenctic Theology (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1994). Edited by James Dennison. Three volumes. This 17th century work was the basic textbook at Princeton Seminary before the completion of Hodge’s systematics. A brilliant and comprehensive work.


Vos, Geerhardus, Biblical Theology. On pp. 1-27, he discusses the relation of biblical theology to the other theological disciplines.


**Doctrine of God (General)**


Barth, Karl, Church Dogmatics II/1, 2.


Boice, James M., Our Sovereign God.


Charnock, Stephen, The Existence and Attributes of God  
(Sovereign Grace Book Club, no pub. data.) 802. h. Classic Reformed work.

Cottrell, Jack, What the Bible Says About God the Creator  
--., What the Bible Says About God the Redeemer  
(Joplin: College Press, 1987). 598. h.  
--., What the Bible Says About God the Ruler  
Cottrell is a Westminster/Phila. Graduate and theologian in the Church of Christ. He is, I think, the most cogent theologian today writing in the tradition of classical Arminianism.

Craig, William L., The Only Wise God (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987). 7.95. 157. p. Craig is mainly known as a philosopher and evidential apologist. This volume deals with a number of questions concerning the doctrine of God.

Davis, Stephen T., Logic and the Nature of God (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983). 171. h. Another philosophical treatment. Davis is a “limited inerrancy” evangelical.

Farley, E., The Transcendence of God

Feinberg, John, No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God (Crossway, 2001).


Freddoso, Alfred J., ed., The Existence and Nature of God  

Gilson, E., God and Philosophy (Thomist).


Heim, Karl, God Transcendent. Neo-orthodox.


Jungel, Eberhard, God as the Mystery of the World (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983). 414. h. Indebted to Barth.  
--., God’s Being is in Becoming.

Kaiser, Christopher, The Doctrine of God (Westchester: Crossway,


Machen, J. Gresham, Christianity and Liberalism, 54-68.
--., God Transcendent, 17-35.
--., What is Faith? 46-83.


Ogden, Schubert, The Reality of God (Bultmannian, Process).


Pinnock, Clark, et al., The Openness of God (Downers Grove: IVP, 1994). “Open Theism.”


Sontag, Frederick, and Bryant, M. Darrol, eds., God: The Contemporary Discussion (NY: Rose of Sharon Press,


--., Systematic Theology, I. Very liberal.

--., “God,” in Selected Shorter Writings I, 69-74.
--., “Godhead,” Ibid., 75-81.


Open Theism

Advocates

Boyd, Gregory, God of the Possible (Grand Rapids, Baker, 2000).
LaCugna, Catherine, God For Us (NY: Crossroad, 1992).
--., The Foreknowledge of God (Cincinnati: Cranston and Stowe, 1887).
--., “God Limits His Knowledge,” in David and Randall Basinger, Predestination and Free Will (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1986).
--et al., The Openness of God (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994). (“OG,” below.)
Rice, Richard, God’s Foreknowledge and Man’s Free Will (Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1985).


--., and Christopher Hall, Does God Have a Future? (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003).


**Critiques**


Erickson, Millard, God the Father Almighty (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998).


Mohler, R. Albert, “Does God Give Bad Advice?” World 15.24 (June 1, 2000), 23.


Ware, Bruce, God’s Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2000).


--., et al., forthcoming volume of essays critical of Open Theism (Moscow, ID: Canon Press).

See also Reformed Confessions and Systematic Theologies under subjects of divine attributes (especially knowledge, eternity, unchangeability), God’s decrees, providence, election, effectual calling, regeneration.

**The Problem of Evil**

Adams, Jay, The Grand Demonstration: A Biblical Study of the So-called Problem of Evil (Santa Barbara: EastGate, 1991). I offered some criticisms of this in AGG, which Adams answered in an Appendix. Actually, I think this is one of the better books on the subject.


Frame, John M., Apologetics to the Glory of God (P&R, 1994).


Gerstner, John, The Problem of Pleasure (P&R, 1983). Building on the Reformed doctrine of the Fall, Gerstner argues that the real problem is this: Why should God allow fallen sinners to have any pleasure at all?


Hick, John, Evil and the God of Love. Advocates Irenaean “soul-making” theodicy.


Calvin, Institutes I (LCC), 200ff, 207ff, on “natural law.”
Kuyper, Abraham, Principles of Sacred Theology, 413-28, 481-504.
Moule, C. F. D., Miracles (1965).
Tennant, F. R., Miracle and its Philosophical Presuppositions.
Vos, G., Biblical Theology, 250f.
--. “The Question of Miracles,” in Selected Shorter Writings II, 167-204.

Providence

Farley, Benjamin Wirt, The Providence of God (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988). 257. h. Tries to be orthodox, but somewhat under the influence of Barth. See Frame’s review, in WTJ 51 (1989), 397-400.


Creation

I will deal with Scripture/science issues such as the creation days and evolution very sketchily in this course. Our main emphasis will be on the biblical theology of creation.

Gilkey, Langdon, Maker of Heaven and Earth (Garden City: Doubleday, 1959). 311. h. Gilkey was personally a fairly radical theologian, but this book mainly intends to present the biblical data, and most of it is well done.


The Divine Decrees, Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom


Baker, Alvin L., Berkouwer's Doctrine of Election
Basinger, David, The Case for Freewill Theism.


---, Institutes, III.


Gerstner, John, A Predestination Primer


Klein, William W., The New Chosen People: A Corporate View


Murray, John, Calvin on Scripture and Divine Sovereignty, 55-71.
--. “The Sovereignty of God,” pamphlet.


--. et al., The Openness of God (Downers Grove: IVP, 1994). 202. h. “Open” theism, or “freewill” theism.
--. and Brow, Robert C., Unbounded Love (Downers Grove: IVP, 1994).

Schreiner, Thomas, and Ware, Bruce, ed., The Grace of God and the Bondage of the Will, 2 vols. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995). Reformed authors defend predestination in the context of recent debates over “open theism” and such. The focus is biblical and exegetical. Well done.


Sproul, R. C., Chosen By God (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1989).
11.95. 213. h. Good popular treatment.


110. p.

Von Wright, Georg Henrik, Causality and Determinism (NY: Columbia UP, 1974). 143. h. Philosophical discussion.

1.50. 112. h. His classic work on the order of the divine decrees.
“Predestination,” in Biblical and Theological Studies, 270-333.
“Some Thoughts on predestination,” Ibid., 103-109.
Critique of “open theism.”
126. p. Classic Reformed work.

God’s Names and Images

Here, of course, the theological dictionaries are useful. A few noteworthy titles.

Dourley, John P., The Goddess, Mother of the Trinity
Eichrodt, W., Theology of the OT, esp. 206ff, 410ff.
Johnson, Elizabeth, She Who Is (NY: Crossroad, 1996). Feminist doctrine of God. Many other sources can be found here. m
Vos, G., Biblical Theology, 129-34, 253ff, 389ff.

Divine Attributes

Barr, James, Biblical Words for Time. Opposes Cullmann’s thesis (see below).
Cullmann, O., Christ and Time. Argues that God is in time.
Pink, A., The Attributes of God.
Sanderson, John W., Mirrors of His Glory (Phillipsburg: P&R, 1991). 235. p. Reformed theologian discusses biblical images of God, beyond the usual attributes (husband, shepherd,
etc.)

The Trinity

Augustine, On the Trinity
Barth, Church Dogmatics, 1/1-2.
Knight, G. A. F., A Biblical Approach to the Doctrine of the Trinity.
Rahner, Karl, The Trinity (NY: Seabury, 1974). 5.95. 120. h. Leading Roman
Catholic theologian wants to equate the immanent trinity with the economic.


Torrance, Thomas F., The Christian Doctrine of God,

--. “Calvin’s Doctrine of the Trinity,” in Calvin and Augustine 189-284.

Welch, C., The Trinity in Contemporary Thought.

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The Deity of Christ

Boettner, Loraine, The Person of Christ.
Bowman, Robert M., Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus Christ, and the


McDonald, H. D., Jesus—Human and Divine.
Metzger, Bruce, “The Jehovah’s Witnesses and Jesus Christ,” pamphlet.
Morris, Leon, The Lord from Heaven.
Taylor, Vincent, The Names of Jesus.
--. The Person of Christ in NT Teaching.

Warfield, B. B., Biblical and Theological Studies, 60-237.
--. The Lord of Glory.
--. The Person and Work of Christ, 5-319.
--. Selected Shorter Writings I, 139-157.

The Existence of God

See also general works in apologetics.


Frame, John, Apologetics to the Glory of God (P&R, 1994).
arguments.
Mavrodes, George, Belief in God (NY: Random House, 1970). A very important philosophical work.
Responses by Kreeft, Flew, Craig, Parsons, Willard.

Web Sites of Interest


11. http://www.thirdmill.org/: Rich Pratt’s Third Millennium organization, with a worldwide vision. Articles in various languages. Magazine and forum. See also the subsite www.reformedperspectives.org, which includes the magazine articles and the “Hall of Frame, and www.reformedanswers.org, which contains questions and answers on different topics, answered by people like Frame and Ra McLaughlin. Many of Frame’s shorter articles are available on one of these sites.


14. http://www.wts.edu/resources/: From Westminster Seminary, a very comprehensive catalogue of theological resources on the web. Do browse this one!

15. http://www.theopedia.com: A theological encyclopedia, put together by mainly Reformed folks. The interesting thing is that you can add articles or edit those that are there. They are looking for young theologians to help them with this project. Sort of a Reformed Wikipedia.


18. http://www.frame-poythress.org/: Articles and some books by your instructor and by his theological soul-mate, Vern Poythress.


21. http://www.rts.edu. The RTS site, and many others, such as http://campus.wts.edu/winnebago/search/search.asp (Westminster), allow you to search their
library collections online. Of course, it’s also helpful to Google-search contemporary authors in order to find information about their books.


**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: 2ST510, Scripture and God  
Professor: John M. Frame  
Campus: Orlando, FL
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>In-depth treatment of some fundamental and often difficult theological issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The method of the course is to focus on biblical texts that deal with theological questions. Not, however, a course in the technical exegesis of original language texts. Applies that Bible study to a number of historical and modern discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Aims to expound and defend Reformed views of God and Scripture. Students read relevant portions of the confessions, though the focus is on Scripture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The course emphasizes that one cannot know God properly without loving and serving him. That is the nature of the covenant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The topics covered constitute our fundamental worldview. The course emphasizes that the Lordship of God is comprehensive, covering all areas of life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>I try to present distinctively Reformed positions without demonizing those who disagree. The subjects of this course are more or less the ones on which all Christians agree, and I stress that agreement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>I try to present the course material in such a way that it can be preached to heart and mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>I believe that a biblical understanding of the course topics encourages spiritual maturity. Students are taught that our gifts and callings are validated by Scripture and are images of the nature of God himself. The course provides content to our witness to non-Christians, answering difficult questions, such as about evil and the reliability of Scripture.</td>
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<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
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<td>I believe that a biblical understanding of the course topics encourages spiritual maturity. Students are taught that our gifts and callings are validated by Scripture and are images of the nature of God himself. The course provides content to our witness to non-Christians, answering difficult questions, such as about evil and the reliability of Scripture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Not too much here on denominations or world-Christianity, but the course does focus on convictions that the whole church should share.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
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<td>The method of the course is to focus on biblical texts that deal with theological questions. Not, however, a course in the technical exegesis of original language texts. Applies that Bible study to a number of historical and modern discussions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
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<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Aims to expound and defend Reformed views of God and Scripture. Students read relevant portions of the confessions, though the focus is on Scripture.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The course emphasizes that one cannot know God properly without loving and serving him. That is the nature of the covenant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
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<td>The topics covered constitute our fundamental worldview. The course emphasizes that the Lordship of God is comprehensive, covering all areas of life.</td>
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<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>I try to present the course material in such a way that it can be preached to heart and mind.</td>
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<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>I believe that a biblical understanding of the course topics encourages spiritual maturity. Students are taught that our gifts and callings are validated by Scripture and are images of the nature of God himself. The course provides content to our witness to non-Christians, answering difficult questions, such as about evil and the reliability of Scripture.</td>
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<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
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