

**ST 520 – Systematic Theology III**  
Reformed Theological Seminary – Orlando  
Keith Johnson, Ph.D.  
Fall 2009  
Monday, 9:00am-12:00pm

**Course Objectives**

- In this course we will study the doctrine of redemption, including:
  - The *basis* of redemption in the Father's plan (the covenant of grace and election);
  - The *accomplishment* of redemption through the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and enthronement of the Son of God (the work of Christ);
  - The *application* of redemption to God's children by the Holy Spirit (soteriology); and
  - The *consummation* of redemption (eschatology).
- The goal of our study will be:
  - To understand and appreciate these doctrinal truths as they are taught in Scripture and confessed in the Reformed tradition;
  - So that we may live and serve in the light of these doctrines to the glory of the triune God.

**Required Texts**

Bavinck, Herman, *Reformed Dogmatics, Volume 3: Sin and Salvation in Christ* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006), ISBN: 0801026563 [=RD3]

Bavinck, Herman, *Reformed Dogmatics, Volume 4: Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008), ISBN: 0801026571 [=RD4]

Driscoll, Mark and Gerry Breshears, *Death by Love: Letters from the Cross* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008), ISBN: 1433501295 [=DBL]

Murray, John, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984), ISBN: 0802811434 [=RAA]

The Westminster Confession of Faith [=WCF]

## Course Requirements

1. **Class Participation:** Class participation includes the following:
  - a. Attendance of all class sessions. (If you must miss a class session, please send me an email prior to class letting me know you will be absent.)
  - b. Active participation in course discussion.
2. **Readings:** Accomplishment of scheduled readings *before* their treatment in class. All readings not found in the required texts will be available either on reserve or online electronically. Students will complete a reading report to be turned in the last day of class.
3. **Doctrine Project:** The purpose of the “Doctrine Project” is to help you grow in your ability to read Scripture theologically. You will offer a synthesis of key soteriological themes in the book of Ephesians. Instructions for this assignment will be found on a worksheet which will be distributed in class. (Due: November 16)
4. **Final Exam:** The final exam will test comprehension of lectures, readings, and relevant chapters of the Westminster Confession of Faith (chapters 3, 5, 7-19, 32-33). It will be held during the final course session on December 7.
5. **Gospel Summary:** In no more than 1000 words, you will compose a summary of the gospel as you would present it to a non-Christian in an evangelistic conversation. Your summary should include illustrations. Instructions for this assignment will be communicated in class. (Due: November 30)
6. **Theological Research Paper:** Students will compose a 12-15 page essay (double-spaced, 12 pt font, 1” margins) on a doctrinal topic covered in the class. The specific focus of your paper is to be determined in conversation with the instructor. The paper should (1) present a clear thesis; (2) reflect thoughtful and sympathetic engagement with relevant texts; (3) offer critical analysis (and not merely summary) of the positions and views you engage drawing upon Scripture, course texts and other resources; and (4) discuss the implications of your investigation for the life of the church (Due: December 9).
7. **Extra Credit – Sinclair Ferguson audio:** For extra credit, students may listen to select audio lectures by Sinclair Ferguson on relevant sections of the Westminster Confession of Faith (available in the library). These lectures will be especially helpful to those preparing for ordination in Presbyterian churches.

## Course Grade

Reading	10%
Doctrine Project	15%
Gospel Summary	15%
Final Exam	30%
Theological Paper	<u>30%</u>
	100%

## Course Schedule

### August 31

Topic: *Introduction*

DBL, Preface and Introduction

Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching*, 2d ed., c10 and 11 [on reserve]

### September 7

Labor Day – No class

Keith Johnson, “Hearing the Music of the Gospel” [online]

### September 14

Topic: *The Doctrine of the Trinity*

Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Vol 2, 256-334 [on reserve]

DBL, ch. 1

### September 21

Topic: *The Covenant of Grace*

J. I. Packer, “On Covenant Theology” [online]

RD3, ch. 5, 193-232

WCF 7

DBL, ch. 2

### September 28

Topic: *Work of Christ*

Henri Blocher, “Atonement,” in *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible* [online]

David H. McIlroy, “Towards a relational and trinitarian theology of atonement” [online]

RD3, ch7, 323-417

DBL, ch. 3

### October 5

Topic: *Work of Christ*

RD3, ch. 8, 418-484

RAA, 1-78

WCF 8

DBL, ch. 4

## October 12

Reading Week  
RD3, ch. 9, 418-484  
RAA, 79-87

## October 19

Topic: *Soteriology – Election and Reprobation*  
Augustine, “On Predestination” [online]  
Aquinas, “Of Predestination,” *Summa Theologiae* [online]  
Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 3.21-3.23 (pp. 920-64 in McNeill’s translation) [on reserve]  
Arminius, “On Predestination,” *Works of James Arminius*, Vol. 1, 211-251 [on reserve]  
Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Vol. 2, 374-405 [on reserve]  
WCF 3  
DBL, ch. 5

## October 26

Topic: *Soteriology – Calling & Regeneration*  
RD4, ch1, 29-95  
RAA, 88-105  
WCF 10  
DBL, ch. 6

## November 2

Topic: *Soteriology – Conversion*  
RD4, ch. 2, 96-175  
RA, 106-116  
WCF 14, 15  
DBL, ch. 7

## November 9

Topic: *Soteriology – Justification & Adoption*  
RD4, ch. 3, 176-229  
RA, 117-140  
WCF 11, 12  
DBL, ch. 8

## **November 16**

Topic: *Soteriology – Sanctification, Perseverance & Glorification*  
RD4, ch. 4, 230-272  
RAA, 141-181  
WCF 13, 16, 17  
DBL, ch. 9

*Doctrine Project Due*

## **November 23**

Topic: *Soteriology – Religious Pluralism and the Christian Theology of Religions*  
Harold Netland and Keith Johnson, “Why is Religious Pluralism Fun—and Dangerous?” in  
*Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns* [online]  
Jacques Dupuis, “Trinitarian Christology as a Model for a Theology of Religious Pluralism”  
[online]  
S. Mark Heim, “God’s Diversity: A Trinitarian View of Religious Pluralism” [online]  
John Hick, *A Christian Theology of Religions*, 11-30 [online]  
Harold Netland, *Encountering Religious Pluralism*, 308-348 [on reserve]  
Amos Yong, “Discerning the Spirit(s) in the World Religions: Toward a Pneumatological  
Theology of Religions” [Online]  
DBL, ch. 10

*Submit paper topic to instructor for approval*

## **November 30**

Topic: Eschatology  
RD4, chs. 14-18, 628-730  
WCF 32, 33  
DBL, ch. 11

*Gospel Project Due*

## **December 7**

Final Exam

*Reading Report Due*

## **December 9**

*Research Paper Due*

**ST520 - Reading Report**  
**Due – December 7**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I completed \_\_\_\_\_% of the required reading.

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

Course: ST 520, Systematic Theology III  
 Professor: Keith Johnson  
 Campus: Orlando  
 Date: Fall 2009

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	(1) Students prepare research paper on doctrinal issue related to work of Christ, soteriology or eschatology. (2) Students write 1000 word summary of gospel message. (3) Students will write essays on final exam articulating key doctrines in conversation with the lectures and readings.
<b>Scripture</b>	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.)	Moderate	(1) Course equips students to read Scripture "theologically" (i.e., attending to the subject matter rendered in the text). (2) Students complete "doctrine project" in which they synthesize key soteriological themes in Ephesians. (3) Students will learn the biblical basis for Reformed teaching on the work of Christ, soteriology & eschatology.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	(1) Students are to understand and appreciate the work of Christ, soteriology and eschatology as these doctrines are confessed in the Reformed tradition. (2) Students read Volumes 3 & 4 of Bavinck's <i>Reformed Dogmatics</i> . (3) Students will be tested on their understanding of these doctrines with reference to the Reformed Tradition (including the WCF).
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Because the gospel is not merely the means by which we come to faith but also grow, the soteriological core of this course is important to personal sanctification. Application of these doctrines will be made to the Christian life through the class.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Students will be motivated by the example of other theologians to conform their lives to the Word of God.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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.)	Strong	(1) Students will be exposed to the perspectives of other Christian traditions on key doctrines discussed in the class. (2) Students will read portions from key theologians representing non-Reformed perspectives on key doctrines. (3) Students will be challenged to learn to

			distinguish doctrines necessary to salvation from other doctrines.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	(1) One of the skills for successful preaching is discerning the “redemptive themes” in Scripture. This course will help student discern redemptive theme by expanding their understanding of Christ’s redemptive work. (2) Students will read portions from Chapell’s <i>Christ-Centered Preaching</i> on discerning redemptive themes.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	None	
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	One pressing issue facing the contemporary church is religious pluralism. One week will be devoted to understanding the soteriological implications of this issue and considering how Christians should appropriately respond to this challenge.