

Christ, Kingdom, & Covenant

2ON711 - 2 hours

RTS Orlando
Winter 2010

Professor

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Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

601-923-1695

Course Description

This course constitutes an introduction to the discipline of biblical theology in an evangelical context. It is divided into three sections: (1) the history, definition, task, method, goal, and center of biblical theology; (2) a framework or structure for biblical theology (Christ, Kingdom, and Covenant); and (3) selected themes in biblical theology from a covenantal and canonical perspective with additional attention to the concerns of redemptive or covenant history.

Course Protocols

1. *Grading Schedule.* The letter grading scale is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

97-100%	A	80-82%	C
94-96%	A-	78-79%	C-
91-93%	B+	75-77%	D+
88-90%	B	72-74%	D
86-87%	B-	70-71%	D-
83-85%	C+	0-69%	F

2. *Attendance and Late Assignments.* Attendance is a requirement. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.
3. *Electronics.* Computers are not permitted in class. Voice recorders are not permitted in class. Please silence all cell phones during class.
4. *Special Needs.* In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
5. *Disclaimer.* This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the semester.

Course Textbooks

Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Bright, John. *The Kingdom of God*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1957 .

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Hafemann, Scott J. *Biblical Theology: Prospect and Retrospect*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991.

Kline, Meredith G. *The Structure of Biblical Authority*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1989.

Course Lectures

1. Introduction to Biblical Theology: Definitions
2. Introduction to Biblical Theology: History
3. Introduction to Biblical Theology: Centers and Themes
4. Introduction to Biblical Theology: Redemptive History
5. Jesus Christ as the Theological Center of Biblical Theology
6. The Kingdom of God as the Thematic Framework of Biblical Theology
7. Covenant as the Canonical Structure of Biblical Theology
8. Biblical Theology and Hermeneutics
9. Biblical Theology and the Biblical Covenants
10. Biblical Theology and the Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments
11. Biblical Theology and Penal Substitutionary Atonement
12. Biblical Theology and Nakedness

Course Assignments

Reading Assignments (40% of course grade)

There are four reading assignments with corresponding questions. See below

Course Paper (25% of course grade)

Write a 10 page paper (about 3,000 words) on an approved topic or passage. Treat the topic/passage using the methodology developed in class. Footnotes and bibliography are required.

Final Exam (15% of course grade)

At the end of class on Friday, you will receive a take-home exam. The exam will cover the class lectures. For this exam, you must work alone, but you may use your class notes.

Reading Assignments

Reading Assignment #1 (10% of course grade)

Read the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pages 3-112, and answer the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of one paragraph and a maximum of one half page (single spaced).

1. What is the definition, task, and goal of biblical theology. For additional help, see *BTRP* 15-24.
2. Briefly outline a history of the discipline of biblical theology. What are its official origins, who are the major players, and what is the current condition of biblical theology as a discipline?
3. What are some of the critical issues involved in the study of biblical theology? Are these issues relevant to biblical theology in an evangelical context?
4. How does the concept of “canon” relate to the study of biblical theology? What are some of the significant issues related to canon and the study of biblical theology? For additional help, see *BTRP* 83-99.
5. What is the role of redemptive history in the study of biblical theology? For additional help, see *BTRP* 111-125.
6. How does biblical theology inform, limit, or strengthen exegesis and hermeneutics?
7. What are the issues involved in identifying a center of biblical theology? Is there a center of biblical theology? If so, what is it? For additional help, see *BTRP* 267-286. Pages 280-286 are the bomb-dot-com!
8. How does biblical theology contribute to the discussion of the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?
9. What is the difference between “biblical” and “systematic” theology? In what ways are these two disciplines similar? In what ways are these two disciplines distinct?
10. If someone were to ask you the question, “Why is the study of biblical theology important for the average, church-going Christian?” how would you answer based upon your reading so far?

Reading Assignment #2 (10% of course grade)

Read the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pages 615-620, and Bright’s *The Kingdom of God*, and answer the following questions. Answers should be approximately one page (single spaced).

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. How does the Kingdom of God appear in the Old Testament?
3. How does Jesus relate to the Kingdom of God?
4. How does the concept of the Kingdom of God connect the Old and New Testaments?

Reading Assignment #3 (10% of course grade)

Read Goldsworthy's *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics*, pages 23-85, 167-180, and 296-317, answer the following questions. Answers should be approximately one half page (single spaced).

1. What is "hermeneutics" and how might hermeneutics relate to the study of biblical theology?
2. According to Goldsworthy, how do Jesus Christ and the Gospel related to both hermeneutics and biblical theology?
3. According to Goldsworthy, what are some of the theological challenges facing modern evangelicalism? How have these challenges manifested themselves in your own life of the life of your local church?
4. According to Goldsworthy, what are the "Hermeneutics of Christ"?
5. According to Romans 1:1-3, how does the Gospel relate to the Old Testament?
6. How has your conception of the importance of the Gospel for the christian life changed after reading Goldsworthy? What is the role of the Gospel in the christian life, especially sanctification?

Reading Assignment #4 (10% of course grade)

Read the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pages 419-429, and Kline's *The Structure of Biblical Authority*, pages 7-110, and answer the following questions. Answers should be approximately one half page (single spaced).

1. What is a covenant and, according to Kline, what are the formal origins of the biblical canon-covenant? According to Kline, how do the concepts of covenant and canon relate to each other?
2. According to Kline, how do the concepts of covenant and canon relate to each other?
3. How do the Old Testament genres of law, history, prophecy, praise, and wisdom relate to the covenantal nature of the biblical-canonical text?
4. How do the concepts of canon and covenant help us to understand the nature and relationship between the Old and New Testaments?
5. If someone were to ask you the question, "What kind of book is the Bible?" how would you answer in light of Kline's book?

*All written work (exam, reading assignments, and paper) are due by 12:00 PM, March 19, 2010. Assignments may be sent electronically to mvanpelt@rts.edu or you may send paper copies to the following address (arriving by the stipulated date):

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