

6ST514 Systematic Theology 2: Anthropology and Christology
RTS Washington D. C., Spring 2006
(2 Credits)

McLean Presbyterian Church
Feb 17-18, Feb 24-25,
March 17-18, March 31-April 1
Fri 730-10 PM, Sat 9 AM -12 PM.

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(This is a change of address.¹ Please use this address to submit all course correspondence. Submit all **Exams and papers** to my Teaching Assistant Geoff Sackett at gsackett@rts.edu or RTS, 12500 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 325, Fairfax, VA 22033.)

Geoff Sackett, Teaching Assistant
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Purpose of the Course

We will study two important *loci* of Christian theology, the doctrines of man, created and fallen, and Christ, humiliated and exalted. We will seek to understand the biblical-theological basis, historical discussion, and contemporary application of these doctrines at the heart of the gospel.²

May the Holy Spirit enable us to **understand** biblical teaching and **believe it**, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith and we may be “filled to all the fullness of God.”

Resource List

(The specific **assignments** are in the next section. You are not required to buy these books.)

Herman Bavinck, *Our Reasonable Faith, a Survey of Christian Doctrine*. This book has been reprinted by Westminster Discount Book Service (ISBN: 0801005132); it is also available used. Check www.bookfinder.com or for a new copy, the RTS Bookstore, <http://www2.rts.edu/bookstore/RegionBookStore.aspx>

The Canons of Dort, available at <http://calvin.canrc.org/resources/bop/candort/>, and many other places (e.g. Schaff, *Creeds of Christendom*).

¹ My old address, hg11@bigfoot.com, is out of service.

² If this is your first seminary class, you may like to read, as an introduction, Part 2 of Jim Packer’s *Concise Theology*. (This is *not* an assignment.)

John M. Frame, “Free Will and Moral Responsibility” available at http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/Frame.Freewill_and_Moral_Responsibility.pdf.

John M. Frame, “Law and Gospel” available at <http://www.chalcedon.edu/articles/0201/020104frame.php>

Richard B. Gaffin, “Biblical Theology and the Westminster Standards,” *Westminster Theological Journal* 65 (2003): 165-79, available at <http://www.beginningwithmoses.org/articles/gaffinbt.htm>

Richard B. Gaffin, trans. “Herman Bavinck on the Covenant of Works” in ed. H. Griffith and J. R. Meuther, *Creator, Redeemer, Consummator* (Greenville, S. C.: Reformed Academic Press, 2000) - **photocopy available for \$3 on the first day of class.**

Donald Macleod, *The Person of Christ*, *Contours of Christian Theology*, ed. Gerald Bray (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1998). **Note: every student will write a review of this book.**

John Murray, *The Covenant of Grace* found at http://www.the-highway.com/Covenant_Murray.html. It is also available in print.

John Murray, *Redemption – Accomplished and Applied* (any edition).

James I. Packer, “Covenant Theology” available at http://www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Bible/cov_theo.html

Bruce K. Waltke, “Song of Solomon” audio lecture, found at http://thirdmill.org/sermons/compile_speaker.asp/speaker/Bruce%20Waltke/site/iiim/category/speakers#Song%20of%20Solomon

The Westminster Confession of Faith. (Each student should own a copy to study and annotate.)

Assignments

Read (listen) in order:

Man in covenant with God as his image, created and fallen:

1. Gaffin, “Herman Bavinck on the Covenant of Works” (photocopy).
2. Bavinck, *Faith*, 184-220.
3. Bavinck, *Faith*, 221-49.

4. Canons of Dort, Third and Fourth Heads/Main Points of Doctrine (read each article and the rejection of errors).
5. *Westminster Confession*, Chapter 6.

The plan of salvation:

6. Bavinck, *Faith*, 264-70.
7. Canons of Dort, First Head/Main Point of Doctrine.
8. *Westminster Confession*, Chapter 3.

The Covenant of Grace:

9. Packer, “On Covenant Theology.”
10. *Westminster Confession*, Chapter 7.
11. Murray, *The Covenant of Grace*.
12. Bavinck, *Faith*, 260-64 and 270-79.
13. Waltke, “Song of Solomon,” listen to the audio lecture. Ask, “what is the relation of sexuality to God’s image? to his covenant? to image and covenant in light of sin? to image and covenant in light of redemption?”
14. Frame, “Law and Gospel.”

The Mediator of the Covenant and his incarnation:

15. Bavinck, *Faith*, 280-307.
16. Macleod, *The Person of Christ*.
17. Bavinck, *Faith*, 308-29.
18. *Westminster Confession*, Chapter 8:1-3, 7.

The saving work of Christ in humiliation and exaltation:

19. Bavinck, *Faith*, 330-56.
20. Murray, *Redemption – Accomplished and Applied*, first part, 13-91 (9-78).
21. Bavinck, *Faith*, 356-403.
22. Canons of Dort, Second Head/Main Point of Doctrine.
23. *Westminster Confession*, 8:4-6, 8.
24. Frame, “Free Will and Moral Responsibility.”
25. Richard B. Gaffin, “Biblical Theology and the Westminster Standards.”

This is not a heavy reading load (though it is all **gold**). Concentrate on **understanding** and **retention!**

Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:2 in any translation and recite to a friend. Report completion on the final exam.

Exams: There will be an hour exam on readings **1.-12.**, due **March 10th**, and a final exam, on readings **13.-25.** and all lectures, due **April 14th**. **Submit these to the RTS office.**

Term Paper: 10-12 pages, double spaced, 12-point font. Write a review of Donald Macleod, *The Person of Christ*. Balance equal parts *description* and *evaluation* of the book. Feel free to criticize as well as praise – I am looking for real interaction. Prepare it as a review for publication in a scholarly or popular journal. You may use the format found in the *Westminster Theological Journal*. (See **Grading System for Papers** below). The review is due **April 21st**. **Submit to the RTS office.**

Policy on Late Papers and Exams:

Simply put, late papers and exams are **not** accepted based on the following rationale:

- a. The issue is not so much an inconvenience to the professor. If that were the primary issue, then he would grade late papers because it is fundamental to his Christian commitment to put the interests of others before his own.
- b. The issue concerns the apparent laxity with which extensions are often granted. This is not Christian education. Wisdom is living within boundaries. The cosmos exists because the Creator provided boundaries for air, water, land. Moreover, he provided temporal boundaries for seasons. Without boundaries, the cosmos would degenerate back into anarchy. It is the essence of Christian living that we live within boundaries. Liberals want no boundaries. They want freedom without form, liberty without law, lovemaking without marriage. This is a fundamental battle. It is distressing when Christians do not show respect boundaries and when students do not respect temporal boundaries.
- c. Wisdom also entails knowing the goal and devising a strategy to achieve it. Students must be aware from the syllabus what is required of them and should be able to strategize a successful model to achieve it. Laxity and uncertainty with regard to deadlines actually confuse the students and militate against a good Christian education. Paradoxically, “grace” sounds Christian and pastoral and “law” sounds non-Christian; but, sometimes so-called “grace” and “pastoral concerns” encourage libertarianism and in truth is non-Christian and non-pastoral. Consciously or unconsciously students realize that there is a fudge factor here, enabling them to rationalize their not turning in work on time.
- d. The issue also pertains to spiritual life, a subject on which a seminary rightly prides itself. However, the spiritual life includes self-control, discipline, etc. Students reap good fruit from hard work.”³

Grading System for Papers:

A: Good grasp of basic issues, plus something extraordinary, worthy of publication in a technical or a popular publication. That special excellence may be of various kinds: formulation, illustration, comprehensiveness, subtlety/nuance, creativity, argument, insight, correlations with other issues, historical perspective, philosophical sophistication, and research beyond the requirements of the assignment. One of these will be enough!

³ Adapted from Professor Bruce Waltke.

A-: An A paper, except that it requires some minor improvement before an editor should finally accept it for publication.

B+: Good grasp of basic issues but without the special excellences noted above. A few minor glitches.

B: The average grade for graduate study. Good grasp of basic issues, but can be significantly improved.

B-: Shows an understanding of the issues, but marred by significant errors, unclarities (conceptual or linguistic), unpersuasive arguments, and/or shallow thinking.

C+: Raises suspicions that largely these terms and concepts are used appropriately. Does show serious study and preparation.

C: Uses ideas with some accuracy, but without mastery or insight; thus the paper is often confused.

C-: The student has a relatively poor, but barely competent, understanding of the subject.

D: I don't give D's on papers or exams.

F: Failure to complete the assignment satisfactorily. Such performance would disqualify a candidate for ministry if it were part of a presbytery exam.

Most of my students get B's. I try to keep A's and C's to a relatively small number. F's are extremely rare.⁴

Grades: Midterm Exam: 1/4.

Final Exam: 1/2.

Paper: 1/4.

Brief Lecture Outline

1. Man in covenant with God as his image, created and fallen.
2. Christ and the decree: the plan of salvation.
3. The covenant of grace, accomplishing and applying redemption.
4. Christ as messiah and theanthropic Person.
5. Christ's work in sufferings and glory.

Supplemental Bibliography (for enthusiasts)

⁴ Adapted from Professor John Frame.

1. Herman Bavinck, *God and Creation*, 511-88; John Murray, *The Imputation of Adam's Sin*.
2. Bavinck, *God and Creation*, 337-405.
3. Geerhardus Vos, "The Doctrine of the Covenant in Reformed Theology" in Richard B. Gaffin, ed., *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos*.
4. B. B. Warfield, "On the Emotional Life of Our Lord" in *The Person and Work of Christ*.
5. L. Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Richard B. Gaffin, *Resurrection and Redemption*.