

*The Christian Life:  
Reading the Bible with Christ and the Apostles*

Reformed Theological Seminary Washington, DC  
February 12 – April 22, 2008  
Tuesdays, 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Dr. Brian J. Lee

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

“O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!” Christ’s strong words to Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus could just as easily be addressed to the church today. All too often our deep love for Christ is not rooted in an understanding of how *everything* in the Old Testament — the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms — reached its fulfillment in his suffering and resurrection. In Luke 24, the empowerment of the Apostles to faithfully witness to Christ and proclaim the new reality of the forgiveness of sins depends upon them taking to heart the lessons of the risen Christ during those blessed forty days, during which “their minds were opened to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:44 – 49).

In God’s wisdom, Luke and the rest of the New Testament authors provide only the briefest of summaries of Christ’s crash course in “How to Read the Bible.” But the Apostolic teaching recorded in the New Testament itself bears witness to the biblical wisdom that was imparted during that time; there the Apostles show how the risen Lord taught them to read the Scriptures.

This course will pay particular attention to how Christ and the Apostles read and interpret the major figures and events of the Old Testament, in order to gain a bird’s eye view of the full scope of redemptive history. Scripture will be presented as a progressively unfolding drama, in which the covenant Lord saves his people in word and deed.

**COURSE GOALS**

It is the goal of this course to provide a deeper and more profound understanding of the Scriptures by increasing the students’ understanding of how a diversity of authors, genres, and styles are unified in their orientation to Christ. Students will grow in their ability to understand both the Old and New Testaments as together witnessing to Christ, with the result that individual events and persons in redemptive history will find their place in relation to God’s plan of salvation.

**TEXTS**

*Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*, Graeme Goldsworthy (Eerdmans, 2000)  
*Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*, Edmund P. Clowney (P & R, 2003)  
*Biblical Theology: A Proposal*, Brevard S. Childs (Fortress Press, 2002)

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Reading, attendance, and participation will together contribute to one-third of your grade. The exam and paper will each be worth one-third as well.

- ❑ Regular attendance and participation in class discussion is required for successful completion of the course. Grades will reflect the degree to which students are able to engage the readings and lecture material in class discussions.
- ❑ Completion of all reading assignments prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned. Brief reading reflection papers will occasionally be assigned to allow you to demonstrate your preparedness.
- ❑ Final Exam (Take Home). This will test your knowledge of the scriptures in a non-trivial way, requiring you to identify key aspects of God’s written word, including the diverse redemptive epochs and literary genres found therein.
- ❑ Final Paper, 8 – 10 pages in length, in which the student will apply the principles of the course to scriptural text of their choosing. Detailed instructions for the paper will be distributed in class.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The following is a general outline of the material we will be covering, as well as reading assignments. It is expected that students come to class prepared to discuss both the relevant Scriptures and the other assigned reading.

- ❑ *Introduction — Why read the Bible with Christ and the Apostles?*
  - Scripture: Luke 24; 1 Peter 1; Romans 1 – 2
  - Reading: Childs (1 – 80); Clowney (Preface, Chapter 1); Goldsworthy (xi – 62)
- ❑ *Creation's Goal Proposed: Setting the Stage for the History of Redemption*
  - Genesis 1:1 – 2:24; John 1; Revelation 21 – 22  
*How Great our Sin and Misery: The First Adam's Failure*
  - Genesis 3:1 – 23; Romans 5:12 – 21
- ❑ *A Blessing in the Curse: The Promise of a Suffering Redeemer*
  - Genesis 3; 1 Corinthians 15:45; Hebrews 2
  - Reading: Goldsworthy (63 – 96); Clowney (Chapter 2)
- ❑ *Noah and Judgment in the Former Times*
  - Genesis 4 – 8; 1 Peter 3:13 – 22; 2 Peter 2 – 3; Hebrews 11
- ❑ *Sealing the Promise to the Children of Abraham*
  - Genesis 15, 17; Galatians 3; Hebrews 6
  - Reading: Goldsworthy (97 – 151); Clowney (Chapters 4 – 6)
- ❑ *The Exodus: A Dry Run of Redemption*
  - Exodus 12 – 13; 19 – 20; Hebrews 3; 1 Corinthians 10
- ❑ *The Mosaic Covenant: Parable, Allegory, Type*
  - Deuteronomy 1, 4 – 6, 28 – 34; Acts 7; Galatians 4:21 – 31; Hebrews 9
  - Reading: Goldsworthy (152 – 182); Clowney (Chapters 7 – 9)
- ❑ *Psalms: Singing of God's Anointed King*
  - Psalm 2, 110; Acts 2; Hebrews 7
- ❑ *The Prophets: God's Covenant Lawyers*
  - Jeremiah 31:31 – 34; Deuteronomy 18; Hebrews 8;
  - Reading: Goldsworthy (183 – 221); Clowney (Chapters 12 – 13)
- ❑ *The Covenant Fulfilled: The Second Adam's Success*
  - 1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 9:11 – 28
- ❑ *The Final Movement: Covenant Consummation*
  - 2 Peter 3; Revelation 7
  - Reading: Goldsworthy (222 – 256); Clowney (Chapters 3, 10 – 11, 14 – 15)

## MEETING SCHEDULE

- ❑ March 17 is a scheduled break
- ❑ **Please Note: We will have to reschedule week 3 (2/26) as I have a conflict**  
Come prepared our first day of class to discuss alternate meeting times