“Towards a Biblical-Theological Appreciation of the Minister and his Work”

**Professor Name and Contact Information:**
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**Course Description:**
Pastoral Ministry 518 is an introductory course in pastoral theology. The language describing the course seeks to contrast a "practical theology" course in the sense that any antidotal model is used (although *praxis* will be an important feature of the course). Rather the course is called "pastoral theology" because of its classical approach to the study of the office of the minister of the Gospel. It is classical (i.e., English Puritan, Welsh Calvinistic Methodist, Scottish Presbyterian or traditional Anglican) by virtue of looking at expositional truths from God's Word concerning the life and work of the minister of the Gospel. PT518 will seek to unveil pastoral theology to the student as we "mine" a portion of the depths of the Pastoral Epistles, as well as other Scriptures, to locate the many facets of the vocation of the minister of the Gospel. This will include examining the Biblical warrant for the office, a Scriptural calling to the office, Spirit-revealed features of the pastor’s role and his work, as well as dangers of the office.

The student will receive practical reflections on transitioning from seminarian to pastor. Special attention will be given to pastoral preparation for and conducting of regular and occasional services in the Church such as weddings and funerals and the visitation of the sick and dying (further study of and practice of occasional services such as Communion are Baptism will be provided to the student in other PT courses). Consideration will be given to thinking through other pastoral issues such as ministerial ethics and etiquette. Moreover, each student will gain practical ministry experience in emergency pastoral care through a special relationship between RTS Charlotte and a major local hospital. No less than 40 hours should be validated in this way. More information about this part of the course will be made available on the first day of class.

**Appointments:**
The “private ministry of the Word” is an important and key part of the class. In order to meet all of the demands of this office and to accommodate students’ needs to meet privately, please make any request for an appointment through Miss Helen Holbrook, Executive Assistant to the President of the Seminary, at 704-688-4216 or through email at hholbrook@rts.edu.

**Required coursework (with grading percentages):**
Each student will be required to show regular attendance and appropriate participation in the class, meeting on Tuesday, from 0900 until 1200, with chapel from 1000 until 1050.
Each student will present three major papers by the conclusion of the class:

Hospital Pastoral Care Work: The student will submit a 5 page theological reflection paper on his work at Presbyterian Hospital. The paper may focus on one or more aspects of ministry encountered while on duty there, and relate lessons learned (about God or ministry or yourself or others or all of these) through the lens of Scripture. This should be written as if writing to your congregation, letting them know what you discovered in your work there (25% of the final grade).

Pastoral Biography Paper: The student will submit a 5 page theological reflection on a favorite Minister of the Gospel from history (not living) and include a biographical sketch, reason for choosing this minister, areas of success and trial, summary of his contributions, and a listing of lessons learned about pastoral ministry for your own life (25% of the final grade);

Reading Paper: The student will submit a 3 page reflection on one of the assigned readings with at least one critique of the work and three positive applications for his own appreciation for the pastoral ministry (25% of the final grade);

Required readings completed by the end of the course (25% of final grade).

Deadlines
All papers are due by the last day of class. All readings must be completed with a signed statement of completion to the professor by the last day of class.

Reading List

**Required Reading:**

*The readings seek to expose the pastoral student to theological-Biblical-historical reflections and insights on the pastoral ministry. This includes both classical Reformed texts (e.g., Baxter) and contemporary ones (Barnes). The professor does not necessarily endorse the theological convictions of each of the authors listed, but commends the insights on a classical understanding of the Minister of the Gospel as pastor, not CEO or religious program manager.*


On Reserve:


Recommended Reading:


Oden, Thomas C. *Becoming a Minister* Classical Pastoral Care Series. New York: Crossroad, c1987.


_____ *On Becoming a Minister.* (Baker, 1994) ISBN: 978-0801067631


**Online Resources:**

Calvin Institute for Worship: [http://www.calvin.edu/worship/](http://www.calvin.edu/worship/)


Reformed Worship journal: [http://www.reformedworship.org/template/index.cfm](http://www.reformedworship.org/template/index.cfm)

Vanderbilt Divinity School (I do not commend liberal theology, but I do find there are resources in this vast bibliography that will be helpful to the minister of the Gospel in a Reformed, Bible-believing, Christ-centered ministry):

Course Outline

CLASS FORMAT

- Call to Study with Scripture
- Hymn or Psalm
- Prayer
- Reading from an assigned reading and Reflections
- Lecture following Syllabus outline
- Close with Student Interaction and Student led Prayer

LESSON

The Life and Ministry of the Pastor of Christ’s Flock

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Reading from John 21.15-19 and comment
   a. A man’s encounter with Jesus Christ
   b. A man’s awareness of his unworthiness
   c. A man’s awareness of Christ’s personal call to you
   d. A man’s awareness of the burden of shepherding the flock of Jesus Christ
      i. The burden of Christ’s command to feed His sheep, not yours
      ii. The burden of opposition and suffering because of your role as shepherd
      iii. Your ministry is out of your control (“and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go”)
   e. The call to “Follow Me” now leads the pastor into the fields of Jesus to lead the flock of Jesus by following Jesus Himself and thus his vocation becomes his sanctification.

2. Conclude with the “Glory of the Pastor’s Work” reading from the Lutheran Prayer Book

3. Hymn, “God is Calling Faithful Men”


5. Overview of the Course and Objectives

6. The Biblical Ground of the Pastoral Ministry
• Old Testament System of Prophets, Priests, and Kings, but especially see Exodus 18 as the Biblically ordered division of labor to shepherd God’s people, plurality of elders, but a pastor to lead them, in this case Moses

• Jesus Christ, the Preacher, the Good Shepherd

• The Apostolic Witness of Peter’s ordination in John, and Paul’s work as pastor, and John’s pastoral letters in 1, 2, 3 John

• The very teaching of the office in Ephesians 4:11-12 as well as 1 Tim. 5:17

• My Vision of the Pastoral Ministry in 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

• Break for Chapel, “There is No Alternative: Why RTS Matters Now More than Ever” a Sermon from 1 Timothy 4.

7. Presbyterian Hospital Representative

II. ESSENTIALS OF THE PASTORAL MINISTRY IN THE PASTORAL EPISTLES OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

Believing that as we will cover most (or all, as the Spirit allows us in our time together) of the great themes of Pastoral Ministry, we will settle into 1, 2 Timothy and Titus, and pray and plan that the seminary student will be give a Biblical-theological-practical pastoral theology. Upon this, then, you will build a life of ministry.

I TIMOTHY

Chapter One: 13 Foundational Truths about the Pastoral Ministry

1. The Pastor is summoned to his sacred work by Jesus Christ, our hope. (1:1)

2. The Pastor is an “apostolic successor” of other faithful Pastors. (1:2)

3. The Pastor is a settled ministry. (Although Ephesians 4:11, 12 shows there are different facets of pastoral ministry) (1:3)

4. The Pastor ministers under a doctrinal mantle of Biblical authority. (1:3, 4)

5. The Pastor is the living steward of the repository of faith. (1:4)

6. The Pastor’s work is an overflow of his own inward life. (1:5)

7. The Pastor conducts his ministry in the presence of other competing ideas (1:6-11)

8. The Pastor only has one sermon: Christ’s grace in his own life. (1:12-16; see also Exodus 3:4-17; 14:15)

9. The Pastor is a man whose life is a doxological flame that burns in all that he does.
10. The Pastor’s power for ministry is linked to the approbation of not only God in an internal witness but a College of Preachers, who have recognized God’s gifts in the Pastor. (1:18)

11. The Pastor’s godliness flows from a sacred encounter with Christ. (1:19)

12. The Pastor’s deteriorating inner life will ultimately lead to a loss of ministry (1:19,20)

13. The Pastor is an agent of God’s restorative work of discipline with His people (1:19-20)

Chapter Two: Four Important Truths to Remember about Pastoral Ministry

14. The Pastor is the worship leader. (2)

15. The Pastor stands between the church and state with as a man of prayer (2:1, 2)

16. The Pastor preaches the Person of Jesus through every means, for this is his calling (2:4-7)

17. The Pastor speaks Redemptive Truth into the cauldron of Bad Ideas (2:8-15)

Chapter Three

18. The Pastor orders the Church through the oversight of a plurality of officers (3 and Titus 1:5; see Exodus 18 and Acts 6)

19. The Pastor himself is an elder of Christ (1 Timothy 5:17) who is qualified…

   a. Through holy aspiration

   b. Through moral qualifications:

      i. Above reproach

      ii. One-woman man

      iii. Sober-minded

      iv. Self-controlled

      v. Respectable

      vi. Hospitable

      vii. Not a drunkard

      viii. Gentle, not violent

      ix. Not quarrelsome

      x. Not a lover of money

      xi. Manages household well

      xii. Dignity as a husband and father
xiii. A good father who teaches his children submission
xiv. Not a recent convert
xv. Thought of well by “outsiders”

c. Through aptitude
   i. Able to teach

20. The Pastor must oversee as well as love the church (14-15)
21. The Pastor is the great confessional witness in the Church. (16)

**Chapter Four**
22. The Pastor is engaged in spiritual warfare in the local church, as well as the world (4:1-5)
23. The Pastor enters this battle with the ordinary means of grace. (4:6-16)
24. The Pastor is trained in the words of faith and good doctrine. (4:6)
25. The Pastor continues his training for all of his life. (4:7)
26. The Pastor’s sanctification cannot be separated from his vocation. (4:7-8; 16)
27. The Pastor labors in light of eternity. (4:9-10)

**Chapter Five**
28. The Pastor, like a father, oversees the family of God. (5)
   a. Older men (5:1)
   b. Women (5:2)
   c. Widows (5:3)
29. The Pastor must lead the diaconal ministry of the local church. (5:3-16)
30. The Pastor’s labors are measurable (5:17) and should be rewarded. (5:18)
31. The Pastor must be a wise judge in relationship to other ministers. (5:19-25)

**Chapter Six**
32. The Pastor must speak into the economy of the community. (6:12)
33. The Pastor is an agent of godly confrontation with sin in the life of the community. (6:3-10)
34. The Pastor conducts his work in a clear and present danger of falling into the sins he must confront. (6:11-15)
35. The Pastor conducts his difficult ministry with the life of Jesus Christ ever before him. (6:15)
36. The Pastor seeks justice in the community. (6:17-19)

37. The Pastor promotes generous giving to the work of the Lord. (6:18-19)

38. The Pastor is a Christ-appointed guardian of the repository of faith who fulfills his trusteeship through transforming grace. (20-21)

**II TIMOTHY**

**Chapter One**

39. The Pastor is called to bear the Promise of Life in Jesus to the world. (2 Tim. 1:1)

40. The Pastor must be a man of passionate, regular prayer. (1:3)

41. The Pastor is a man set aflame with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is “fanned” through sacred memory. (1:4-6)

42. The Pastor’s calling and the Pastor’s heritage of faith will overcome hindrances to effective ministry. (1:7)

43. The Pastor will suffer for Jesus Christ. (1:8-9)

44. The Pastor’s constant message is the Gospel. (1:10)

45. The Pastor’s glorious work is accomplished through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (1:14)

46. The Pastor will suffer betrayal. (1:15)

47. The Pastor will enjoy refreshment from his people in the presence of betrayal. (1:15-18)

**Chapter Two**

48. The Pastor’s life and ministry is strengthened by grace. (2:1)

49. The Pastor is a ministry multiplier. (2:2)

50. The Pastor must be single-minded in his work. (2:3-6)

51. The Pastor labors in everything with theological reflection. (2:7)

**Chapter Three**

52. The Pastor loves people and because of the Gospel in his life, he lives a life of service to the people of God. (3:8-13)

53. The Pastor regulates his own speech and the common language of the congregation with the Word of God. (3:14-19)

54. The Pastor does not give up on people who are in sin, but ministers out of the “Romance of the Gospel.” (3:20-21)

55. The Pastor is a mature leader of God’s church whose very life leads others to do God’s will. (3:22-26)
56. The Pastor must differentiate between the “sheep” and the “wolves.” (3:1-9)

57. The Pastor is launched into faithful ministry, sustained in faithful ministry through the examples of those godly saints who have gone before in our families, or if not in the family of faith. (3:10-15)

58. The Pastor studies the lives and ministries of other godly pastors. (3:10 -12)

59. The Pastor must be a “Man of One Book.” (3:16-17)

**Chapter Four**

60. The Pastor is a preacher of the Word of God. (4:1-2)

61. The Pastor’s preaching may be either to save or to judge. (4:3-4)

62. The Pastor is an evangelist. (4:5)

63. The Pastor ministers with an eye on the day when he will appear before the One about whom he has preached all of his life. (3:6-8)

64. The Pastor is sustained by faithful friends and amazing stories of grace. (4:9-14) (i.e., Mark)

65. The Pastor’s life, because he has given it so freely, may leave this world with stories of pain. (4:14-16)

66. Jesus Christ never leaves His preachers even if all else do. (4:17-18)

67. The Pastor loves his books but “above all” (v. 13) he loves the Bible. (4:12)

**Titus**

**Chapter One**

68. The Pastor should be a father to other pastors. (1:4)

69. The Pastor faces evil with bold, faithful church leaders. (1:5-9)

**Chapter Two**

70. The Pastor encourages ministries of mercy. (2:14)

71. The Pastor is a living conduit of God’s grace and blessing to the flock. (2:15)

**III. PASTORAL CONCERNS**

1. Occasional Services

   A. Baptisms

      Presuming a theology of paedo-baptism as well as “believer’s baptism”

      Encouraging and teaching this sacrament in the congregation
Preparation for the time with the candidate or the covenant family

Time with the Session

On the matter of “godparents” and also using elders to assist

Why the Senior Minister should do baptisms (ordinarily)

The service and the means of grace through that time

Logistical matters in the service

  Entrance with father

  Gathering around the font and the assisting pastor or elder

  Teaching, Vows, the holding of the child and the Trinitarian baptism

  Prayers with the child in your arms as you face the congregation

  Possible uses of hymns afterwards

  Placement in the service

B. Weddings

Wedding manuals

The purpose of the first meeting

  Spiritual diagnosis

  Review purposes of the “marriage preparation time” with the pastor

  Review the book

    I recommend Wayne Mack’s Preparing for Marriage God’s Way

    How to teach from it

  The sessions and how to use them

  The last session

  The Rehearsal as teaching Ephesians 5 and an evangelistic opportunity

    Review of the liturgy and movement in the service, using holy space

    Being with the people like Jesus at Cana

    Begin in the middle and then once more “with feeling!”

  The Wedding
Attire

Meeting with the parties before the wedding and prayer

The wedding sermon

The Pastoral Prayer and time with the parties in the chancel

C. Funerals

The role of the pastor: represent Christ, the Church, and the members of your congregation

The goals in the pastoral visit after the notification: “ministry of presence,” prayers and rituals that comfort, initial conversation of the service (not final, just bring it up)

Working with the family: hymns, Scriptures, stories and background of the family

The liturgy: amendments to the service in the Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition

Goals of the service: To bear witness to the resurrection; to bring comfort to the bereaved

Your physical movement and issues of holy space: in the church, in the funeral home

The grave side service, goals, and liturgy

Letters and follow through with families

Special cases

Reputed sinners

Notable persons

Children

Disasters and multiple deaths

2. Other Issues

a. Processing a Call (Taught by visiting pastor)

b. The Pastor’s wife and children (held in my home with wives)

c. Biblical and Pastoral Counseling as the diagnosis and treatment of the human soul through the ordinary means of grace and through the “private ministry of the Word”

d. The Pastor and the Session (taught by visiting Pastor)
e. Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette
   a. Private life and public life
   b. On confidentiality
   c. On role relationships in the congregation
   d. On role relationships with other pastors and other Christian congregations

Requirements and Examinations
Refer to the Syllabus.
Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>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. *As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Reads classical literature on pastoral theology, including sermons; write theological reflections papers</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Expository teaching series will cover pastoral ministry from The Pastoral Epistles, as well as portions of the Old Testament</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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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Will read Baxter’s The Reformed Pastor and also study the theological issues related to pastoral ministry from a (Westminster) Reformed perspective</td>
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<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Will be exposed to teaching on the heart of the pastor, the purity of the pastor’s inner life, the vocation as sanctification</td>
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<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>
<td>None</td>
<td>Will study vocation from a Biblical and Reformed worldview</td>
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<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
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<td>Area</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Minimal/None Requirement</td>
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<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<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>Minimal/None Will have required and recommended readings in pastoral theology from other traditions and will read “Cooperation without Compromise” and discuss standing winsomely for truth within a pluralistic culture</td>
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<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Shepherd</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>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>None</td>
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