ST 520 – Systematic Theology III

Scott R. Swain
(407) 366-5732, ext. 216
sswain@rts.edu

RTS, Orlando
Fall 2007

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. 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).

2. 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 in the light of these doctrines to the glory of the triune God.

TEXTS

Herman Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics, Volume 3: Sin and Salvation in Christ (Baker), ISBN: 0801026563


Anthony Hoekema, The Bible and the Future (Eerdmans), ISBN: 0802835163

The Canons of the Synod of Dort (available in many formats)

The Westminster Confession of Faith (available in many formats)
ASSIGNMENTS

1. Quiz on the Synod of Dort (10 % of final grade): Students will take a quiz that tests their understanding of the Canons of the Synod of Dort.

2. Exams (40 % of final grade): Students will take two exams in this course. Exams will test comprehension and critical grasp of lectures, assigned readings, and relevant chapters of the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF, chaps. 7-19, 32-33).

3. Reading Report (25 % of final grade): On the second exam, you will state the percentage of the assigned readings that you have read with reasonable care over the course of the semester.

4. Position paper on justification (25 % of final grade): Students will write a short essay (5-7 pages, double spaced) on the doctrine of justification. The paper should include (i) a definition of the doctrine of justification; and (ii) a brief exposition of the doctrine of justification, using Scripture, confessional documents, and in dialogue with Gaffin’s book. Essays should interact charitably and critically with N. T. Wright’s teaching regarding justification as well (see, for example, his What Saint Paul Really Said, chaps. 6 & 7).

COURSE SCHEDULE

This class meets Wednesdays from 1-4 pm. Reading assignments

August 22

August 29 Bavinck, chap. 5; Hoekema, chaps. 1-4

September 5 Bavinck, chap. 7

September 12

September 19 Bavinck, chap. 8

September 26

October 3 Exam 1

October 10 Bavinck, chap. 9 Gaffin, chaps. 1-2

October 17 Reading Week, no class

October 24 Hoekema, chaps. 5-6 Gaffin, chaps. 3-4

October 31 Canons of the Synod of Dort & quiz
November 7       Hoekema, chaps. 7-9
November 14      Hoekema, chaps. 10-13
November 21      Hoekema, chaps. 14-16
November 28      Last day of class  Hoekema, chaps. 17-20

OFFICE HOURS

My office hours are Monday mornings from 10-11 am and Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 pm. If you are unable to meet during these times, please send me an email and we can schedule another meeting time.