

Christian Soteriology

Professor:

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Purpose of the Course:

The purpose of this course is to study the biblical foundations of soteriology, the historical unfolding of the implications of biblical soteriology, and the contemporary developments in soteriology. A student should become aware of his/her theological presuppositions, acquire an adequate knowledge of the issues involved in soteriology, and demonstrate a competence in explicating seemingly simple questions, "What is salvation?" and "How does salvation work?"

Required Textbooks:

Dunn, J. D. G. The Theology of Paul the Apostle. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 1998.

Green, J. B. and Baker, M. D. Recovering the Scandal of Cross: Atonement in New Testament & Contemporary Contexts. Intervarsity Press, 2000.

Joint Declaration of the Doctrine of Justification. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 2000.

Weaver, J. D. The Nonviolent Atonement. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 2001.

Required Readings (Books and Articles on Reserve):

Anselm *Why God Became Man?* In St. Anselm: Basic Writings. Chicago: Open Court, 1996, 253-302.

Aquinas *Summa theologiae* 12ae Q 109, Art. 1-10 in Aquinas on Nature and Grace, ed. A. M. Fairweather. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1954, 137-156.

The Arminian Articles in P. Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998 (reprint), 545-549.

Athanasius *On the Incarnation*. Crestwood: St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 1993, 25-64.

Augustine *On Nature and Grace*, in FC 86, trans. John A. Mourant and William J. Collinge, 1992, 22-90.

Boff, L. & C. Salvation and Liberation: In Search of a Balance between Faith and Politics. Trans. R. R. Barr. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1984, 1-66.

Calvin *Institutes* III.11. In A Reformation Debate: John Calvin & Jacopo Sadoletto, Appendix, ed. J. C. Olin. New York: Fordam University Press, 2000, 89-107.

The Canons of the Synod of Dort in P. Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998 (reprint), 550-558.

Cone, J. H. God of the Oppressed. New York: Seabury, 1975, 138-162, 226-246.

Fiddes, P. S. "The Understanding of Salvation in the Baptist Tradition," in For Us and For Our Salvation, ed. W. J. Hollenweger. Utrecht: Instituut voor Missiologie, 1994, 15-37.

Gorringe, T. God's Just Vengeance: Crime, Violence, and the Rhetoric of Salvation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996, 223-271.

Lane, A. N. S. Justification by Faith in Catholic-Protestant Dialogue: An Evangelical Assessment. London: T & T Clark, 2002, 127-221.

Luther *Two Kinds of Righteousness* in Martin Luther's Basic Theological Works, ed. T. F. Lull. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989, 155-164.

Rahner, K. Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity. Trans. W. V. Dych. New York: Crossroad, 1978, 24-43.

- _____. The Content of Faith. Ed. K. Lehmann and A. Raffelt, trans. ed. H. D. Egan. New York: Crossroads, 1993, 199-202, 344-349.
- Strecker, G. Theology of the New Testament. Trans. M. E. Boring. New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2000, 669-676.
- Tanner, N. P. (ed.) Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, vol. II. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990, 671-681.

Evaluation:

Theological Diary (TD) 60% (3 mini-papers demonstrating reading comprehension and integration, each 30% of the grade)
Participation 10%

Schedule of Sessions and Assignments:

Session 1: **Introduction. Denominational Soteriology: Primary Models** (Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, Protestant Churches, Evangelical Free Churches)

Soteriology in the New Testament

Session 2: **New Testament Soteriology 1**

(Homework, *not* to be submitted: **TD**: My basic position on salvation: “How does salvation work?”)

Green, Recovering the Scandal of Cross, 11-115, 140-152.

Session 3: **New Testament Soteriology 2**

Dunn, The Theology of Paul, 317-389.

Session 4: **New Testament Soteriology 3**

Dunn, The Theology of Paul, 390-441; Strecker, Theology of the NT, 669-676.

Historical Soteriology

Session 5: **Patristic Soteriology**

TD 1: Revision of the basic position in the light of the NT soteriology

Athanasius *On Incarnation*, 25-64; Augustine *On Nature and Grace*, 22-51, 58-67.

Session 6: **Medieval Soteriology**

Anselm *Why God Became man?* (Book Two); Aquinas *Summa Theologica* 12ae, Q 109, Art. 1-10.

Session 7: **Protestant Soteriology (Luther, Calvin)**

Luther *Two Kinds of Righteousness*, Calvin, *Institutes* III.11 (sections).

Session 8: **The Council of Trent on Justification; Calvinists/Arminians on Justification**

Tanner, Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, 671-681; *The Arminian Articles*; *The Canons of the Synod of Dort*.

Contemporary Soteriology

Session 9: **Joint Declaration on Justification**

TD 2: Revision of the basic position in the light of historical soteriology

The document; Lane, Justification by Faith in Catholic-Protestant Dialogue, 127-221.

Session 10: **Joint Declaration on Justification and Baptist Understanding of Salvation**

The document; Fiddes, “The Understanding of Salvation in the Baptist Tradition,” 15-37; *The Second London Confession*; *The Orthodox Creed*.

Session 11: **Soteriology: A Contemporary Protestant Perspective**

Gorringe, God’s Just Vengeance, 223-271; (in class, *The Gift of Salvation*).

Session 12: Soteriology: A Contemporary Roman Catholic Perspective

Rahner, Foundations of Christian Faith, 24-43; The Content of Faith, 199-202, 344-349;
(in class, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*).

Session 13: Soteriology: A Liberation Perspective

Boff, Salvation and Liberation, 1-66.

Session 14: Soteriology: African-American Perspective

Cone, God of the Oppressed, 138-162, 195-246; Weaver, Nonviolent Atonement, 99-121.

Session 15: Soteriology: A Non-Violent, Feminist, and Womanist Perspective

Weaver, Nonviolent Atonement, 12-19, 70-98, 123-178, 210-224.

TD 3: Revision of the basic position in the light of the new developments in soteriology