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:

Required Readings (Books and Articles on Reserve):

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**  

Session 4: **New Testament Soteriology 3**  

**Historical Soteriology**

Session 5: **Patristic Soteriology**  
**TD 1**: Revision of the basic position in the light of the NT soteriology  

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**  

Session 13: **Soteriology: A Liberation Perspective**  

Session 14: **Soteriology: African-American Perspective**  

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

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