

**Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL. 35243
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Spring 2012

ST3528 Systematic Theology III

Professor: Robert M. Alexander Jr.

Class Hours: 2

Christology

205-854-5690 or 862-0573

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COURSE PURPOSE

This course is a study of the person and work of Jesus Christ. We will look at the distinction of the person and work of Jesus Christ in relation to who He was and what He did. We will examine His divinity and humanity from a biblical perspective. Attempt will be made to understand the implications of His person and work.

Another purpose for this theological course, is to teach the students skills for developing a Christian mind, by helping them construct a solid foundation for thinking through life's most important issues. You will learn about various sources for theology and the way that different people use and misuse these sources. This course endeavors to enable people to think theologically and construct a biblical worldview that makes the Christian's witness relevant to all people in need.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will understand that theology is more than just an academic discipline reserved only for professional theologians, but that it is a fountain from which all people may daily drink.
2. The student will gain knowledge of the different theories concerning Jesus Christ and His mission.
3. The student will have a greater understanding of what Christ surrenders in the incarnation
4. The student will gain an appreciation for the Doctrine of Christology by learning all the details of the person and work of Christ.
5. The students will critically evaluate their own theological method and Worldview by learning how to test and critique the validity of their core beliefs.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:

The two required systematic theologies complement one another. Berkhof's, originally printed in 1941, is the older classic, but contains some dated material. Grudem's highly regarded theology deals with more contemporary issues, is somewhat easier to read, and is very pastoral.

1. Louis Berkhof, *Introduction to Systematic Theology*; and *Systematic Theology*.
2. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*,
3. Study Bible

Collateral Texts

Warfield, Benjamin B., *The Person And Work Of Christ*

MacArthur, John., *The Jesus You Can't Ignore*

Reymond, Dr. Robert L., *A New Systematic Theology Of The Christian Faith* pp. 461-800

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance
2. Completion of reading assignments on time
 - a. Louis Berkhof, *Introduction to Systematic Theology*,
 - b. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*,
3. Participation in class room discussions
4. Exams
5. Write a 10-12 page theological paper on The Person of Christ

This paper should include the following:

1. A title page
2. A table of contents
3. An introduction
4. A thesis statement
5. The text (should include)
 - a) A definition of the doctrine
 - b) A historical overview
 - c) A biblical defense of the doctrine

- d) An application of the doctrine to your discipline of study
- 6. A conclusion – Giving a summary of the paper’s contents
- 7. Footnotes (according to Turabian standards)
- 8. Bibliography with at least 15 theological references
- 9. No less than 12 pages and no more than 15 pages typed (double spaced); 12 font. Times New Roman. (Turabian format)

COURSE GRADING

- 1. Assigned reading completed on time, 10%
- 2. Class participation, 5%
- 3. Theological paper, 35%
- 4. Mid-term exam, 20%
- 5. Final exam, 30%

BTS FORMAT AND STYLES STANDARDS

NOTE: All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student’s grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student’s transcript.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Theological paper
- 2. Exams
- 3. Assigned reading

Read on *Christology* in Wayne Grudem book alone with your Berkhof reading.

<u>LECTURE #</u>	<u>DATE/LECTURE</u>	<u>BERKHOF READING</u>
<u>THE PERSON OF CHRIST</u>		
1	2/02 The Doctrine of Christ	pp. 305-311
2	2/09 The Names of Christ	pp. 312-314
3	2/16 The Natures of Christ	pp. 315-320
4	2/23 The Unipersonality of Christ	pp. 321-329
<u>THE STATES OF CHRIST</u>		
5	3/01 The State of Humiliation	pp. 331-340
6	3/08 Mid-term	
7	3/15 Spring Break	
8	3/22 The State of Exaltation	pp. 344-345
9	3/29 The Resurrection	pp. 346-349
<u>THE OFFICE OF CHRIST</u>		
10	4/05 The Prophetic Office	pp. 356-357
11	4/12 The Priestly Office	pp. 361-362
12	4/19 Review	
13	4/26 Final and Paper Due	

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. 3 vols. translated thus far. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003-2006.

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. This edition includes his *Introduction to Systematic Theology*.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1559. 2 vols. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960. Although there are many aspects of Systematic Theology that Calvin does not address, this is *the* oldest and most classic statement of Reformed theology.

Dabney, Robert Lewis. *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, 1878. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1972. Southern Presbyterian

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1983. Moderately Calvinistic Baptist

Gill, John. *Body of Divinity*, 1769. Reprint, Atlanta, GA: Turner Lassetter, 1965. Strict (Particular) Calvinistic Baptist

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*, 1887. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997 reprint. Hodge was one of the preeminent Princeton Presbyterian theologians.

Oden, Thomas. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1998. A compilation of classical theologies from various perspectives—Reformed, Lutheran, and Arminian

Pieper, Francis. *Christian Dogmatics*. 4 vols. Saint Louis: Concordia, 1950. Classical Lutheran theology

Reymond, Robert. *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. Nashville: Nelson, 1998. Reformed

Shedd, William G. T. *Dogmatic Theology*, 1894, ed. Alan W. Gomes. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 2003. An excellent but often overlooked Presbyterian theology

Strong, Augustus Hopkins. *Systematic Theology*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1907. Moderately Calvinistic Baptist

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, 1685. 3 vols. Translated by George Musgrave Giger, ed. James T. Dennison, Jr. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 1992. Reformed, from the era of “Protestant Scholasticism”

Catechism of the Catholic Church. New York: Doubleday, 1994.

A useful summary and explanation of Roman Catholic beliefs, traditions, and sacraments. With a complete index, footnotes, and cross-references for a fuller understanding of each subject.

McGrath, Alister E. "Do We Still Need The Reformation?: A review of the new Catholic catechism." *Christianity Today* (12 December 1994): 28-33.

A very useful review of the new, English translation of the Catholic catechism which represents a definitive statement of Roman Catholic beliefs on every significant issue.

Basinger, David and Randall Basinger, eds. *Predestination and Free Will: Four Views of Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986.

Contributors John Feinberg, Norman Geisler, Bruce Reichenbach, and Clark Pinnock offer their individual perspectives while critiquing the other views presented.

Eaton, Michael. *No Condemnation; A New Theology of Assurance*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

A challenging reassessment of the role of the law in biblical revelation and Christian living, the nature of Christian inheritance, and the meaning of New Testament warnings against "falling away." With a strong emphasis on the impact and nature of God's grace.

Gromacki, Robert Glenn. *Salvation Is Forever*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1973.

Assesses the scriptural evidence for the truth of eternal salvation security.

Hoekema, Anthony A. *Saved by Grace*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

A comprehensive, Calvinistic, practical presentation of the biblical teaching on salvation.

Klein, William W. *The New Chosen People; A Corporate View of Election*. Grand Rapids: Academic Books, 1990.

Argues that the biblical presentation of election is the corporate, rather than the individual, view.

Marshall, I. H. *Kept by the Power of God: A Study of Perseverance and Falling Away*. Minneapolis: Bethany, 1969.

An investigation of the biblical passages regarding apostasy and falling away. Argues that the "...security of the believer is conditioned upon his faithfulness to Jesus Christ."

Murray, John. *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955.

Calvinist argument for "limited atonement." Discusses such topics as atonement, regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Chicago: InterVarsity, 1961.

An incisive study of the biblical evidence on the relationship between God's sovereignty, man's responsibility, and the Christian's evangelistic duty. From a Reformed perspective.

Piper, John. "Are There Two Wills in God? Divine Election and God's Desire for All to be Saved." In *The Grace of God, the Bondage of the Will: Biblical and Practical Perspectives on Calvinism*, ed. Thomas Schreiner and Bruce Ware, 107-31. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.

Argues that God wills for all people, even the non-elect, to be saved, but he sovereignly elects only some to salvation.

Schreiner, Thomas and Bruce Ware, eds. *The Grace of God, the Bondage of the Will: Biblical and Practical Perspectives on Calvinism*, Vol 1. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.

An insightful reaffirmation of the Calvinist position on the relationship between divine

sovereignty and the human will. Provides responses to contemporary objections. Includes articles by John Piper, Wayne Grudem, Thomas Schreiner, et al.

Schreiner, Thomas. "Does Romans 9 Teach Individual Election Unto Salvation?: Some Exegetical and Theological Reflections." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 36, 1 (March 1993): 25-40.

Explains and responds to the two most common objections to a Calvinist interpretation of Romans 9:1-29, namely that Paul is not referring to salvation in this text or, if he is in some sense, he is referring to the salvation of groups rather than individuals.

Sell, Alan P.F. *The Great Debate: Calvinism, Arminianism, and Salvation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1982.

Traces the history of the debate between Calvinists and Arminians. Includes discussions on the positions of Arminius and Calvin, the development of Amyraldism and Federalism, and the antinomian controversy in America and England.

Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Plan of Salvation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1942.

A collection of the author's lectures on the differing conceptions of salvation, autosoterism, sacerdotalism, universalism, and Calvinism.

Wesley, John. "Predestination Calmly Considered." In *The Works of John Wesley*, Vol. 10, 3rd ed. Thomas Jackson, 204-59. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1979.

Marshalls numerous biblical texts and arguments against the Calvinist understanding of predestination and perseverance. A passionate essay.

Eichelberger, William L. 'A Mytho-Historical Approach to the Black Messiah'. *Journal of Religious Thought Spring/Summer76, Vol. 33 Issue 1* (2001): 63-74.

Gunton, Colin E. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: CUP, 1997. Hodgson, Peter C. and Robert H. King (eds). *Christian Theology: An Introduction to Its Traditions and Tasks*. 2nd edn. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Christology: A Global Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 3rd edn. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2001.

Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Its Traditions and Tasks*. 2nd edn. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Tanner, Kathryn. *Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity: A Brief Systematic Theology*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2001.