



TH503 The Holy Spirit, the Church & Last Things

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Gary W. Deddo, Ph.D.

Course description

This course covers the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the Christian understanding of the Church, and Christian teaching about biblical eschatology. We will give special attention to the personal nature of the Holy Spirit as a divine member of the Trinity and his ongoing and essential ministry in Christian life and ministry. The foundation, nature and vocation of the church will be explored as well as Christian hope here and now but ultimately in the victory over evil and death and the full manifestation of the new heavens and earth.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 145 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Bloesch, Donald G. *The Last Things: Resurrection, Judgment, Glory*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006. 336 pages. Hardcover ISBN 978-0830814176; Paperback ISBN: 978-0830827572. Approximate price: \$4 used, \$22 new.

Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 1992. 944 pages. ISBN: 978-0061449710. Approximate price: \$14 used, \$27 new.

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community & The Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996. ISBN: 978-0830818952. Approximate price: \$5 used, \$17 new. 130 pages.

Torrance, Thomas F. *The Mediation of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: Helmers & Howard, 1992. ISBN: 0-939443-50-3. Approximate price: \$35 used, \$70 new. 144 pages. [This book is out of print. Copies of the required chapters will be made available for use in this class at the course website.]

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Requirements and assignments

1. **Read (or listen to, as appropriate) the lectures.** Lectures will be posted in writing, video, or audio each Monday for the first ten weeks. (Approx. 2 hours per week.)
2. **Participate.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 25 percent of the final grade. (Approx. 1.5 hours per week.)
3. **Read the assigned textbook chapters, assigned “on reserve” chapters and articles and elective reading for the two research papers.** They total about 800 pages, or about 80 pages each week. (Approx. 7 hours per week.)
4. **Quotation and Comment Notebook.** Post at least one quotation from every chapter and article of assigned, elective, and extra-credit reading and a corresponding comment, which may be taken from your Forum postings for the week. (10% of final grade.)
5. **Write two research papers.** This counts for 40 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 28 hours to work on these papers.
6. **One final exam.** The final exam counts for 25% of the final grade. The four-hour exam will be weighted toward the topic of Eschatology (last things). *It will be taken during the 12th week of the course, after all other assignments are due and should have been turned in.*