



Grace Communion Seminary

TH503: The Holy Spirit, the Church & Eschatology

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 personal nature of Holy Spirit as a divine member of the Trinity and his ongoing and essential ministry in the Christian life and Christian 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 Texts

Bloesch, Donald G. *The Last Things: Resurrection, Judgment, Glory*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006. 336 pages.

- Hardcover ISBN-13: 978-0830814176
- Paperback ISBN: 978-0830827572
- Approximate price: \$13.00 used, \$15.00 new.
- Click [here](#) to search for lowest price on bookfinder.

Johnson, Alan, and Robert Webber. *What Christians Believe*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1989, 1993. 480 pages.

- Hardcover ISBN: 978-0310367208
- Paperback ISBN: 978-0310367215
- Approximate price: \$4.00 used, \$12 new.

Oden, Thomas C. *Life in the Spirit*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1992. ISBN: 0-06-066349-9. Approximate price: \$30* 548 pages.

- Hardcover ISBN: 978-0060663490
- Paperback ISBN: 978-0060663629
- Approximate price: \$6.00 used paperback, \$45 new hardcover

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community & The Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996. ISBN: 978-0830818952. Approximate price: \$6.00 used, \$9.00 new. 130 pages.

Torrance, Thomas. *The Mediation of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: Helmers & Howard, 1992. ISBN: 0-939443-50-3. Approximate price: \$8.00 used, \$13.00 new. 144 pages.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest online price use www.bookfinder.com/

Recommended Texts

Barth, Karl. *Christ and Adam*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 1956, 2004. ISBN: 1-59244-639-6. Approximate price: \$12. 82 pages.

Bock, Daniel, and Stanley Gundry, editors. *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999. ISBN: 0310201438. Approximate price: \$15. 336 pages.

Okholm, Dennis, and Timothy Phillips. *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996. ISBN: 0310212766. Approximate price: \$13. 288 pages.

GCS Mission Statement

“*Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.*” We are committed to equip the saints for pastoral ministry through quality graduate-level distance education programs in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies informed by Incarnational Trinitarian faith.

Student Learning Outcomes

GCS Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): Grace Communion Seminary has five core learning outcomes for its students. This course serves largely to support GCS SLO 2: Reason from a sound theological basis as new covenant Christians centered in Trinitarian Incarnational faith.

Course Student Learning Outcomes for TH503

This course will enable to the student to:

Outcome 1: Describe and the major theological themes of the Holy Spirit, the Church and Eschatology and their inter-relationships as presented in the lectures and readings (Gained through assigned readings, video recordings and class lectures and accounted for in the Reading Notebook, the Online Forums and Two Research Papers and Final Exam.)

Outcome 2: Identify key biblical teaching that informs an understanding of the Holy Spirit, the Church and Eschatology and explain how those biblical teachings contribute to an incarnational and trinitarian theology. (Gained through readings, video recordings and class lectures and accounted for in the Reading Notebook and two Research Papers and Final Exam)

Outcome 3: analyze and critique the theological arguments made in the assigned readings in the light of Scripture, relevant ecumenical creeds of the church and contemporary expressions of evangelical theology. (Gained through readings and class lectures and accounted for in the Reading Notebook, the Online Forums, Two Research Papers and Final Exam.)

Outcome 4: Illustrate and explain how an incarnational and trinitarian theological understanding of the Holy Spirit, the Church and Eschatology can contribute to Christian ministry of preaching, teaching and to the personal lives of members of the Body of Christ in its local and global expressions. (Through the Forums, Reading Notebook, and Final Exam.)

Required 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 of the course. This will take about 2 hours per week. See the *Academic Catalog* for study suggestions
2. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 760 pages, about 75 pages each week. That should take about 5 hours a week to read. *Stay ahead of the reading as posted in the syllabus*, because reading the texts is essential to the course.
3. **View videos and read articles as assigned each week.** These total 16 hours of viewing/reading over ten weeks. Most weeks will take less 2 hours a week.
4. **Participate in the online discussions.** In classroom courses, part of the learning process takes place through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on two discussion forums: 1) the *Instructor Forum* and 2) the *Class Members' Forum*. Each week, you must post at least one reply of your own to each of the one or two instructor questions posted *and also* post one response of your own and also reply to at least one other person's comment in the Class Member's Forum. *This participation is required* and counts for 25 percent of the final grade. It should take about 1 hour per week.
5. **Research Paper 1:** Write a maximum 2000-word paper (double-spaced in 12-point type, not including footnotes or bibliography) about the person and work of the Holy Spirit in human spiritual transformation.
 - a. Read *The Mediation of Christ* by T.F. Torrance, pages 99-126, and *Life in the Spirit* by Thomas Oden, pages 1-75, as background to the paper.
 - b. Cite at least four sources, including those in "a." above, from the course bibliography.
 - c. Write the paper to me, the instructor. Assume the instructor's knowledge of background material not directly needed for addressing the assigned topic.
 - d. Do not use long quotations from the texts cited or Scripture. Use key words or phrases in quotation marks taken from them, and the reference to make and back up your point. Make sure you use Scripture in a way that takes into account the context in which the reference is found.
 - e. Do not use full bibliographic references in footnotes. Author's name, book title and page number are sufficient. Indicate in a footnote at the first

Scripture reference the default version of the Bible you will be using throughout. Note exceptions in the body of the text, e.g. (1 Cor 13:1, NRSV).

- f. Include at the end of the paper a Works Cited section which should include full bibliographical information of all sources cited.
- g. This paper is due at the end of week 5 and counts for 25 percent of the final grade.
- h. For a guide to formatting your papers, see “How to Format a GCS Paper,” posted at <http://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=23>.

6. Research Paper 2: Write a maximum 2000-word paper (double-spaced, using font size 12, not including footnotes or bibliography) on the nature and purpose of the church and place of the church in the life of the someone incorporated into the Body of Christ.

The paper should include:

- a. Indicating key implications of a sound Incarnational and Trinitarian theology (that points to the reality of the Trinity and the Incarnation and the fundamental relationship of the church to Christ’s atoning work) for understanding the purpose and priorities of the church as a whole and some key implications for a local congregation.
- b. Reading and citing insights from *The Mediation of Christ*, pages 73-98, *What Christians Believe*, pages 325-412, and *Worship, Community & The Triune God of Grace*, pages 1-41 and 70-94, as background to your paper.
- c. Citing at least two additional sources, besides those indicated in “b.” above, taken from the course bibliography. A minimum, then, of five sources.
- d. Write the paper to me, the instructor. Assume the instructor’s knowledge of background material not directly needed for addressing the assigned topic.
- e. Do not use long quotations from the texts cited or Scripture. Use key words or phrases in quotation marks taken from them, and the reference to make and back up your point. Make sure you use Scripture in a way that takes into account the context in which the reference is found.
- f. Do not use full bibliographic references in footnotes. Author’s name, book title and page number are sufficient. Indicate in a footnote at the first Scripture reference the default version of the Bible you will be using

throughout. Note exceptions in the body of the text, e.g. (1 Cor 13:1, NRSV).

- g. Include at the end of the paper a Works Cited section which should include full bibliographical information of all sources cited.
- h. This paper is due Sunday midnight, at the end of week 11, and counts for 25 percent of the final grade.
- i. For a guide to formatting your papers, see “How to Format a GCS Paper,” posted at <http://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=23>.

7. Final Exam: The final exam counts for 25% of the final grade. The two-hour exam will be weighted toward the topic of Eschatology. *It will be taken during the 12th week of the course, after all other assignments are due and should have been turned in.*

Estimated hours and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours*	Percentage of grade
Lectures (220 pages + video)	20	required
Reading discussions and making responses (20)	10	25
Reading the textbooks and “On Reserve” reading (760 pages)	51	required
Videos/articles/handouts as assigned	16	required
Writing Paper 1: The Holy Spirit	20	25
Writing Paper 2: The Church	20	25
Preparation for and taking of Final Exam	8	25
Total – about 12 hours each week	145	100

Course Schedule: TH503

Week	Read/View/Listen as appropriate	Assignment Due
1. The Holy Spirit: Person and Work	Oden, pp. 1-78, Chs. 1 & 2 Lecture 1: Who is God? Theology, The Spirit and Trinity Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
2. The Holy Spirit: Person and Work, cont.	Oden, pp. 177-257, Chs. 5 & 6 Lecture 2: Jesus Reveals the Spirit Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
3. The Holy Spirit: Atonement and Transformation	JBT: 12-41 TFT: 99-126 GWD: Holy Spirit in TFT Theology Lecture 3: The Holy Spirit Handouts (2) Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
4. The Holy Spirit: Transformation and the Christian Life	TFT: 1-72 Lecture 4: The Holy Spirit Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
5. The Church: Foundations and Development	J&W: 325-369 J&W: 370-412 Lecture 5: Church and Ministry, Pt 1 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
6. The Church: Sacraments /Sharing in Christ's Mediation: Our Response	TFT: 73-98 JBT: 69-94 Lecture 6: Church and Ministry, Pt 2 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation Research Paper 1 due end of Wk 6

7. The Church: Ministry and Witness	JBT: 43-68, 95-120 GWD: Jesus' Paradigm, 1-19 Lecture 7: Church and Ministry, Pt 3 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
8. Eschatology: Biblical Foundation and Overview	J&W: 415-461 Bloesch, Chs. 1 & 2, 16 pp. Lecture 8: Kingdom of God, Pt 1 Videos/articles as assigned	Forum participation
9. Eschatology: Sorting out the Options	Oden: 369-444, Chs. 9 & 10 TFT, Universalism, 9 pp. Lecture 9: Kingdom of God, Pt 2 Videos/articles as assigned Handout: God, Providence, Evil	Forum participation
10. Eschatology: Our Ultimate Hope	Oden: 444-468, Ch. 11 Bloesch, Chs. 7 & 11 Lecture 10: Kingdom of God, Pt 3	Forum participation
11-12. Final Exam	Bloesch, Ch. 12 Study and Take Final Exam	Research Paper 2 Due, Wk 11 Final Exam Due, Wk 12