



TH502 Jesus Christ, the Nature of Humans and Salvation

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Gary Deddo, PhD

Course description

This course explores the person and work of Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God according to biblical revelation. In that light we also consider the nature of the salvation accomplished and offered in and through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. This will include reflecting on the nature of human beings, of evil, and the inherent effects of sin. We'll look into what we are rescued/delivered/saved from but also what we saved for, starting here and now. The contentious issues of predestination and how we receive and participate in that saving relationship with our Triune God through Jesus Christ will also receive consideration.

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

Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0061449710. Kindle version acceptable. Cost: about \$40 new or \$17 on Kindle. [Note this textbook is three volumes condensed into one and is used in all three of our foundational TH500 courses (TH501, TH502 and TH503).]

St. Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. Translated by A Religious of C.S.M.V. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary, 1993, 1996 or 2007; Several acceptable ISBN numbers, such as 978-1948648240, 978-0881414097, or 978-0881414271. Cost: about \$10, or you can download an older translation

free at Christian Classics Ethereal Library,
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/athanasius/incarnation.html>.¹

Torrance, Thomas F. *When Christ Comes, and Comes Again*. Original date 1957; now reprinted by Eugene, OR. Wipf and Stock Publishers. ISBN 978-1579100094; about \$15 new from third-party sellers.

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 the lessons/lectures/handouts.** They will be posted each Monday for the first eleven weeks.
2. **Participate.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with the instructor and other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on two discussion forums. This counts for 25 percent of the final grade.
3. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 500 pages, or about 50 pages each week. This is required.
4. **Keep a Reading Assignment Notebook.** This counts for 25 percent of the final grade.
5. **Papers.** A footnoted sermon or meditation counts for 20 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 20 hours to work on this paper – an average of 2 hours per week – some weeks more, some less.
6. **Final Exam.** This take-home 3-hour timed exam counts for 30 percent of the final grade.

¹ An audio version is available free at archive.org/details/AthanasiusIncarnation. Audio is NOT a format suitable for study and writing a book review. However, it can be a helpful supplement to your reading.