

God/Bible/Holy Spirit
Institute of Biblical Studies
Summer 2018
Vincent Bacote, Ph.D.
vincent.bacote@wheaton.edu

Organizational Purpose

The Institute of Biblical Studies exists in order to help develop Christ-centered missionaries who possess the biblical and theological competencies they need (head, heart and hands) to live out the Great Commandment and helpfully fulfill the Great Commission through the ministry of Christ. This course addresses three areas of Christian doctrine that are foundational to our life and mission.

Course Description

In his classic book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A. W. Tozer explains, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. . . . For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God himself, and the portentous fact about any man is not what he may at a given time say or do but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.” This course offers an opportunity to broaden and deepen your understanding of the God whom we love and worship.

To this end, we will explore Christian teaching regarding the nature and attributes of God, the persons of the Trinity, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and the person and work of the Holy Spirit. You will better understand how one God has revealed himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You will gain greater confidence in Scripture as the inspired, truthful, authoritative, sufficient and powerful Word of God. You will discover how the Holy Spirit enables you to grow in conformity to the image of Christ and empowers God’s people to bear witness about Christ to the ends of the earth. We will examine these doctrines as they are taught in Scripture and confessed by the church so that we may better live to the glory of the triune God (2 IBS credits – Theology and Apologetics).

Learning Outcomes

Affective (attitudes, motivation, character)

1. Deepen your motivation to know, love and worship the triune God and reflect God’s character as image-bearers.
2. Gain greater confidence in Scripture as the inspired, truthful, authoritative, sufficient and powerful Word of God.
3. Grow as a disciple of Jesus who joyfully submits to the authority of God’s Word and who builds movements of disciples who “truly follow Jesus” by embracing his Word in their lives.

Cognitive (knowledge and thinking skills)

1. Deepen your understanding of the nature and attributes of God, the persons of the Trinity, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and the person and work of the Holy Spirit as these doctrines are taught in Scripture, confessed by the church, and practiced in every area of life.
2. Become more familiar with viewpoints, differences, and conflicts which exist among Christians regarding these doctrines.
3. Develop a deeper understanding of and commitment to the Cru Statement of Faith.
4. Grow in your awareness of the ways in which culture shapes our reading of Scripture (and hence our theologies) as well as the importance of listening to believers in other cultural contexts in order to fully understand what God is saying to us in his Word.

Behavioral (personal and ministry skills)

1. Grow in your capacity and motivation to read Scripture “theologically.”
2. Grow in your capacity to teach these foundational doctrines from Scripture and relate them to evangelism, discipleship, movement-launching, ethics, and cross-cultural mission.
3. Be better prepared to partner with those who hold differing theological views allowing for difference of opinion on matters not central to our Statement of Faith and calling while pointing people to a compelling center (i.e., Christ, the gospel and our mission).

Required Texts

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994). ISBN-13: 978-0310286707. Also available in Kindle format.

Timothy C. Tennent, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church Is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007). ISBN-13: 978-0310275114. Also available in Kindle format.

A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (San Francisco: HarperOne, 1978). Any version of this book will work.

Excerpts from D. Stephen Long, *Christian Ethics: A Very Short Introduction* and Kent Van Til, *The Moral Disciple: An Introduction to Christian Ethics*.

Recommended Texts

Gregg Allison, *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011). Written as a companion to Grudem’s systematic theology, this book covers all the same topics and helps you understand what Christians throughout the history of the church have believed about these doctrines. It’s a great resource to have in your library.

Learning Tasks

1. **Reading:** You will be reading select chapters from Grudem's *Systematic Theology*, where he discusses the doctrines we are covering in the class, as well as portions of Tozer's classic text *Knowledge of the Holy*. Your reading should be done thoroughly and thoughtfully with a sincere attempt to learn all you can. **Given the compressed nature of this course, it will help if you complete the reading (except Tozer) prior to the first class session.** The Tozer book will be discussed in class (and is pretty easy reading). As a result, you might want to wait to read Tozer till the night before we discuss it so it is fresh in your mind. Several short articles will be posted online as well. **DUE: Wednesday, July 18 by the beginning of class.**
2. **Participate in Class Discussion:** This class will include a mixture of lecture and classroom discussion. Each day we will discuss a chapter from Tozer's book and you will be asked to share what you learned. You will also be asked to respond to questions from the instructor. You are free to raise questions as well.
3. **Response and Imitation Worksheet:** As image-bearers (Gen. 1:27-28), we were created to reflect the triune God. You will complete a worksheet that will help you consider how we should respond to and imitate God's attributes. Instructions will be posted on the IBS website. **DUE: Tuesday, July 10 by 5:00 pm**
4. **Theology Project:** You will write a paper in which you present Scriptural teaching on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The goal is to be as comprehensive as you can be, exposing the richness of the Bible's own teaching on the Holy Spirit. In order to write this paper, you will need to take the following steps:
 - a) **Choose:** Pick one of the following options:
 - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Luke
 - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Acts
 - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of 1 Corinthians
 - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Galatians
 - b) **Explore:** Read through the whole book noting every reference to the Holy Spirit. For each reference to the Holy Spirit, record your observations. Here are some questions you might try to answer. What do you learn from this passage about the person of the Holy Spirit (deity, personally)? What do you learn about the work of the Holy Spirit (in the life of Christ, the church, unbelievers, believers)? Does the passage say anything about how the Holy Spirit relates to the Father and/or Son? You may find it helpful to see what commentators say about your passage (e.g., ESV Study Bible notes). You might also consult the Scripture index in Grudem's *Systematic Theology* to see if he discusses any of the key passages in your book.

- c) **Synthesize:** What stands out to you regarding the person and work of the Holy Spirit in this book? Do you see any recurring themes? What patterns do you observe about the working of the Holy Spirit? Are certain aspects of salvation associated with Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit relate to other divine persons? Consider how best to organize these teachings into a systematic and coherent whole.
- d) **Write:** Drawing your work together, write a paper (7-9 pages, double spaced, 12 pt. font) summarizing what you learned. To the best of your ability, present all that your book says about the Holy Spirit. Endeavor to be faithful to the intended meanings of each individual teaching in its context, while displaying how they these contribute to a holistic understanding of this doctrine. Remember that this is not a verse by verse commentary but a carefully crafted synthesis of the doctrinal teaching of your book on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. *In light of our goal to consider how our faith is lived out (the ethical dimension), it is important that you consider how this doctrine is connected to Christian moral discernment. You will address this dimension of the assignment in the personal application section of the paper.* You will need to think about how best to structure your presentation. In the last two pages of your paper, address the following questions for personal application: What was the most helpful thing you learned about the Holy Spirit from your study? What implications does this have for ministry, particularly in light of one ethical issue (issue to be approved by the professor)? **DUE: Wednesday, July 18 by 5:00 pm.**

Course Grade

Reading Report	25%
Response and Imitation Worksheet	25%
Theology Project	<u>50%</u>
	100%

IBS Grading Scale:

94-100	A
92-93	A-
90-91	B+
84-89	B
82-83	B-
80-81	C+
74-79	C
72-73	C-
65-71	D
0-65	F

Note: A grade of C- or better is required to apply this course toward your IBS requirements

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Pages
July 5	<i>Why Does Theology Matter?</i>	Tozer c1** Van Til	34
	<i>Understanding Three Kinds of Doctrines: Convictions, Persuasions and Opinions</i>	Tennent c1	22
July 6	<i>How Does God Reveal Himself?</i>	Tozer c3**	5
	<i>What is God Like? (Incommunicable Attributes)</i>	Tozer c2 Grudem c11	35
July 9	<i>What is God Like? (Communicable Attributes)</i>	Tozer c16** Grudem c12, c13	47
	<i>God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit</i>	Long	28
July 10	<i>Is the Trinity in the Bible?</i>	Tozer c4**	8
	<i>How did the Doctrine of Trinity Develop?</i>		
July 11	<i>Digging Deeper into the Doctrine of the Trinity</i>	Tozer c6**	6
	<i>Trinity in the Christian Life</i>	Parry, <i>Worshipping Trinity</i> 98-117** Sanders, <i>Deep Things</i> , 211-39 (available online)	49
July 12	<i>Providence: How Does God Govern the World?</i>	Tozer c11** Grudem c16	44
	<i>Rival Gods: The Challenge of Religious Pluralism</i>	Tennent c2**	25
July 13	<i>Understanding the Inspiration of Scripture</i>	Tozer c17**	4
	<i>Canon: What Books Should be Included in the Bible?</i>	Grudem c3	19
July 16	<i>Is Scripture Authoritative and Truthful (Inerrant)?</i>	Tozer c9** Grudem c4, c5	38
	<i>Clarity, Necessity and Sufficiency of Scripture</i>	Grudem c6, c7, c8	36
July 18	<i>Who is the Holy Spirit?</i>	Tozer c15**	4
	<i>What does the Holy Spirit Do?</i>	Tennent c7	30
July 18	<i>Baptism and Filling with the Holy Spirit</i>	Tozer c21** Grudem, c39	30
	<i>Gifts of the Holy Spirit</i>	Grudem, c52	33
Total Reading			492

Reading Report

Of the required reading, how many pages did you complete? _____

To determine the percentage of reading you completed, divide the number of pages you completed by the total number of required pages and convert to a percentage

- Example: Joe staff completed 400 pages of required reading. $400 \div 492 = 0.866 \times 100 = 86.6\%$.

Submit this number electronically to the instructor using the link on the Google form