

CRU: INSTITUTE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES
Ft. Collins, Colorado

**CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY:
GOD, BIBLE, HOLY SPIRIT**

dates: June 26-July 10, 2015

schedule: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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SYLLABUS

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 our 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. We will better understand how one God has revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We will gain greater confidence in Scripture as the inspired, truthful, authoritative, sufficient and powerful Word of God. We will discover how the Holy Spirit enables us 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)

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will learn foundational truths regarding the major doctrinal areas of revelation, theology proper, bibliology, and pneumatology.
2. Students will develop a greater appreciation for the study of theology explicitly based on Scripture as they engage in critical thinking about theological issues.
3. Students will understand better some aspects of the CCC *Statement of Faith* (intro, 1, 9, 10, 11).
4. Students will gain a deeper confidence in and appreciation for Scripture as the inspired, truthful (inerrant), authoritative, sufficient, necessary, clear, and powerful Word of God.
5. Students will grow in wonder, thankfulness, faith, obedience, devotion, and love in their relationship with the triune God.

6. Students will seek for greater conformity to the image of Jesus Christ through the resources of the Holy Spirit and become more dependent on his work in their ministries.

REQUIRED TEXT

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000).

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

for excellent summaries of the doctrines covered in this course, see the *ESV Study Bible*, “Biblical Doctrine: An Overview” (pp. 2505-2515, 2520-2522).

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.

REQUIREMENTS

1. reading (25%)

Students will read chapters 1-14, 30, 39 in Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*. Reading should be done thoroughly and thoughtfully, with a sincere attempt to learn all one can from this reading. For the purposes of grading and accountability, **turn in a Course Report Form on July 10** with your final paper indicating **the percentage of reading** completed by each reading due date.

2. Scripture meditation (25%)

A much neglected discipline of the Christian life and theology is Scripture meditation. Essentially, Scripture meditation involves (1) a continuous process of remembering and musing over Scripture’s teaching, and (2) a reassessment and a reshaping of one’s life in light of that teaching. In this course, you will be encouraged to grow in this discipline by engaging in some consistent, but non burdensome, Scripture meditation, specifically, you read thoughtfully and prayerfully (preferably out loud) three passages—Psalm 19, Isaiah 40, and John 15:26-16:15—**once a day, four days a week, for both weeks**. For the purposes of grading and accountability, indicate **the percentage of meditation** on your **Course Report Form**.

3. Theology project (50%)

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:

- the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Luke
- the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of Acts
- the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as taught in the book of 1 Corinthians
- the 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, personality)? What do you learn about the work the Holy Spirit (in the life of Christ, the church, unbelievers, believers)? Does the passage say anything about the 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 at 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 (6-7 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. You will need to think about how best to structure your presentation. In the last page 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 your study have for Christian growth? What implications does this have for ministry?

This paper is due the last day of class, July 10, at the beginning of class.

COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS

On the last day of class, turn in the following (be sure to clearly indicate your name):

1. Course Report Form—*reading percentage*: calculate the percentage of reading done on time, reading completed late, and reading not done
2. Course Report Form—*meditation percentage*: calculate the percentage of Scripture meditation completed once a day, four days a week, both weeks (a total of eight times)
3. Theology project—5 pages, double spaced, 12 pt. font

COURSE CALENDAR

June 26 introduction to the course; *Doctrine of revelation*

June 29 *Doctrine of God*

June 30 *Doctrine of God* (cont.)

July 1 *Doctrine of God* (cont.)

July 2 *Doctrine of God* (cont.)
reading due: Grudem, chs. 1, 9-14

July 6 *Doctrine of Scripture*

July 7 *Doctrine of Scripture* (cont.)

July 8 *Doctrine of Scripture* (cont.)
reading due: Grudem, chs. 2-8

July 9 *Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

July 10 *Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* (cont.)
reading due: Grudem, chs. 30, 39
theology project due; course report form due

Fostering a Learning Environment during Class

By taking this course, you agree to learn about the doctrines of God, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit during a two week period for IBS. During class, your full attention is to be given to lectures and discussions, and your computer is to be used for taking notes and not for other purposes. Among other activities, you are not permitted to read and answer emails, shop online, engage on social networking sites, read blogs, and use the internet. You are not to use phones and other devices to call people, text people, tweet people, pay your bills, get updates about your favorite sports teams, and the like.

If you see a fellow student engaged in prohibited activity involving a computer or other device, please tell him or her to stop. If the activity persists or repeats itself later in the course, please inform me so that I can intervene. I will issue one warning without any penalty. A reoccurrence will result in lowering one's grade one full letter grade. A second reoccurrence will result in a failing grade.

Break times are the appropriate opportunities for emailing, texting, etc.; class time is for learning theology. Please understand the spirit with which these instructions are given, and out of respect for your instructor, your fellow students, and the Lord, please follow them.

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

COURSE REPORT FORM
(due Friday, July 10)

Name _____

Of the required reading, how many pages did you complete? _____ (283 total)

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 250 pages of required reading. $250 \div 283 = 0.883 \times 100 = 88\%$.

I completed _____% of the required reading.

Of the required meditations, how many days of meditation did you complete? _____ (8 total)

To determine the percentage of meditation you completed, divide the number of days you did the meditation by the total number of required days and convert to a percentage.

- Example: Jaime staff did 6 days of the required meditation. $6 \div 8 = 0.75 \times 100 = 75\%$.

I completed _____% of the required meditation.

Did you miss more than 1 day of class for an unexcused absence (major injury, significant family crisis)? If so, how many days? _____ Because this IBS course is your staff assignment, the professor reserves the right to lower the grade for unexcused absences.

Turn in this Course Report Form along with your theology project.