

Systematic and Historical Theology IV

ST505: Person and Work of Christ

New Geneva Theological Seminary

Rev. J.P. Mosley, Jr.

Fall 2017

Goals:

Knowledge:

- To come to an understanding of the orthodox doctrine of Christ.
- To know and defend the biblical evidences of these doctrines against those who oppose said doctrines.
- To know the historical structure of understanding these biblical doctrines.
- To know the relevant confessional material: The Ecumenical and Reformed Creeds and Confessions.

Skills:

- To be able to explain with clarity and simplicity these core doctrines.
- To be able to refute all heresies and errors as they relate to these doctrines.

Character:

- To grow in faith—a sure knowledge and hearty trust concerning what Christ has done and continues to do for us.
- To grow in humility, love, and a fever to share the gospel with others.

Methods:

Main instruction format will be lectures and discussions, written assignments, reading assignments, and final examination. Questions are encouraged and needed for growth and development for self, class, and the professor.

Course Requirements:

All assignment deadlines are final. It is necessary to learn the priority of the “Sunday” deadline. Therefore, unless severe providence, the dates are fixed. It is best to start now.

Research Paper: 20% of grade

This paper must follow the Turabian research style: 12 point font, Times New Roman, double space, etc. The student will be graded on content, argumentation, tone, application, and conclusion. I will be looking to see if you can clearly present your topic with proper primary and secondary sources. There must be a bibliography that utilizes primary sources (church fathers, medieval theologians, or reformers) and secondary sources. The paper must be between 12 and 15 pages. If the student goes over 15 pages they will not pass the assignment. If the paper goes under 12 pages they will not pass this

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assignment. The student must learn the discipline of lucid brevity. If one is found to have plagiarized, that is an automatic failing grade! This is a matter of the 8th and 9th commandment:

Exodus 20:15-16 ¹⁵ " You shall not steal.

¹⁶ " You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

This paper is due during the 9th week of class—see schedule.

(See Research Assignments below.)

Reading Journal: 20% of grade

Each student is to complete a reading journal that is due before the last class. The reading journal is to cover the required reading of the course. Each journal consists of two pages per book. Interact with each book. Ask questions, critique, and express pros and cons of the book. The style must consist of 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced. The margins must be 1in.

(Look to required reading list.)

Sermon Manuscript: 20% of grade

These messages must be presented with a clear theme and outline. I desire to see a full manuscript, but the student is encouraged to preach in their own style and comfort. The grade will consist on presentation, clarity, exegetical content, theological content (Trinitarian, Christ-centered), application, and most of all: did we hear the Gospel?

The student will not have a full 25-30 minutes to present his sermon, but they will be allowed during the first lecture's opening devotion time to present a short exhortation based on their sermon.

This is only for those looking to enter pastoral ministry. The manuscript must be submitted one week before the message is to be preached in class. To see the passages to be preached, look to the page with Scripture passages for sermon prep.

Attendance and Participation in class: 20% of grade

(Arrangements should be made if you miss class to make up the lecture material.)

Final examination: 20% of grade

Required Readings:

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Sin and Salvation in Christ, Volume Three*, Edited by John Bolt and Translated by John Vriend (Baker Academic: Grand Rapids, 2006), pages 193-482.

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Donald MacLeod, *The Person of Christ: Contours of Christian Theology*, (InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1998), pages 22-261.

Robert Letham, *The Work of Christ: Contours of Christian Theology*, (InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1993), 17-247.

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1955), 9-78.

Total Page Count: 828

Recommended Book List:

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*.

G.C. Berkouwer, *The Person of Christ*, (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1954).

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*.

Stephen J. Nichols, *For Us And For Our Salvation: The Doctrine of Christ in the Early Church*, (Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2007).

John Owen, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*.

John R.W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, (IVP Books: Downers Grove, 2006).

Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*.

Stephen J. Wellum, *God the Son Incarnate: The Doctrine of Christ*, (Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2016).

Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenant Between God and Man*.

Outline of Lectures:

Week 1: Introduction

Lecture 1: Introduction to Syllabus

Lecture 2: Introduction to Christology and where it fits in the broader system of Doctrine

Week 2: Covenant Theology

Lecture 3: Covenant of Redemption & Covenant of Works

Lecture 4: Covenant of Grace (Read Bavinck 193-232)

Week 3: The Person of Christ, Part 1 (Read Bavinck 233-319)

Lecture 5: Christ in the Old Testament; or Pre-Incarnate Christ (MacLeod 21-70)

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Lecture 6: Christ the Mediator, the Son of God, the Son of Man (MacLeod 71-107)

Week 4: The Person of Christ, Part 2 (Read Bavinck 233-319)

Lecture 7: The Names of the Mediator (MacLeod 109-120)

Lecture 8: The Nicene/Constantinople Creed and Christ (MacLeod 121-152)

Week 5: The Person of Christ, Part 3 (Read Bavinck 233-319)

Lecture 9: The Incarnation, Part 1—The God-Man (MacLeod 155-203)

Lecture 10: The Incarnation, Part 2—Kenosis Theology (MacLeod 205-220)

Week 6: The Person of Christ, Part 4 (Read Bavinck 233-319)

Lecture 11: The Sinlessness of Christ (MacLeod 221-230)

Lecture 12: Christ Today (MacLeod 231-264)

Week 7: The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 1 (Bavinck 323-417)

Lecture 13: Context of Christ's Work (Lethem 17-37)

Lecture 14: The Plan of Redemption, Covenant Headship, and Three Offices of Christ (Lethem 39-74)

Week 8: The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 2 (Bavinck 323-417)

Lecture 15: Our Union with Christ (Lethem 75-87)

Lecture 16: The Word of God and the Office of Prophet (Lethem 91-102)

Week 9: The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 3 (Bavinck 323-417)

Lecture 17: The Office of Priest, Atonement, and the obedience of Christ (Lethem 105-157; Murray 9-78)

Lecture 18: The Theories of Atonement (Lethem 159-175)

(Research Papers Due this Week)

Week 10: The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 4 (Bavinck 323-417)

Lecture 19: The Atonement (Canons of Dort on Limited Atonement; Lethem 177-194; 225-247)

Lecture 20: The Steps of Christ's Humiliation and Exaltation (The Apostles Creed)

Week 11: The Work of Christ: Exaltation, Part 1 (Bavinck 418-482)

Lecture 21: Eternal Reign of Christ (Lethem 197-209)

Lecture 22: Resurrection of Christ (Lethem 211-223)

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Week 12: The Work of Christ: Exaltation, Part 2 (Bavinck 418-482)

Lecture 23: Eternal Reign of Christ: Ascension

Lecture 24: Eternal Reign of Christ: Intercession

(Sermon Manuscripts due and Presented)

Week 13: The Work of Christ: Exaltation, Part 3 (Bavinck 418-482)

Lecture 25: Eternal Reign of Christ: His Return

Lecture 26: Bringing it all together

(Reading Journals Due this week)

Final Exam:

Research Assignments: Choose one.

- 1. Book Review of any of the Recommended Reading**
- 2. Research paper on the Nicene/Arian Debate**
- 3. Research paper on the Sinlessness of Christ**
- 4. Research paper on the Eternal Submission of the Son of God debate**
- 5. Research paper on the Covenantal Headship of Christ and how this relates to the error of Federal Vision Christology**
- 6. If you have a topic that you think is worth writing that is not on this list, it must be submitted and approved within the next two weeks.**

Sermon Passages: Choose one of these passages. First come first serve.

- 1. Colossians 1:9-14**
- 2. Colossians 1:15-18**
- 3. Colossians 1:19-23**
- 4. Colossians 1:24-29**
- 5. Philippians 2:5-11**

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 - 1.2. Introduction to Christology and where it fits in the broader system of Doctrine**
- 2. Covenant Theology**
 - 2.1. Covenant of Redemption & Covenant of Works**
 - 2.2. Covenant of Grace (Read Bavinck 193-232)**
- 3. The Person of Christ, Part 1 (Read Bavinck 233-319)**
 - 3.1. Christ in the Old Testament; or Pre-Incarnate Christ (MacLeod 21-70)**
 - 3.2. Christ the Mediator, the Son of God, the Son of Man (MacLeod 71-107)**
- 4. The Person of Christ, Part 2 (Read Bavinck 233-319)**
 - 4.1. The Names of the Mediator (MacLeod 109-120)**
 - 4.2. The Nicene/Constantinople Creed and Christ (MacLeod 121-152)**
- 5. The Person of Christ, Part 3 (Read Bavinck 233-319)**
 - 5.1. The Incarnation, Part 1—The God-Man (MacLeod 155-203)**
 - 5.2. The Incarnation, Part 2—Kenosis Theology (MacLeod 205-220)**
- 6. The Person of Christ, Part 4 (Read Bavinck 233-319)**
 - 6.1. The Sinlessness of Christ (MacLeod 221-230)**
 - 6.2. Christ Today (MacLeod 231-264)**
- 7. The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 1 (Bavinck 323-417)**
 - 7.1. Context of Christ's Work (Lethem 17-37)**
 - 7.2. The Plan of Redemption, Covenant Headship, and Three Offices of Christ (Lethem 39-74)**
- 8. The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 2 (Bavinck 323-417)**
 - 8.1. Our Union with Christ (Lethem 75-87)**
 - 8.2. The Word of God and the Office of Prophet (Lethem 91-102)**
- 9. The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 3 (Bavinck 323-417) (*Research Papers Due this Week*)**
 - 9.1. The Office of Priest, the Atonement, and the obedience of Christ (Lethem 105-157; Murray 9-78)**
 - 9.2. The Theories of Atonement (Lethem 159-175)**
- 10. The Work of Christ: Humiliation, Part 4 (Bavinck 323-417)**
 - 10.1. The Atonement (Canons of Dort on Limited Atonement; Lethem 177-194; 225-247)**
 - 10.2. The Steps of Christ's Humiliation and Exaltation (The Apostles Creed)**

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11. The Work of Christ: Exaltation, Part 1 (Bavinck 418-482)

11.1. Eternal Reign of Christ (Lethem 197-209)

11.2. Resurrection of Christ (Lethem 211-223)

12. The Work of Christ: Exaltation, Part 2 (Bavinck 418-482) (*Sermon Manuscripts due and Presented*)

12.1. Eternal Reign of Christ: Ascension

12.2. Eternal Reign of Christ: Intercession

13. The Work of Christ: Exaltation, Part 3 (Bavinck 418-482)

13.1. Eternal Reign of Christ: His Return

13.2. Bringing it all together