

ST 507: Systematic and Historical Theology: The Church and Last Things

**New Geneva Theological Seminary
Dr. C. W. Powell**

Online Course Syllabus

I. Goals

Knowledge:

- To become acquainted with the orthodox doctrine of Church and Last Things
- To know the Biblical evidences for these doctrines, and the historical development and contextualization of this doctrines in the history of the Church.
- To know the relevant parts of the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms.
- To know the character of the true Church of Jesus Christ as it is found among all peoples throughout the world.
- To know the mission of the Church in taking the Gospel to all people everywhere.

Skills:

- To be able to teach, illustrate, and explain the orthodox doctrines, and to apply them in the context of
- To refute all heresies, innovations, and novelties that are fashioned by Satan and the imaginations of men.

Character:

- To be people of the Church.
- To love and devote our lives to the service of Christ's body, knowing that service for Christ is service to His Church.
- To love all the people of God as they are scattered throughout the whole world
- To rejection sectarianism, factionalism, and tribalism in the unity of the true Church.
- To be broad in their affections, without sectarianism and narrowness, being able to receive those who are weak in the faith, to nourish and build them up in the faith.

II. Required Text Books

Course Charts and Outlines (provided with the course resources)

Frances Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, Vol. III (P&R Publishing, 1997; ISBN: 9780875524535)

Cornelis P. Vemema, *The Promise of the Future* (Banner of Truth, 2000; ISBN: 9780851517933)

III. Procedure

Online Course: You have up to fifteen weeks to complete this online course. The course is divided into thirteen modules, designed to be completed in order over the course of thirteen to fourteen weeks. To see a detailed outline of the structure, click the "Modules" link on the left side of any Canvas page.

Schedule: See the schedule below for the order of events that will be covered..

Assignments: Instruction will be by video lecture, written assignments and quizzes, a research paper, and final examination. Interaction via the course discussion forums is encouraged and expected.

IV. Confessional Reading and Memory Work

Read *Westminster Confession*: Chapter XXI-XXXIII. *Westminster Larger Catechism*: Questions 154-151; *Heidelberg Catechism*: Questions 54-85.

Memorize Questions 88-107 of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

These readings and the memory assignment should be done ahead of the course and reported on in the second week.

V. Research Paper

Write a 5000-word research paper on any topic related to the Doctrine of the Church and Last Things. All principles of good grammar, footnotes, and bibliography are required.

VI. Book Report

Submit a book report on *The Promise of the Future* by Cornelis Venema. Your report should be at least 1000 words in length and should include a summary of the contents of the book (75%) and an evaluation of Venema's argument (25%). No footnotes, bibliography, or outside resources are required.

VII. Grading

Your grade for this course will be weighted as follows:

- Assignments: 30%
- Research Paper: 25%
- Lecture Outlines: 20%
- Final examination: 20%
- Interaction (discussion forums, etc.): 5%

VIII. Lecture Schedule

Module One: The Church and Her Members

Module Two: The Glory of the Church

Module Three: The Nature of the True Church and Her Government

Module Four: Ministers of the Church

Module Five: The Discipline of the Church; the Keys of the Kingdom

Module Six: The Nature of a Sacrament

Module Seven: Baptism

Module Eight: Efficacy of Baptism

Module Nine: The Holy Supper

Module Ten: Dispensationalism; Pre-Millenarianism

Module Eleven: A- and Post-Millenarianism; Theonomy

Module Twelve: Communion of the Saints

Module Thirteen: Review, Discussion, and catching up

Final Examination: The final is an objective, short-answer examination over all the content of the course, including reading and lectures. The question list will be extremely valuable for you in preparation for this examination.

IX. Assignments

The worksheets on the Turretin reading are due as follows:

- Module two: Assignment one
- Module three: Assignment two
- Module four: Assignment three
- Module five: Assignment four
- Module six: Assignment five
- Module seven: Assignment six
- Module eight: Assignment seven
- Module nine: Assignment eight
- Module ten: Assignment nine
- Module eleven: Assignment ten
- Module twelve: Assignment eleven

X. Recommended Book List

The following books are not required reading but would make excellent additions to your library. The list is by no means presumed to be exhaustive. There are many, many fine books and commentaries on the subject of this course.

Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms

Heidelberg Catechism

Belgic Confession of Faith

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*

Louis Berkhof, *Manual of Christian Doctrine*

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

John L. Girardeau, *The Federal Theology: Its Import and Its Regulative Influence*

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*

A. Strong, *Systematic Theology*

F. Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology* (three vols.)

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