

412

Systematic Theology II - Theology Proper

First Semester 2009-2010

Tuesday Thursday, classroom #1

<http://moodle.puritanseminary.org/course/view.php?id=68>

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I. Course Description

This course considers the doctrine of God: the knowability and being of God, the names and attributes of God, the Trinity, the divine decrees, providence, and good and evil angels.

II. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- A. Understand and define the key terms used in the discussion of the doctrine of God and the doctrine of His decrees.
- B. Explain the Reformed perspective on biblical, historical, and dogmatic issues related to God's being and attributes.
- C. Interact with alternative viewpoints, such as Open Theism, and offer arguments which support the Reformed perspective of various issues.
- D. Understand the doctrine of the Trinity within its historical context and be able to use that knowledge effectively in interacting with modern attempts at reformulating this doctrine.
- E. Understand the centrality of the doctrine of the Trinity for Christianity, including its worship, prayer, preaching, evangelism, spirituality, and ethics.
- F. Defend from Scripture the historic view of the Reformed faith on predestination and providence.
- G. Expound the scriptural doctrine concerning the good and evil angels, and be aware of the devices of the Satan.
- H. Preach on any part of theology proper.

III. Course Texts

1. Required reading

- Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, volume 2: God and Creation, chapters 1-5, 7, 14.
- Wilhelmus à Brakel, *The Christian's Reasonable Service*, vol. 1, chapters 3, 5-6, 9, 11.
- Fred Klooster, *Calvin's Doctrine of Predestination*

- Robert Letham, *The Holy Trinity in Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship* (read entire book except Excursus, pp. 73-85, chapters 15-16, and both appendixes)

Also, read one of the following books on providence:

- Benjamin Farley, *The Providence of God*
- John Flavel, *The Mystery of Providence*
- Paul Helm, *The Providence of God*
- William Plumer, *Jehovah-jireh: A Treatise on Providence*

2. Recommended reading

Isaac Ambrose, "The Ministration of, and Communion with Angels," *Works*, pp. 473-560.

William Bates, *The Harmony of the Divine Attributes*

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, pp. 19-125, 141-49, 165-78

Edward Bickersteth, *The Trinity*

Loraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*

Gerald Bray, *The Doctrine of God*

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*

John Calvin, *Concerning the Eternal Predestination of God*

John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book 1 and Book 3, Chaps. 21-24

John Calvin, *Sermons of Election and Reprobation*

Stephen Charnock, *Discourses on the Existence and Attributes of God*, 2 vols.

Robert L. Dabney, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, pp. 5-26, 39-54, 144-246, 264-91

Millard J. Erickson, *God in Three Persons: A Contemporary Interpretation of the Trinity*

John S. Feinberg, *No One Like Him: the Doctrine of God*

John Frame, *The Doctrine of God*

John Gill, *A Body of Divinity*, Book 1 and opening chaps. of Book 2

Richard Gilpin, *Daemonologia Sacra; or, A Treatise of Satan's Temptations*

A.A. Hodge, *Outlines of Theology*, pp. 129-279

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, 1:191-end

Heinrich Heppe, *Reformed Dogmatics*, chaps. 4-10, 12

J. N. D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrine*

G.H. Kersten, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 1:34-143, 160-67, 179-91

Frderick Leahy, *Satan Cast Out*

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *God the Father, God the Son*, chapters 5-11

Richard Muller, *Christ and the Decree: Christology and Predestination in Reformed Theology from Calvin to Perkins*

Richard Muller, *Post Reformation Reformed Dogmatics, Volume 3: The Divine Essence and Attributes, and Volume 4: The Triunity of God*

John Owen, *Communion with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost* (vol. 2 of *Works*)

James I. Packer, *Knowing God*

Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*

W.G.T. Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, 153-428

C. Samuel Storms, *Chosen for Life: An Introductory Guide to the Doctrine of Election*

C. Samuel Storms, *The Grandeur of God: A Theological and Devotional Study of the*

Divine Attribute

Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, 1: 169-430, 489-569
 B. B. Warfield, "The Biblical Doctrine of the Trinity," in *Biblical and Theological Studies*, pp. 22-59
 Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp. 39-112
 Alexander Whyte, *The Nature of Angels*
 Jerome Zanchius, *Absolute Predestination*

IV. Basic Course Outline

1. Introduction
2. The Existence and Being of God
3. The Attributes of God
4. The Names of God
5. The Holy Trinity
6. The Eternal Decrees of God
7. Providence
8. Angels and Devils

V. Course Requirements

Grade			
25%	25%	25%	25%
A 90-minute mid-term exam based on lectures and required reading.	A 90-minute final, non-cumulative exam based on lectures and required reading.	A 15+ page paper on some aspect of theology proper	A statement on your final exam or paper testifying what percentage of the required readings you completed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

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