



**THE  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

## **27080: Systematic Theology III Sample Syllabus**

School of Theology, NRT 146

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A careful and systematic study of Christian doctrines, covering the person and work of the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and last things. Three hours.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To learn basic factual matter regarding the major doctrinal areas dealt with this semester, as indicated in the course description.
2. To promote critical thinking about theological issues.
3. To understand the nature of the new covenant reality of life lived in the power of the Spirit.
4. To rejoice in our great salvation and to strive, by God's grace, for greater holiness and joyous obedience.
5. To enhance our understanding of, appreciation for, commitment to, and involvement in the Church of Jesus Christ.
6. To stimulate our holiness and motivate our witness as we understand more fully and place our hope in the sure coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. To engender ongoing and increasing desires for closer personal relationship with our great God and heart-felt service in His kingdom.
8. To endeavor to relate truths we uncover in this course to Christian experience and involvement both in the Church and in the world.

### **COURESE TEXTS**

#### **REQUIRED:**

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (chs. 30-43, 54-57)

Gregg R. Allison, *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church* (all)

Schnabel, Eckhard. *40 Questions about the End Times*. Kregel, 2011

### SUPPLEMENTARY:

Gregg R. Allison, "Baptism with and Filling of the Holy Spirit," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*, vol. 16, no. 4 (Winter 2012): 4-20

J. Rodman Williams, *Renewal Theology* (vol. 2, pp. 181-236)

Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit* (pp. 15-78)

### **REQUIREMENTS**

1. Reading (15%). Students are expected to complete the reading by the assigned due date.

2. Scripture Meditation (5%)

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, we will encourage growth in this discipline by engaging our minds and hearts in some consistent, but non-burdensome, Scripture meditation. For each major section of our course we will commit ourselves to reading thoughtfully and prayerfully (preferably out loud) some assigned Scripture portions. We will read each of these Scripture sections **once a day, three days a week**, for approximately seven weeks. At the end of each section, each of us will write, in 2 or 3 pages, our personal reflections on these passages, particularly focusing on how our lives and ministries have been (or need to be) challenged by the truths we have thought so much about.

Holy Spirit/Salvation (meditate on all three texts, three days a week, for 1<sup>st</sup> 7 weeks):

- John 15:18-16:15
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Romans 8

Church/Last Things (meditate on both texts, three days a week, for 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 weeks):

- Ephesians 2:11-3:13
- Revelation 19:1-22:21

### 3. Position Paper (30%)

Each student will select an issue from one of the doctrinal areas of the course. Students should make their selections from the suggested list of topics that follows (or suggest another topic, *in writing*, for the instructor's approval). Although these are position papers and not full-blown research papers, there should be ample evidence of substantive research (i.e., six to ten substantive sources directly related to your issue) assuring competence in handling the issue (use either footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography to show research consulted and used).

Suggested Topics:

#### Doctrines of Holy Spirit and Salvation

1. What are the roles of the Holy Spirit and of the believer in progressive sanctification?
2. Are all of the gifts of the Spirit seen in the New Testament still given to believers today?
3. Is it possible to be saved apart from knowledge of Christ and conscious saving faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Christ?
4. Which position on the so-called 'Lordship salvation' debate is most defensible?
5. Is the doctrine of justification by faith alone biblically supported and correct?
6. Is water baptism necessary, along with saving faith, in order to be truly saved?
7. Do good works play any role at all in one's ultimate salvation? Although we are not saved by good works, are they nonetheless a necessary part of one's salvation?

#### Doctrine of the Church

1. When does the Church begin and what is its nature vis-a-vis Israel?
2. What view of baptism is most strongly supported biblically and why?
3. What view of the Lord's Supper is most strongly supported biblically and why?
4. Has the office of apostle continued from the first century of the Church?
5. May godly, gifted women rightly serve as teaching elders or senior pastors in the Church?
6. What form of church discipline should be exercised toward a pastor found guilty of committing adultery?
7. May a "fallen" church leader be restored to leadership in the Church?
8. What does the Bible teach on divorce and/or remarriage?

#### Doctrine of Last Things

1. What happens to believers immediately upon their physical death?
2. What happens to babies who die in infancy?
3. What view of the millennium (i.e., a-, post-, pre-millennialism) is most strongly supported biblically and why?
4. What view of Christ's return vis-a-vis the tribulation (i.e., pre-, mid-, post-

- annihilationism) is most strongly supported biblically and why?
5. What view of hell (i.e., eternal conscious punishment, annihilationism, conditional immortality) is most strongly supported biblically and why?
  6. Are there degrees of punishment and reward in the final judgment?
  7. What is the destiny of those who have never heard of Christ and the gospel?

4. Reading Quizzes (20% – 5% per quiz)

There will be four quizzes covering the required reading for Grudem’s Systematics.

5. Final Exam (30%)

There will be a comprehensive final exam over the class lectures for the entire course. Exam questions will be objective (true/false and multiple choice), and a time limit will be assigned for the completion of the exam. It must be taken online during the final exam period at the end of the semester.

**Grading Scale**

A	100-95	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	59-
A-	95-90	B	84-86	C	74-76	D	64-66		
		B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	60-63		