

Nazarene Theological Seminary

**THE610: INTEGRATIVE THEOLOGY I – DOCTRINE OF CHRIST**

Fall Semester, 2008

Dr T.A. Noble

**SYLLABUS**

**I OBJECTIVES**

1. To study Christian Theology in an attitude of reverent and prayerful inquiry as *fides quaerens intellectum*.
2. To explore in a preliminary way the nature and method of Christian Theology as a distinct academic discipline, distinct from philosophy or religious studies, but which works to *integrate* the several sub-disciplines, drawing on Biblical and Historical Theology to articulate doctrine for the sake of and in the light of Practical Theology.
3. To explore critically and to articulate the significance of Christology for Christian theology.
4. To examine critically and to articulate the Biblical basis and inner rationale of Christology, the Christian doctrine of the Person of Christ.
5. By these means to begin to articulate the role of Christian Theology as the framework for the interpretation and exposition of the Scriptures and thus the key to the preaching and pastoral ministry.

Note that Integrative Theology II (THE620) follows on directly from this course, followed in turn by Integrative Theology III. The three courses form a unity. This first course does not in itself provide a complete review of Systematic Theology.

**Course outcomes:**

At the end of the course you should be able to understand more fully and articulate :

1. The relationship between Integrative or Systematic Theology and other theological disciplines such as Biblical Studies and Church History.
2. The similarities and differences between the knowledge we have in Theology and the knowledge we have in other sciences.
3. The range of different schools of thought in contemporary Theology.
4. The Christian understanding of the relationship between divine revelation and human reason.
5. The role of Bible in Christian revelation.
6. The relationship of Christian faith to the historical-critical method.
7. The key role of Christology in Christian theology.
8. The structure and shape of New Testament Christology.
9. The relationship of doctrine of Christ to the doctrine of God as Holy Trinity.
10. The shape and structure of classical Chalcedonian Christology.
11. Modern Christology and to what extent it addresses different questions.
12. The significance of the doctrine of the Virgin Birth.

**II BASIC READING**

Class lectures will follow no 'textbook', but students should make themselves familiar with the following:

Thomas C. Oden                      *Systematic Theology: Volume One, The Living God and Volume Two, The Word of Life*, San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992.

Read the following most directly relevant sections:

*Volume One: The Living God*

Prologue (pages 11-14)

Chapter 1 (pages 17-34 only)

Part IV, Chapters 8 & 9 (pages 317-404);

*Volume Two: The Word of Life*  
Chapters 1 (pages 1-27)  
Part I, Chapters 2-6 (pages 31- 194)

You should also compare the approaches of the following Nazarene theologians:

H. Orton Wiley	<i>Christian Theology</i> , Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1940. Parts I and III
H. Ray Dunning	<i>Grace, Faith and Holiness</i> , Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1988 (Parts I and II and Chapters 7 and 10)
J. Kenneth Grider	<i>A Wesleyan-Holiness Theology</i> , Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1994 (Chapters 1-4 and 11)

H. Orton Wiley's *Christian Theology* is an old-fashioned kind of compendium of Systematic Theology, but still the only 'official' Nazarene Systematic Theology. Dunning and Grider present different perspectives within the tradition. Oden's three-volume Systematics is an ecumenical presentation by an evangelical Methodist. He deliberately eschews originality, but presents an excellent digest of leading Christian theologians, giving the kind of wide general knowledge of the field which every apprentice theologian needs.

### III OUTLINE

Note that Integrative Theology I and II are deliberately lecture courses. Most other theology courses are seminar courses, but these courses are designed as an overview and review at graduate level of the immense scope of Christian Theology. It is necessary therefore to adopt a lecturing method to cover the ground comprehensively, but there will be opportunity too of course for questions and discussion. It is assumed that students have already been introduced to Systematic Theology in undergraduate work or in the Introduction to Theology course (THE510).

#### Section A: Prolegomena, *Theology – the Science of God*

1. Theology and its Sub-disciplines
2. An Overview of Contemporary Schools of Theology
3. The Nature and Method of Theology: 'The articulation of our knowledge of the LORD God who has revealed Himself to us'
  - (a) 'The LORD God': Theology distinguished by its unique 'Object'
  - (b) 'Our knowledge': The Subjective Pole; Intuitive and Abstractive Knowledge; Reciprocity; The Corporate Subject; Self-knowledge
  - (c) 'Who has revealed Himself to us':
    - (i) The claims of 'Reason' – 'Natural Theology' by 'proof'
    - (ii) The nature of Christian revelation – the question of a 'Natural' theology from 'General Revelation'
    - (iii) Toward a 'Biblical' idea of 'revelation'
    - (iv) Revelation and Scripture: the authority of the Bible and the 'Wesleyan Quadrilateral'
    - (v) Revelation and History: *Heilsgeschichte*; Faith and Evidence
    - (vi) Revelation in Christ
  - (d) 'Articulation'
    - (i) Theology and Scientific Method
    - (ii) Theology and Language

#### Section B: Christology *The Doctrine of the Person of Christ*

1. The Centrality of Christology  
Why Christian Theology begins with Christ
2. New Testament Christology  
An Overview of the two main approaches: the Christological Titles and the Christological Hymns: the 'Two-in-One' Shape

3. Christology and the Doctrine of God  
How do we reconcile the Deity of Christ with the Unity of God? The emergence of the Christian doctrine of God the Holy Trinity
4. The Shape of Christology  
How do we hold together the Deity and the Humanity of Christ? The Two-in-One shape of Christology in patristic and modern theology.
5. The Doctrine of the Virgin Birth

#### **IV REQUIREMENTS**

All work except the exams must be submitted on Blackboard to the Digital Dropbox by the set date, or the grade will be reduced. All work must be completed to pass the course.

1. A book review of 1,000 words for Friday, 12 September of Henry H. Knight, *A Future for Truth: Evangelical Theology in a Postmodern World* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1997)
2. A file of notes taken at the Mercer Lectures, to be given this year by Dr Geoffrey Wainwright on 25-26 September. Please type up and tidy up your notes and add your own reflections and questions, making a total of 1,000 words minimum, to be submitted by Friday, 3rd October. If you are unable to attend the lectures for some legitimate reason, you must watch the videos and submit your notes by the same date.
3. An essay of 2,500 words to be submitted on Friday, 17th October on ONE of the following topics:  
GENERAL REVELATION  
THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE  
FAITH AND HISTORY  
Note the section in the bibliography below which is relevant to each essay.
4. A précis in 1,500 words for Friday, 31 October of Athanasius, *De Incarnatione [On the Incarnation]*, paras. 1-32: see the bibliography for details
5. An essay of 2,500 words for Monday, 28 November on this question:  
  
HOW FAR IS THE CHALCEDONIAN SYMBOL TRUE TO THE CHRISTOLOGY OF  
THE NEW TESTAMENT? [25%]
6. The final essay examination (2 hours) on the lecture course. This is a hand-written blue-book essay examination on the content of the lectures during exam week of 8-12 December.

**Note: Late work will be given a reduced grade.**

Please make sure that in all academic work you use an 'essentially literal' translation of the Bible such as the NRSV, the NASB or the ESV, and not a 'dynamic equivalence' translation such as the NIV.

#### **V SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The more you read, the higher the grade! Although the final essay exam will *focus* on the lectures, clear evidence that you have read more widely (particularly books in the 'Select Bibliography') is the best way to score more highly than C. The more you read before the concentrated class times, the better! Since you already have a basic grounding in Theology, this is the opportunity to read more widely and deeply. Take the opportunity to read theologians and aspects of theology which you have not examined before. Note too the sections of the Bibliography relating to the essays. You should read in depth particularly in the section of the Bibliography that relates to the essay you choose to do. I rarely indicate specific pages to read since, at graduate level, you need to develop the skill of using the table of contents and index in a book to choose the pages which are relevant to your needs.

## General Reference

H. Orton Wiley, *Christian Theology*, Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1940. Parts I and III

## Knowledge of God

- Thomas Oden, *The Living God (Systematic Theology: Volume One)*, Chapters 1 & 4  
J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1973)  
Thomas F. Torrance, *Theological Science* (London: OUP, 1969/96), esp. Chap.1, 'The Knowledge of God'  
Thomas A. Noble, 'The Knowledge of the Glory of God,' *The Tower*, 1 (1997), 9-23  
Henry H. Knight, *A Future for Truth* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1997)  
Trevor Hart, *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1996)  
Randy L. Maddox, *Responsible Grace*, (Nashville: Kingswood, 1994), esp. Chap. 1, 'Human Knowledge of the God of Responsible Grace'  
C. Stephen Evans, *Philosophy of Religion* (Downers Grove, IVP, 1982), Chaps 2 & 3  
Gunter, W. Stephen, 'Personal and Spiritual Knowledge: Kindred Spirits in Polanyian and Wesleyan Epistemology,' *WTJ* 35:1 (Spring 2000), 130-148.  
Polanyi, M., *Personal Knowledge* (London, 1958)  
Torrance, T.F., *God and Rationality* (Oxford, 1971)  
Torrance, T.F. (ed), *Belief in Science and in Christian Life* (Edinburgh, 1980)  
Torrance, T.F., *Reality and Evangelical Theology* (Philadelphia, 1982)  
McGrath, Alister E., *Reality* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 2002)  
McGrath, Alister E., *The Science of God* (London/New York: T. & T. Clark, 2004)

## Revelation ['General Revelation' essay]

- Leon Morris, *I Believe in Revelation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976)  
Paul Helm, *The Divine Revelation* (London: Marshall, 1982)  
T.C. Oden, *The Living God*, Chapters, 8 & 9  
Karl Barth & Emil Brunner, *Natural Theology* (London: Bles, 1946)  
Bruce Demarest, *General Revelation: Historical Views and Contemporary Issues* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982)  
Colin Gunton, *A Brief Theology of Revelation* (Edinburgh: T&T. Clark, 1995), esp. Lect. 3  
Trevor Hart, 'A Capacity for Ambiguity? The Barth-Brunner Debate Revisited,' *Tyndale Bulletin*, 44.2 (1993), 289-306  
Stephen Andrews, 'The Ambiguity of Capacity: A Rejoinder to Trevor Hart,' *The Tyndale Bulletin*, 45.1 (1994), 169-181  
Stanley Hauerwas, *With the Grain of the Universe* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2001), esp. 141-241  
Alister McGrath, *Nature* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 2001)

## Scripture ['The Authority of the Bible' essay]

- Alister E. McGrath, *A Passion for Truth. The Intellectual Coherence of Evangelicalism*, (Leicester: Apollos, 1986), Chapters 2-4  
J.I Packer, 'Fundamentalism' and the Word of God (London: IVP, 1958)  
William J. Abraham, *The Divine Inspiration of Holy Scripture* (Oxford: OUP, 1981)  
Clark H. Pinnock, *The Scripture Principle* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1985)  
I. Howard Marshall, *Biblical Inspiration* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983)  
James Barr, *The Bible in the Modern World* (New York: Harper & Row, 1973)  
T.A. Noble, 'Scripture and Experience,' *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture*, Philip E. Satterthwaite & David F. Wright (eds) (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994): cf. also chapters by Rosner, Thiselton, Vanhoozer, Marshall, Bray, Wright, & Lane  
Donald Bloesch, *Holy Scripture* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1994)  
Albert C. Outler, 'The Wesleyan Quadrilateral – in John Wesley,' *WTJ*, 20:1 (Spring 1985)  
William J. Abraham, 'The Wesleyan Quadrilateral,' *Wesleyan Theology Today: A Bicentenary Theological Consultation*, ed. Theodore H. Runyon (Nashville: Kingswood, 1985), 119-126

Donald A. Thorsen, *The Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Reason & Experience as a Model of Evangelical Theology* (Grand Rapids: Francis & Taylor, 1990)  
John Goldingay, *Models from Scripture* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994)  
Scott J. Jones, *John Wesley's Conception and Use of Scripture* (Nashville: Kingswood, 1995)  
Stephen W. Gunter et al, *Wesley and the Quadrilateral: Renewing the Conversation* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1997)

#### Faith & History ['Faith and History' essay]

Colin Brown, *History, Criticism and Faith* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1976)  
S.W. Sykes & J. Clayton (eds), *Christ, Faith and History* (London: CUP, 1972)  
Carl E. Braaten, *History and Hermeneutics* (London: Lutterworth, 1968)  
I. Howard Marshall, *I Believe in the Historical Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977)  
Daniel Fuller, *Easter Faith and History* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965)  
Van A. Harvey, *The Historian and the Believer* (New York: Macmillan, 1966)  
Clark Pinnock, *Biblical Revelation* (Chicago: Moody, 1971)  
Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Revelation as History* (New York, 1968)  
Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. I (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988), Chapter 4  
N.T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996), Parts I and IV  
N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus. Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1999)  
Paul S. Minear, *The Bible and the Historian* (Abingdon: Nashville, 2002)

#### Theological Method

T.F. Torrance, *Theological Science* (London: OUP, 1969 & 1996)  
T.F. Torrance, *Theology in Reconstruction*, London: SCM, 1965 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975), esp. Chapter 2, 'The Place of Christology in Biblical and Dogmatic Theology'  
T.F. Torrance, *God and Rationality* (London: OUP, 1971), esp. Chapter 4, 'Theology in the Scientific World'  
George A. Lindbeck, *The Nature of Doctrine* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984)  
Alister E. McGrath, *The Genesis of Doctrine* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1990)  
Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. I (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991), Chapter 1  
Alister E. McGrath, *A Passion for Truth: The Intellectual Coherence of Evangelicalism* (Leicester: Apollos, 1996)  
Richard A. Muller, *The Study of Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991)  
Avery Dulles, *The Craft of Theology: From Symbol to System* (New York: Crossroad, 1999)  
T.A. Noble, 'The Nazarene Theological Stance,' *The Tower*, Vol. 9 (2005, to be released in 2008)

#### New Testament Christology ['Chalcedon and the NT' essay]

W.T. Purkiser, Richard S. Taylor & Willard H. Taylor, *God, Man and Salvation* (Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1977), See Part II, Section 3  
I. Howard Marshall, *The Origins of New Testament Christology* (Leicester: IVP, 1990)  
George Eldon Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974), Ch. 10-12, 18, 30  
Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Theology* (Leicester: IVP, 1981), Chap. 3, esp. 343-365  
R.H. Fuller, *The Foundations of New Testament Christology* (Glasgow: Collins, 1965)  
H.H. Rowdon, *Christ the Lord* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1982)  
James D.G. Dunn, *Christology in the Making* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1980)  
R.T. France, 'Development in New Testament Christology,' *Themelios* 18:1 (1992), 4-8  
Larry Hurtado, *One God, One Lord* (London: SCM, 1988)  
Richard Bauckham, *God Crucified. Monotheism and Christology in the New Testament* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 1998)  
I. Howard Marshall, *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel* (Nottingham: IVP, 2004)

## Christology and the Doctrine of God

- Athanasius, *On The Incarnation*, with Introduction by C.S. Lewis, London: Mowbray, 1944 [another trans. in Hardy, *Christology of the Later Fathers (Library of Christian Classics, Vol.3)*, Philadelphia: Westminster, 1977, 55-110].
- Alister McGrath, *Understanding the Trinity*, Eastbourne: Kingsway, 1987 (See Chapter 6, 'The Incarnate God – Jesus Christ') [This is re-published as part of Alister McGrath, *Studies in Doctrine*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997]
- T.F. Torrance (ed), *The Incarnation*, Edinburgh: Handsel, 1981  
(See the chapters by Methodios, Dragas & Heron, pp. 1-87)
- D. M. Baillie, *God Was In Christ*, London: Faber, 1956 (See Chapter 3, 'Why a Christology,' esp. parts I and II, pp. 59-71, and Chapter 6, 'The Incarnation and the Trinity')
- T.F. Torrance, *The Christian Doctrine of God, One Being Three Persons*, Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1996 (See Chapter 2, 'The Christian Perspective')
- T.C. Oden, *The Word of Life*, Chapters 2 & 3
- Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. I (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991), Chapter 5

## The Shape of Christology [‘Chalcedon and the NT’ essay]

- Michael Lodahl, *The Story of God*, Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1994 (See Part V, 'A New Twist in God's Story: The Doctrine of Christ')
- T.A. Noble, 'Gregory Nazianzen's Biblical Christology,' *Interpreting the Bible* (ed. A.N.S. Lane), Leicester: Apollos, 1997, 1-28
- D. M. Baillie, *God Was in Christ*, esp. Chapter 3, part IV, 'The Problem of Christology' and Chapter V, 'The Paradox of the Incarnation'
- John Macquarrie, 'Foundations for Faith, III. The Chalcedonian Definition,' *Expos. Times*, 91 (1979), 68-72
- Gerald L. Bray, *Creeds, Councils and Christ*, Leicester: IVP, 1984 (see Chapter 6, 'God Was in Christ' for the background to the Council of Chalcedon)
- R.V. Sellers, *The Council of Chalcedon*, London: SPCK, 1953
- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, I, 2, 15, 'The Mystery of Revelation', parts 1 & 2, 122-171
- Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Jesus – God and Man* (Philadelphia, 1968)
- Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. II (Edinburgh/Grand Rapids, 1991). Chapters 8 & 9
- Klaas Runia, *The Present Day Christological Debate*, Leicester: IVP, 1984
- Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *Christology: A Global Introduction*: Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003
- T.C. Oden, *The Word of Life*, Chapters 3, 4 & 6

## The Doctrine of the Virgin Birth

- David F. Wright (ed), *Chosen by God. Mary in Evangelical Perspective*, London: Marshall, 1989
- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, I, 2, 15, 'The Mystery of Revelation,' Part 3, 'The Miracle of Christmas,' 172-202
- T.C. Oden, *The Word of Life*, Chapter 5