Baptist Confessions (02ST719)

Monday-Friday January 12-16, 2015

Tom J. Nettles
Email: tnettles@sbt.edu
Home: tijmmnettles@bellsouth.net
Cell Phone: (502) 468-1299
SBTS Office: (502) 897-4609
Office at RTS: 407.366.9493 x9162

Office hours will be arranged as needed according to student request.
Office Number: 3-242

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Baptist Confessions covers a wide range of Baptist confessions of faith from the seventeenth century to the twenty-first century. Course material will focus on denominationally driven confessions, confessions developed by Baptist Associations, expositions developed either corporately or individually of these confessions, and individual confessions of faith.

GOAL OF THE COURSE

This course should make each student conversant with the historic development of Baptist doctrine in areas shared with other Christians and Protestant Evangelicals as well as those areas of peculiar distinction. Consequently, this should help define his or her understanding of Baptist identity and provide documentation for such convictions.

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION AND DUE DATES

There will be one examination over the course material at the end of the course. It will focus on class lectures, an ability to identify distinctive content of specific confessions of faith, and distinguish between the theological positions of various confessions. The test should be taken on January 20. One paper will be due after the close of the course, by January 27. The paper will focus on one of three areas: a historical discussion of the development of a specific confession of faith; comparison of a selected number of confessions on the development of one doctrine [e.g. justification, person of Christ, election, sanctification]; a biographical/theological discussion of one of the major figures of Baptist theology [Benjamin Keach, John Gil, Andrew Fuller, John L. Dagg, E.Y. Mullins]
TEXTS
- Tom J. Nettles, ed. *Personal Confessions* (scanned on line for download)
- Philadelphia Confession Doctrinal Articles (scanned online for download)

OTHER PERTINENT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Library Reserve
There is nothing on reserve in the library.

SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 12-16

January 12

Morning – Lumpkin: 91-130; Personal # 1
Afternoon – Lumpkin – 130-200; Personal #’s 2, 3, 4

January 13

Morning - Lumpkin – 201-348
Afternoon - Lumpkin – 348-352; Personal, 3’s 5, 6, 7

January 14

Morning - Lumpkin – 354-358; Personal, #’s 8, 9, 10
Afternoon - Lumpkin – 358-361; Personal, 11

January 15

Morning – Personal, 12, 13; Doctrinal articles from Philadelphia Association
Afternoon - Lumpkin – 370-393; Personal, 14

January 16

Morning – Personal 15, 16, 17; Lumpkin, 510-528
Afternoon – Summarize and review
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Baptist Confessions  
Professor: Dr. Thomas Nettles  
Campus: Orlando  
Date: January 12 – 16, 2015

### MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Clear working knowledge of confessional history addresses each of these areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Historical development of confessional witness manifests the framers’ understanding of the biblical text and gives opportunity for critical interaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Baptist Confessions were aligned purposely in the Reformed tradition and made significant use of the Westminster Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>The confessions have articles on sanctification, which we discuss, and the practice of confession truth is an important part of loving God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical context in the development of Baptist Confessions shows contextual awareness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allowing a course in Baptist confessions is winsomely Reformed and the study shows the historic interaction of diverse theological traditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge of confessional truth helps give a positive cutting edge to proclamation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge of Baptist confessions includes some focus on historical convictions about corporate worship and provides content for corporate affirmation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If these other goals are accomplished each student will be a better shepherd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge of Baptist Confessions defines the nature of denominational cooperation and clearly exposes legitimate areas of cooperation with other groups.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rubric

- **Articulation (oral & written)**
  - Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.
  - **strong**: Clear working knowledge of confessional history addresses each of these areas.

- **Scripture**
  - Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)
  - **strong**: Historical development of confessional witness manifests the framers’ understanding of the biblical text and gives opportunity for critical interaction.

- **Reformed Theology**
  - Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.
  - **strong**: Baptist Confessions were aligned purposely in the Reformed tradition and made significant use of the Westminster Standards.

- **Sanctification**
  - Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.
  - **moderate**: The confessions have articles on sanctification, which we discuss, and the practice of confession truth is an important part of loving God.

- **Desire for Worldview**
  - Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.
  - **moderate**: Historical context in the development of Baptist Confessions shows contextual awareness.

- **Winsomely Reformed**
  - Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)
  - **strong**: Allowing a course in Baptist confessions is winsomely Reformed and the study shows the historic interaction of diverse theological traditions.

- **Preach**
  - Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.
  - **moderate**: Knowledge of confessional truth helps give a positive cutting edge to proclamation.

- **Worship**
  - Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.
  - **moderate**: Knowledge of Baptist confessions includes some focus on historical convictions about corporate worship and provides content for corporate affirmation.

- **Shepherd**
  - Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.
  - **minimal**: If these other goals are accomplished each student will be a better shepherd.

- **Church/World**
  - Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.
  - **moderate**: Knowledge of Baptist Confessions defines the nature of denominational cooperation and clearly exposes legitimate areas of cooperation with other groups.