Worship

Reformed Theological Seminary
Washington DC
Spring 2013
Revised Syllabus

N.B.: Please read Edmund P. Clowney, “Corporate Worship, a Means of Grace” in *Give Praise to God* for the first class (February 4th).

06PT526 (3 Credits)
Monday, 1-4PM
February 4-May 13 (no class on March 25th; Guest Lecture by Pastor Glenn Hoburg on April 8th)

Dr. Howard Griffith
Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
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703-408-3157

Office Hours: Mondays 12-1PM, Tuesdays 6-7PM, Wednesdays 1-2PM; or by phone, 703/408-3157. I will buy you a cup of coffee.

What does the Bible teach about worship? How are we to integrate both Old and New Testament materials for the church today? What does church history teach us? What are the issues facing the church today? How can I grow as a leader of worship?

**Objectives**

- To glorify and enjoy our God.
- To acquaint the student with the relevant materials of biblical and historical debate on worship.
- To help the student to become a leader of worship that is both believing and
reverent.
• To engage the student in debate over issues currently of major controversy within
the Reformed churches.

**Texts**


Edmund P. Clowney, “Presbyterian Worship” in D. Carson, ed. *Worship: Adoration and
Action*, 110-122 (on the course homepage).


Old, Hughes O., *Worship Reformed According to Scripture, Revised and Expanded

Derek Thomas, Ligon Duncan and Philip Ryken (eds.), *Give Praise to God: A Vision for
Reforming Worship* (Nutley, NJ, Presbyterian and Reformed, 2003), (referred to
below as *GPG*). ISBN 978-1596383920 (90%).

0800614287 (all).

*The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms (WC).*

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Recommended:

0802808219 (on reserve).


**Course Requirements**

1. Attendance is mandatory. Many of the classes will be held in seminar format, so
attendance is an absolute requirement.
2. Reading: completion of all reading is required to pass the course. I will collect a
reading report on the last day of class.
3. Practical assignments:
(I will hand out specific instructions at the first class.)
1. 10 Weekly written prayers. These are Pastoral Prayers with a focus on a
particular theme (no more than one page, double spaced, 12 point font). I will
collect this from you each week (as well as another copy, on the last day of class). You will also be asked to lead the class in prayer.

**Optional:** if you will lead RTS Chapel in this weekly prayer, I will be strongly inclined to give you a passing grade on this assignment. Chapel is held on alternating Mondays, at 4:05PM, beginning February 4th, as well as alternating Tuesdays at 1PM, beginning February 12th. There will be sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside Geoff Sackett’s office. (Worth 2 points.)

2. Five worship bulletins. (Worth 2 points.)
3. A fifteen bullet-point summary of your philosophy of public worship. (Worth 1 point.)
4. Learn 3 calls to worship and 3 benedictions. You will give these in class without notes. (Worth 1 point.)

5. On the last day of class, all assignments (reading report and assignments 1-3) should be placed in a folder and handed in to the professor. *No extensions will be granted.*

Each assignment will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Grades will be figured thus:

6 points – A
5 points – B
4 points – C
3 points – D
Fewer than 3 points – F

**Detailed Assignments (corresponding to numbers above)**

2. **Weekly reading schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Theme of Pastoral Prayer due</th>
<th>Other Assignment due</th>
<th>Lecture Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td><em>GPG, Clowney,</em> “Corporate Worship, a Means of Grace”</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction; Biblical Theology of Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Hurtado, all.</td>
<td>The Triune God</td>
<td></td>
<td>Biblical Theology of Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td><em>Old, Worship Reformed According to Scripture,</em> chapters 1-3</td>
<td>The Atonement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Biblical Theology of Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td><em>Old, Worship Reformed According to</em></td>
<td>Providence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Biblical Theology of Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Scripture, chapters 4-10; Clowney; “Presbyterian Worship” (on the course homepage); WC, Chapters 19-21; GPG, W. Edgar, “Worship in All of Life”</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Biblical Theology of Worship; Regulative Principle</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Frame, all; GPG, Thomas, “The RP: Responding to Recent Criticism”</td>
<td>The Scriptures</td>
<td>Regulative Principle</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Thompson, 3-286.</td>
<td>Temptation</td>
<td>History of Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Thompson, 345-434.</td>
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<td>Guest lecture by The Rev. Glenn Hoburg, “Music at Grace Presbyterian Church of Washington DC”</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>GPG, Johnson and Duncan, “Reading and Praying the Bible in Corporate Worship”</td>
<td>Loneliness</td>
<td>Calls to Worship Public Prayer Confessions of Sin Creeds and Confessions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Carson, all.</td>
<td>Heaven</td>
<td>Reading Scripture Preaching Vows Benedictions</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
April 29  

WC, Chapters 27-29  

Hell  

Sacraments  

May 6  

Benedictions memorized  

Wrap up.  

2.1 Include this report in your folder: “I completed 100% of the assigned reading. Signed, ________”

3. Practical assignments.
3.1 Written Prayers. Each written Pastoral Prayer will contain a focus on a particular theme/topic, although the prayer should include other necessary petitions.

Week 1: The Triune God
2: The Atonement
3: Providence
4: The Holy Spirit
5: The Scriptures
6: Suffering
7: Temptation
8: Loneliness
9: Heaven
10: Hell

The practice of extemporary praying is a good one and one which our puritan and Presbyterian forefathers fought hard to maintain. But even these traditions called for what they termed “studied prayers”: prayers that had been planned and thought through and then delivered without notes. We will discuss the merits of this in class.

Every week of class, students will be expected to bring with them a written pastoral prayer (no more than one page, typed double-spaced, font: Times New Roman 12 point). Students should know that the instructor favors extemporary prayer; but even extemporary prayer needs to be “studied” in advance. Two copies of these prayers need to be printed. One prayer is to be handed in on Mondays, the other is to be kept and placed in a folder, -- the entire folder to be handed in at the last day of class (along with other assignments)

How should I go about writing these prayers?
I suggest you take a Psalm and meditate on it. Then begin to formulate the ideas and word structures of the psalm, adapting them for suitability in 20th century parlance. Follow the order of thought in the psalm where appropriate. Grading someone’s prayers poses some problems. Still, a measure of objectivity will be attempted. Grading will depend on such things as style, wording, biblical content, structure. Remember, you are praying, so that what you say should strike a balance between the expression of desire and clear and orderly words spoken to God. You may find useful Hughes Oliphant Old’s book, Leading in Prayer.
3.2 Five worship bulletins.

Complete worship bulletins are to be completed by the end of the semester. One must include the Lord’s Supper.

Each bulletin should be complete, in 12-point font (number pages if more than one). Don’t forget your name.

The Worship Guide should be exactly one page (no more nor less). It should give your rationale:

- Give the larger units, and how they are related, like Keller’s “Praise Cycle,” “Renewal Cycle” and “Commitment Cycle.”
- Explain each moment of the liturgy. (“What are you trying to accomplish here?”)
- Why did you choose the specific form (Hymn “Title” at the beginning, Scripture reading, sermon title, prayer, etc.) at each of the discreet moments? If there is something “different” (e.g., if all the prayers are to be sung), explain your reasons for the difference.

Due in class on May 6, in your folder.

3.3 A fifteen bullet-point summary of your philosophy of public worship. Due in your folder on May 6.

3.4 Learn (memorize) 3 calls to worship by March 18th, and 3 benedictions by May 6th. You will give these in class without notes.

**Supplemental**

A lecture outline and a bibliography will be posted on the course homepage.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>06PT 526 Worship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor:</td>
<td>Dr. Howard Griffith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus:</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
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</table>

1 D.A. Carson, ed., *Worship By the Book*. (No credit for copying Tim’s rationale; nor Bryan’s in *Christ Centered Worship*. I want yours.)
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.

| 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 | 1. Written prayers and leading in prayer.  
2. Study historical, theological, and liturgical issues. |
| 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.) | Moderate | Study of the biblical theology of worship. |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | Students will be introduced to Reformed worship in contrast to other strands of worship. |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | Students will be asked to write prayers. |
| Desire for Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | None | |
| 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 | Students must develop a view of worship in a context of widely differing and contrasting forms. Particularly controversial issues will be addressed with the view to finding an acceptable, biblical compromise. |
| Preach | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | None | |
| Worship | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Strong | The subject of the course. |
| Shepherd | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual | Strong | Develop a philosophy of worship that unites the congregation and |
maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.  

| Church/World | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | Issues that emerge within Church meetings will be discussed and evaluated. | remains biblical and Reformed. |