

Personal Sanctification, PT5375  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Houston  
Summer 2019  
Rev. Robert Arendale

**Course Description**

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification” (4:3). Indeed, we were predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ our Lord (Rom 8:29). The doctrine of sanctification is not simply a theological category that we need to know; but rather the pursuit of personal holiness is to be our lifelong endeavor wherever the Lord has called us. In this course we will consider the Biblical call to holiness (1 Peter 1:16). Through exegetical and theological reflection, the student will develop both principles and practices for personal sanctification.

**Course Details**

Location: RTS-H campus at Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Time: 6:30PM – 9:45PM  
Date: July 8, 2019 – July 11, 2019  
Instructor: Rev. Robert S. Arendale  
Contact: rarendale@rts.edu

**Course Goals**

- A. To glorify our Triune God who creates, sustains, and redeems his people.
- B. To grow in our love for and communion with our Savior Jesus Christ through engaging the Biblical text.
- C. To refine our understanding of the Bible’s call on every Christian, namely, greater conformity to Christ.

**Course Philosophy**

This course will consist of both discussion and lecture. The lecture portion will consist of three major sections: exegetical and biblical foundations for personal sanctification, theological principles for personal sanctification, and the practical outworking of personal sanctification. In short, we will consider the exegetical, theological, and practical bases for the pursuit of holiness. However, as stated above in the course goals, our aim is not simply to develop our theological categories (although such development is vital and necessary), but rather our aim is to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, whether one feels called to vocational ministry or desires to grow as a layperson, this course will, by the grace of God, spur us on to following hard after Christ our king!

## Course Requirements

- A. Unless providentially hindered, all registered students are expected to attend all class lectures.
- B. Students are expected to read the following in full:
1. *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan
  2. "Definitive Sanctification" by John Murray (found in Vol. 2 of John Murray's *Collected Works*.)
  3. "The Epulsive Power of a New Affection" by Thomas Chalmers
  4. *Holiness* by J.C. Ryle (chapters 1-5)
  5. "The Ordinary Means of Growth" by Ligon Duncan

**\*\* It does not matter to the Instructor which version of the above works you read. Many of these works can be found on-line as they are sermons and selections from larger works. If you have trouble locating any of the readings, ask the Professor and he will be happy to assist\*\***

- C. Digests. The student is expected to write a 2-page digest for each work listed above. The Reading Digest consists of a brief summary, but is much more than a summary. It is also a reflection on various themes or aspects of the book that challenged, encouraged, or convicted you. It is to demonstrate that you have read and 'digested' the work (12 point, double spaced). Moreover, the digests should be able to function as aids and helps to you when leading others through a study of the work in future ministry.
- D. Essay. The student will write an 8 page essay arising from his reading of *Pilgrim's Progress*. Details of the paper will be given in class.

## Grading

**10% class attendance and participation**

**25% reading**

**25% reading digests**

**40% essay**

\*Due date: Friday, October 11 (see me if any issues)