Syllabus for RTS *Mission* RTS-Jackson Fall 2020

Professor: Clayton Quarterman, PhD

# PT5225 Missions (2 credit hours)

This course examines issues in the world mission enterprise in light of today’s challenges, opportunities, and obligations. The call to mission service is examined, the theological mandate for missions is clarified, the historical advance of the Church through missions is reviewed, and strategies for effective contemporary missions are considered. **(*RTS Catalog 2019-2021*)**

# TOPICS

* Missions as a Program vs. God’s glory
* The call to mission service & Preaching the Gospel
* The biblical/theological mandate for missions
* The historical advance of the Church through missions
  + Paradigms, Philosophies of Mission, Biographies, & Strategies
* Issues in the world mission enterprise
* Today’s challenges, opportunities, and obligations.
* Strategies for effective contemporary missions
  + Missions promotion & education in the church

**Objectives** (What you will Know/Be/Do through this experience):

* Learn the Biblical Mandate for cross-cultural ministry
* Understand the principles and methods of cross-cultural communication
* Gain tools for more effective Cross-cultural Ministries
* Gain tools to understand the Cultural Context of every church and nation
* Consider God’s individual calling for you, seeing it in the context of God’s Worldwide Mission
* Come to see Mission not as a program, but as the center of God’s plan for the world and the church
* See the history of the worldwide Christian Advance in terms of the Plan of our Missionary God

# Assignments & Grading:

40 Reading (713 pp). Turn in 1-page Reaction Reports on Each reading

30 Writing assignment (5 pp)

30 Final Exam

100% TOTAL

## Reading:

Bavinck, J. H. *An Introduction to the Science of Missions*, Pages 1-216

Bosch, David. *Paradigms of Mission* (Pages 181- 345)

*The Lausanne Covenant*, 1974

Chaplin, Carl, and Sue Harris, eds. *Kingdom Pursuit* (CDM 2017).

TOTAL: 713 pages

## RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS:

**Write one-page Reaction Reports** on your reading, one for each of the reading assignments. All you have to write about are your PERSONAL REACTIONS to any of the material in the book.

### CAVEAT regarding the Reading of Bosch:

You must exercise care in your use of this book. Bosch was in some ways Reformed, but he was also theologically liberal. He lived in South Africa, and was one of the best-known missiologists in the World. The viewpoint of his work, however, was extremely Ecumenical. He views all other historical “paradigms” of the church from this view. Beware! It is very subtle.

Why use such a book? Because he raises a huge number of very important issues, and shows the nuance of their complexity. His work is monumental, and has become the basis of much modern work in Missiology—besides, it is good for you to learn to appreciate such authors, both to differ from them and to learn from them.

**Write** **a** **Five-page paper** on **ONE** of the following topics:

* Present the Reformed view of Missions to a fellow Christian who is still influenced by the Proclamationist view.
* Gather materials on one Missionary Agency. Analyze why they have this particular focus, motivation, methods, and results. What, in their Philosophy of Ministry, leads to this? What basic beliefs about the church and its mission lead to this approach?
* A gifted young man in your church feels God calling him as a missionary to Africa. You agree. Write a missionary “business plan” for his training and development and support, showing how God may wish to make it possible for him.
* EVALUATE a culture or subculture—what IS IT to be in this group? What are its distinctives and basic underlying values? Quote at least 5 sources about that culture, which may include newspapers, secular sociology and anthropology, etc. How does the Reformed faith challenge or support these basic values? If a missionary is sent from this culture, which of these values might come into conflict with the values of the new setting, as he seeks to do missionary work?
* Compare the CULTURE of African-Americans in the South and African-Americans of the Northern USA (or a group of European descent). Include an answer to this: What part does linguistics play in this difference?

**Additional Bibliography**

Allen, Roland. Missionary Methods in the time of the Apostles

Niebuhr, Reinhold. Christ and Culture

North, James B. *A History of the Church* (chapter 24 only).

Piper, John. *Let the Nations be Glad.*

Quarterman, C., *Presbyterian Missiology*

Tucker, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*