**REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**03DM8315 – Charlotte**

***“Reformed Pastoral Theology”***

**January 11-15 2021**

Throughout the centuries, from Calvin through the Puritans, Jonathan Edwards, and their colleagues successors , reformed theology has characteristically been forged both for and often within the context of pastoral ministry.

This course will focus on the work of gospel ministry governed by the three terms in the course title. While being able theologians intellectually does not guarantee that we will be able pastors, this course is built on the presupposition that the better a theologian a pastor is the greater should be his potential to be a better pastor and preacher than he would be otherwise.

With that goal in view, the course will explore a series of doctrines that have played a special role in the outworking of reformed theology in the context of pastoral ministry.

**Class Meetings:**

January 11 1.00pm-6.00pm

January 12-14 9.00am-5.00pm

January 15 9.00am-1.00pm

**Topics to be covered:**

A range of topics will be covered, with a session being devoted in class to each.

One volume of *prescribed* reading is required in relation to each topic.

The majority of these works can be accessed in digital form if necessary.

While it is preferable that all references be made to a *print* form of the work, if the only digital form is available has a different pagination from the printed original, in addition to any reference in the digital form, please include the specific sub-division of (chapter, sub-heading, or topic, etc) so that any quotation or reference can be (relatively) easily located in the print format.

**The topics to be covered, and the required reading, will be as follows:**

**1: God the Trinity:**

Reading: John Owen: *On Communion with God* (*Works* volume 2:1-274, reprinted: London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965; or other editions)

**2: The Imago Dei**

Reading: G.C. Berkouwer: *Man--The Image of God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962)

**3: The Providence of God**

Reading: John Flavel: *The Mystery of Providence* (Works volume 4:336-497, reprinted London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1968 or other editions)

**4: The Humanity of Christ**

Reading: John Calvin: *Harmony of the Gospels*, and *Commentary on* *The Gospel According to John* (various editions). Not all of these volumes will need to be read with equal care, but with an eye to passages that contribute in a particular way to Calvin’s understanding of Christ’s humanity.

**5: Union with Christ**

Reading: Walter Marshall: *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification* (London: 1692, reprinted in various editions)

**6: The Christian Life and Warfare**

Reading: Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices*

(*Works* volume 1:1-166, reprinted Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, or other editions)

**7: Assurance**

Reading: Ebenezer Erskine The Assurance of Faith Opened and Applied, in *The Whole Works of Ebenezer Erskine* (Edinburgh 1871) volume 1, pp, 205-273. Available online: <https://archive.org/details/wholeworksoflate01ersk/page/256/mode/2up>

**8: Baptism**

Reading: H. Bavinck: *Reformed Dogmatics,* 4: 461-539 (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008)

**9: The Lord’s Supper**

Reading: Robert Bruce: *The Mystery of the Lord’s Supper* (reprinted: Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2012). Available online

<https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL2299040A/Bruce_Robert>

**Course Requirements**

1. **All required reading** should be completed prior to the class meetings.
2. **A report** should be written on each prescribed text. This should include:
3. A one-page summary of the main emphases of the work, and
4. A further page of bullet pointed items you feel are worthy of further discussion and application

**Reports should be submitted by 31 December to Sinclairbferguson@yahoo.co.uk**

1. **Class presentation.** Each student will be required to make one or more presentations during the class meetings. These will involve either or both of (a) a clearly focussed presentation on aspects of the topic relevant to areas of pastoral ministry; and (b) leading a discussion of the book report on the prescribed text.

Presentations should include at least the following:

* A statement of the doctrine under consideration
* An analysis of its importance (i) historically (ii) in the present day
* An exposition of it, or its most significant elements
* Discussion of narrowly focussed area(s) of particular pastoral importance and relevance
* Application(s) of the doctrine within the presenter’s own context of ministry and suggested applications in other contexts

Allocation of class presentations will be made well in advance of the class meetings. Specific requests to make a presentation on any specific topic listed, (with justification if need be--e.g. the relevance of the topic to your envisioned project work) may be sent to:

[**Sinclairbferguson@yahoo.co.uk**](mailto:Sinclairbferguson@yahoo.co.uk) **before 30 October 2020. If no specific request is made, the topics will be assigned after that date**

Requests will be dealt with on a partly relevance-to-project basis (if requested) and a partly “first come, first served” basis. It may be necessary to do some “negotiation” to facilitate this.

1. **A research paper** (length around 25 pages). These may be submitted in any format appropriate to the nature and context of the student’s own ministry, ranging from a straightforward theological research paper with application, to a lecture or sermon(s) on the topic, a research report, etc.

If it can be done in a way appropriate to the theme of this course (i.e. “Reformed Pastoral Theology”) the paper may be written with a view to inclusion in a final DMin project. Please note, however, that it will be graded exclusively in terms of its relevance to this course and not to the goal of the project!

\* Format is to match general DMin project requirements. Primarily, paper must follow Turabian format. Useful info at http://rts.libguides.com/DMin-resources and The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines, 2d ed. (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014).

**DUE DATE for submission of the paper is April 30 2021**

1. **Grading:**

\* 20% for class participation

\* 30% for readings and reports.

**(submitted by December 31 to:** [**Sinclairbferguson@yahoo.co.uk**](mailto:Sinclairbferguson@yahoo.co.uk)**)**

\* 50% for the research paper.

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| **DMin\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *In order to measure the success of the DMin 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 DMin outcomes.* | | **Rubric**   * Strong * Moderate * Minimal * None | **Mini-Justification** |
| **Biblical/**  **Theological Foundations:** | Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.) | Strong | Reading and class work focused on major historical writings relating biblical/theological themes to pastoral ministry |
| **Historical/**  **Contemporary Practices:** | Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry. | Moderate to Strong | Reading and Discussion focusses on doctrines with their implications for today; since the texts are historic, this includes some awareness of how applied historically |
| **Integration:** | Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting. | Strong | The fundamental goal of the course is the integration and contemporary implementation of specific doctrines (explored within the reformed tradition) |
| **Sanctification:** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | The topics and the reading are both predicated on the notion that the knowledge and experience of God and his work and ways and personal sanctification are vital ingredients in practitioners of “Reformed Pastoral Theology.” |