ON6300 PRAYER

DR. John D. Currid HOURS: July 19-30

9:00-11:40am

PRAYER IN THE BIBLE

**Goal:**

According to the RTS Catalog, the purpose of this course is described in the following manner: “Selections from the Bible’s prayers and teachings about prayer are examined, with special attention to the language and theology of prayer.” As pertains to that description, the class times will be divided into two parts: the first hour will be devoted to an exegetical and expositional treatment of a particular prayer in the Bible, and it may come from either the Old or New Testaments. The second hour of the class period will be used to apply what we have learned from the first hour to our prayer lives.

The Scriptures are clear that the people of God must be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:6). And, indeed, those of the early church devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 1:14). The great men of the faith down through the ages, men such as Calvin, Luther, Zwingli, and others were all men of prayer. But what exactly is prayer? How do I pray? What do I pray for? What is the purpose of prayer? These and many other questions will be dealt with in the course of this class.

**Textbooks:**

The following three books are required reading for the course, and they may be purchased in the bookstore:

1. A. Bennett, ***The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions***. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1975. The prayers of this book ought to be integrated with the student’s daily devotions and other times of prayer throughout the day.
2. D. F. Kelly, ***If God Already Knows, Why Pray?*** Christian Focus, 2007 edition.
3. D. M’Intyre, ***The Hidden Life of Prayer***. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1993. As you set up your reading schedule for the course, this book ought to be the first one read for this course.

**Requirements:**

The student is required to perform the following tasks for the course:

1. Because of the nature of this course, class attendance is mandatory. Permission to miss class must be pre-approved by the professor unless it is a matter of illness, death in the family, or some such matter in which warning cannot be given.
2. The student will turn in a reading card that tells the professor how much of the reading has been done for the course. It will include your name, number of pages read, the percentage of reading for the course, and your signature. This card is due to the professor on Friday, Oct. 1. 10% of the final grade.
3. The student is required to submit a 10-12 page paper on any prayer in the Bible that is not specifically treated during the classes of this course (see outline of class periods below). It must be type-written and well-written (spelling errors and faulty grammar will be penalized). It must include the three major aspects of biblical interpretation: context, content, and consequence. Further information regarding this paper will be given in class. This paper is the final examination, and it is due to the professor on Friday, Oct. 1. 80% of the final grade.
4. The student who is pursuing pastoral ministry is required to compose and hand in five (5) pastoral prayers that would be used in a worship service. They must be typewritten and 1-2 pages in length (single-spaced). The student who is pursuing other avenues of ministry is required to compose and hand in five (5) prayers that he/she would use in a less formal setting, e.g., Bible study lesson, woman’s Sunday School, etc. These must also be typewritten and 1-2 pages in length (single-spaced). These are due to the professor on Friday, Oct. 1. 10% of the final grade.
5. The student is to keep a prayer journal of daily devotional prayer.

**Course Outline:**

1. July 19 Syllabus

Nehemiah 1:4-11

Nehemiah’s Prayer for Jerusalem

2. July 20 Ezra 9:5-15

Ezra’s Prayer regarding the Sin of Israel

3. July 21 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah’s *Magnifcat*

4. July 22 1 Kings 8:22-53

Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication

5. July 23 Isaiah 37:14-20

Hezekiah’s Prayer for Deliverance of Jerusalem

6. July 26 Daniel 9:3-19

Daniel’s Prayer for Israel

7. July 27 Matthew 6:5-13

The Lord’s Prayer

8. July 28 Luke 18:9-14

Prayers of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9. July 29 Luke 22:39-46

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

James 5:13-18

The Prayer of the Faithful Man

10. July 30 Psalm 90

The Prayer of Moses

Habakkuk 3

A Prayer of Habakkuk



**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Prayer in the Bible

Professor: Currid

Campus: Charlotte

Date: Summer 2021

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| **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.* | | **Rubric**   * **Strong** * **Moderate** * **Minimal** * **None** | **Mini-Justification** |
| **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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | Student is building a theology of prayer |
| **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 | It is a course on prayer in the Bible. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | Understanding prayer as articulated in our standards is included. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | Course is also experiential. |
| **Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal |  |
| **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.) | Moderate |  |
| **Pastoral Ministry** | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Strong | How to use prayer in pastoral contexts; pastoral prayers, etc. |