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DO 629 Readings in Wesley

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DO629

READINGS IN WESLEY

Fall 1998

DO 629
READINGS IN WESLEY
FALL, 1998
Dr. Allan Coppedge

PURPOSE

An opportunity for further reading on the life and theology of John Wesley. The totality of Wesley's theological doctrines will be studied in reference to his life, work, religious experience on the evangelical revival of the eighteenth-century. Taught concurrently with DO 628, John Wesley's Theology For Today, this course provides the student with a greater first-hand acquaintance with Wesley and key works on his theology.

RELATIONSHIP TO DO 628, WESLEY'S THEOLOGY FOR TODAY

This course is designed to be a supplement to the basic course on theology of Wesley. It should be taken concurrently with DO 628 to provide the student a greater depth of understanding the life and theology of Wesley.

LEARNING GOALS

1. To provide an introduction to the theology and thought patterns of John Wesley in the following areas:
Prevenient grace and sin; Universal atonement and transforming grace; Justification and regeneration; Sanctification and Christian perfection; Christian life and means of grace; Doctrine of God the Father; Doctrines of Grace; Predestination; Religious Authority: Pluralism and the Bible.
2. To offer an analysis of the background factors that influenced Wesley's life and thought.
3. To introduce the life of Wesley and his influence in shaping eighteenth-century Methodism.
4. To understand how Methodism is a part of the larger Christian Church and where it contributes to it, especially in the areas of theology and the practice of the Christian life.
5. To see some historical models of the transforming power of grace in the application of Biblical truth to individual lives, the Church and society.
6. To recognize the practical implications of the theological ideas.
7. To understand the positive and negative lessons from the rise of Methodism and personal lives, the collected body of believers, and the culture at large.
8. To be able from within this heritage to address the theological issues that confront the church and the world today. This goal will be accomplished primarily through lecture and discussion in class.

REQUIREMENTS

I. Study Assignments

- A. Reading and outlining of assignments as indicated in the syllabus.
- B. A collateral chart (included in syllabus) is to be kept which should include a record of the number of hours per week spent reading, outlining and taking notes. The number of hours studied will determine the grade options available to the student for the entire course. To be eligible for:
 - "A" = a total of at least 36 hours should be spent over the term.
 - "B" = at least 33 hours per term.
 - "C" = at least 30 hours per term.At least 28 hours per term is required for a passing grade.
- C. A notebook should be kept of all outlines and notes taken (but not class notes), plus a record of the student's reading. A grade will be given the notebook and the completion of the assignments on time. It will constitute the final grade.

II. Attendance

Class meeting time: 11:00 a.m. Fridays, September 6, October 4, November 8.

III. Textbooks

- A. Required:

John Wesley, Wesley's Fifty-two Standard Sermons, ed. N. Burwash.

_____, A Plain Account of Christian Perfection.

Kenneth Collins, A Faithful Witness.

Thomas Oden, John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity.

Harold Lindstrom, Wesley and Sanctification.

Either:

Skevington Wood, The Burning Heart.

Or:

Henry Rack, Reasonable Enthusiast.

- B. Recommended:

Allan Coppedge, John Wesley in Theological Debate.

READING SCHEDULE

Readings should come from the recommended reading list that you were not able to cover in assignments for DO 628. If you have already taken DO 628 a previous semester but have **not** read the required readings under each heading, those should be read first.

****BACKGROUND****

September 3-7

Read and Outline: (Required)

Oden, Thomas, John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity, 277-285.

Collins, Kenneth, A Faithful Witness, Introduction, pp./9-14; Chapter 6, "Doctrine of Salvation," pp. 125-132.

Read only: (Recommended as hours permit)

Wood, A. S., The Burning Heart, Introduction and Chapters I-X.

Rack, Henry, Reasonable Enthusiast, Chapters 1-4.

Wesley, Charles, Journal of Charles Wesley, January 5, 1738 - December 26, 1738.

Wood, A. S., The Burning Heart, Chapter XX, "The Standing Topic."

****BACKGROUND****

September 9-13

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, John, Standard Sermons, Sermon I, "Salvation by Faith," Sermon II, "The Almost Christian."

Wesley, John, Works, VIII, "The Principles of a Methodist."

Collins, Kenneth, A Faithful Witness, Chapter 6, "The New Birth," pp. 132-138.

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 286-295, 190-197.

Read Only: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, III, "Awake, Thou That Sleepest." Charles Wesley.

Collins, A Faithful Witness, Chapter 2, "Christology."

Read Only: (Recommended)

Wood, Burning Heart, Chapters XI, "A Convenient Place," XII, "The People Gathered," XIII, "Declaring the Grace of God."

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 177-180, 187*

****JUSTIFICATION/NEW BIRTH****

September 16-20

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Standard Sermons, Sermons V, "Justification by Faith," XIX, "The Great Privilege of Those That Are Born of God," XLV, "The New Birth."
Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 295-309, 197-201, 203-204, 206-212.

Read only: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, VI, "The Righteousness of Faith," VII, "The Way to the Kingdom," XVIII, "The Marks of the New Birth."

Read only: (Recommended)

Wesley, John, The Journal of John Wesley, Standard Edition, Vol. II, pp. 121-137, 156-58, 167-88.
Wood, Burning Heart, XIV, "Inviting All Sinners," XV, "The Many Headed Beast," XVI, "Living Witnesses," XVIII, "An Honorable Man."
Schmidt, Martin, John Wesley, Vol. I, Chapter 7, "The Conversion."

****WITNESS OF SPIRIT/ASSURANCE****

September 23-27

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Standard Sermons, Sermon X, "The Witness of the Spirit, I."
Wesley, John, Works, VIII, A Father Appeal, Part I, Section I, Sub-section 1-6.
Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 228-240.

Read only: (Recommended)

Collins, A Faithful Witness, Chapter 3, "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit," pp. 57-76.
Wesley, Sermons, XI, "The Witness of the Spirit, II," XI, "The Witness of Our Own Spirit."
Wesley, Works, VI, Sermon LXXXVI, "A Call to Backsliders."
Oden, Scriptural Christianity, 221-228.

****DOCTRINE OF GOD****

October 1-4

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Works VI, Sermon LXVII, "On Divine Providence."
Coppedge, Allan, John Wesley in Theological Debate, pp. 123-132.
Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 46-53.

Read only: (Recommended)

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, 29-44, 112-120.

Collins, A Faithful Witness, Chapter 1, "The Doctrine of God."

Wesley, Works, Vol. VI: Sermons LV, "On the Trinity," LIV, "On Eternity," LVI, "God's
Approbation of His Works," LXVIII, "The Wisdom of God's Counsel;" Vol. VII:

Sermons CXI, "On the Omnipresence of God," CXIV, "The Unity of the Divine Being."

Wesley, Sermons, Sermon XV, "The Great Assize."

****SIN AND PREVENIENT GRACE****

October 7-11

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, Sermon XLIV, "Original Sin."

Lindstrom, Harold, Wesley and Sanctification, pp. 19-50 (notes on key concepts).

Read Only: (Required)

Wood, Burning Heart, Chapter XXI, "The Loathsome Leprosy," XXV, "The Wrath to Come."

Collins, A Faithful Witness, "The Doctrine of Humanity."

Wesley, Works, VI, Sermon 85, "On Working Out Your Salvation."

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, 135-141, 149-155, 167-176, 243-252.

Read Only: (Recommended)

Wesley, Works, VI, Sermon LVII, "On the Fall of Man;" LXII, "The End of Christ's Coming."

****SANCTIFICATION****

October 14-18

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, Sermons XIII, "On Sin in Believers," XIV, "The Repentance of Believers,"
XL, "Christian Perfection," XLIII, "The Scripture Way of Salvation."

Lindstrom, Sanctification, pp. 83-125.

Read only: (Recommended)

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 311-333.

Wesley, Sermons, Sermon XIV, "The Repentance of Believers," XVII, "The Circumcision of
the Heart."

Collins, A Faithful Witness, "Entire Sanctification," pp. 76-81, 138-148.

****CHRISTIAN PERFECTION****

October 21-25

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, A Plain Account of Christian Perfection (Outline only sections 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 25,
16.)

Lindstrom, Sanctification, pp. 126-160.

Read only: (Recommended)

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 334-343.

Wesley, Works, VI, Sermons LXXVI, "On Perfection," and LXXXIII, "On Patience."

****PASTORAL THEOLOGY****

October 28-November 1

Read only: (Required)

Wesley, Works, VIII:

"A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists."

"Nature, Design, and General Rules of the United Societies."

"Rules of the Band-Societies."

"Directions Given to the Band-Societies."

Wood, Burning Heart, Chapter XVII, "The Chief Care."

Schmidt, Martin, John Wesley: A Theological Biography, Vol. 2, Part 1, Chapter 3, "John Wesley as Organizer of the Methodist Movement."

Read only: (Recommended)

Wesley, Sermons, XLVI, "The Wilderness State," XLVII, "Heaviness through Manifold Temptations." XLI, "Wandering Thoughts," XLII, "Satan's Devices."

Wesley, Works, VIII:

"Minutes of Several Conversations between Wesley and Others." (Large minutes)

"Advice to the People Called Methodists."

****THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY****

November 4-8

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, XVI, "The Means of Grace," XXXIV, "The Original, Nature, Property, and Use of the Law."

Collins, A Faithful Witness, Chapter 4, "The Doctrine of the Church."

Read only: (Recommended)

Wesley, Works, VII, Sermon CXV, "The Ministerial Office;" XCVII, "On Obedience to Pastors;" LXXIV, "Of the Church."

Wesley, Works, "Communion," VII, pp. 147-157; "Baptism," X, pp. 189-201.

****PREDESTINATION****

November 11-15

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Works, Vol. VI, Sermon LVIII, "On Predestination;" Vol. VII, Sermon CXXVIII, "Free Grace."

Read only: (Required)

Lindstrom, Wesley and Sanctification, pp. 64-75.

Coppedge, Wesley in Theological Debate, pp. 132-143.

Read only: (Recommended)

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 252-262.

Collins, A Faithful Witness, Chapter 7, pp. 163-177.

****PREDESTINATION AND AUTHORITY****

November 18-29

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, Sermon XX, "The Lord Our Righteousness."

Read only: (Required)

Wesley, Works, Vol. X, "Predestination Calmly Considered." "What is an Arminian?"

Wesley, Works, X, "A Blow at the Root."

Read only: (Recommended)

Coppedge, Wesley in Theological Debate, pp. 191-222.

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 262-275.

****PLURALISM/DOCTRINAL STANDARDS****

December 2-6

Read and Outline: (Required)

Coppedge, Allan, "How Wesleyan's Do Theology," Doing Theology in Today's World. ed.

John Woodbridge and Thomas McComisky, pp. 267-289.

Read only: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, Introduction to Edition by N. Burwash, pp. V-XVIII: Sermon XXXVI, "The Law Established Through Faith, II."

Read only: (Recommended)

Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 55-81, 84-90, 91-98.

Williams, Wesley's Theology, Chapter I, "The Catholic Spirit: Doctrine and Opinion."

Coppedge, Allan, "John Wesley and the Issue of Authority in Theological Pluralism," A Spectrum of Thought, ed. Michael Peterson.

