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DO 670 The Christian Doctrine of Holiness

Stephen A. Seamands

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THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS

I. **PURPOSE:** This course is designed to provide a deeper understanding of the theological and practical aspects of the Christian doctrine of holiness. The doctrine of holiness will be considered from the perspective of biblical, historical, systematic, and practical theology. The contemporary relevance of the Wesleyan understanding of holiness for the Christian life and the practice of ministry will be stressed.

II. **OBJECTIVES:** By the end of the course the students will:

- A. Have grasped the major biblical emphases and themes in relation to the doctrine of holiness.
- B. Understand the different ways the doctrine of holiness has been interpreted in various theological traditions.
- C. Have grown in their understanding and appreciation for the Wesleyan doctrine of holiness.
- D. Have examined, evaluated and used a reasonable range of literature related to the study of the doctrine of Christian holiness.
- E. Have grown in their ability to lead others into a deeper experience and understanding of holiness.
- F. Have grasped the importance of the doctrine of holiness for the Christian life and the practice of ministry.
- G. Have grown in their love for God through their study of the doctrine of holiness.

III. **TEXTBOOKS:**

A. Required

W.T. Purkheiser, EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HOLINESS, VOL.1

Melvin Dieter, FIVE VIEWS OF SANCTIFICATION

Leona Frances Choy, POWERLINES

B. Recommended

Stephen Seamands, HOLINESS OF HEART AND LIFE

IV. **REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Regular and active participation in class sessions.
- B. A 4-Mat Reflection on each of the three texts (See explanation of the 4-Mat below). The 4-Mats will be due on the designated days when we will discuss the texts in class.
- C. A final project consisting of ONE of the following:

1. A Book Review (6-8 pages) and a Sermon (6-8 pages). Here is a list of suggested books which to consider for your book review:

W.E. Sangster, THE PATH TO PERFECTION
 John L. Peters, CHRISTIAN PERFECTION AND AMERICAN
 METHODISM
 J.I. Packer, REDISCOVERING HOLINESS
 KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT
 John Gammie, HOLINESS IN ISRAEL
 Rudolph Otto, THE IDEA OF THE HOLY
 Richard Gilbertson, THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 J. Sidlow Baxter, A NEW CALL TO HOLINESS
 HIS DEEPER WORK IN US
 R.N. Flew, THE IDEA OF PERFECTION IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
 Donald Metz, STUDIES IN BIBLICAL HOLINESS
 Peter Gillquist, DESIGNED FOR HOLINESS
 J. Baines Atkinson, THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS
 Mel-Thomas Rothwell, PREACHING HOLINESS EFFECTIVELY
 William Hulme, THE DYNAMICS OF SANCTIFICATION
 Paul Bassett & William Greathouse, EXPLORING CHRISTIAN
 HOLINESS, vol. 2
 Jerry Bridges, THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS
 Thomas Cook, NEW TESTAMENT HOLINESS
 Andrew Murray, HOLY IN CHRIST
 THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST
 Richard Howard, NEWNESS OF LIFE
 Richard Taylor, EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HOLINESS, vol. 3
 Alan Kreider, JOURNEY TOWARDS HOLINESS
 J.C. Ryle, HOLINESS
 V. Raymond Edman, THEY FOUND THE SECRET

Leo Cox, JOHN WESLEY'S CONCEPT OF PERFECTION
 Dwight H. Small, THE HIGH COST OF HOLY LIVING
 John Walters, PERFECTION IN NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
 Mildred Wynkoop, A THEOLOGY OF LOVE
 Lawrence Wood, PENTECOSTAL GRACE
 Ian W. Thomas, THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST
 Richard Gilbertson, THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 George Pardington, THE CRISIS OF THE DEEPER LIFE
 John White, THE PATHWAY OF HOLINESS
 Donald Alexander, CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY: FIVE VIEWS OF
 SANCTIFICATION
 D. Micahel Henderson, JOHN WESLEY'S CLASS MEETING
 Steve Deneff, WHATEVER BECAME OF HOLINESS?
 David Peterson, POSSESSED BY GOD
 Robertson McQuilkin, FREE AND FULFILLED: VICTORIOUS
 LIVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY
 David Thompson, HOLINESS FOR HURTING PEOPLE

In your review spend 3-4 pages summarizing the content of the book and 3-4 pages evaluating the book in terms of its strengths and weaknesses.

For your sermon, choose a text directly related to the subject of holiness. Make sure that your sermon is a "biblical" sermon (i.e. a sermon which expounds the chosen text) and not merely "Christian" sermon (i.e. a sermon which is Christian in content but is only indirectly related to the chosen text).

2. Instead of the book review and the sermon, you can write A 12-15 page (doublespaced typed) research paper related to some aspect of holiness. Examples: "John Wesley's Understanding of Social Holiness," "Holiness in the Epistle of Hebrews," "From Entire Sanctification to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit." Include at least twelve sources in your bibliography.

V. **COURSE OUTLINE**

A. The Holiness of God

Read Purkheiser, EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HOLINESS, VOL. 1.
 A.S. Wood "Holiness" in the ZONDERVAN PICTORIAL ENCYCLOPIEDIA
 OF THE BIBLE, VOL. 3, pp. 173-183.

B. An Inclusive Vision of the Holy Life

Read Seamands, HOLINESS OF HEART AND LIFE (optional)

C. Some Basic Principles of Holiness

D. The Reformed and the Wesleyan Visions of Holiness

Read Dieter, ed., FIVE VIEWS OF SANCTIFICATION
John Peters, CHRISTIAN PERFECTION AND AMERICAN METHODISM,
32-66.

E. Holiness and the Holy Spirit

Read Choy, POWERLINES

F. Practical Holiness: Helping People along the Pathway to Holiness

G. Social holiness

4-Mat Reflections

To do the 4-Mat reflections (named for Bernice McCarthy's 4-Mat system) on the three texts, lay out your pages so that every pair of facing pages has these headings:

Left: Abstract Summary

Right: Concrete Stories/Memories
Evoked by the Item

Reflection Expressed as
Questions

Action: What I Must Do
Because of This

Here are some explanations/guidelines adapted from Dr. Donald Joy to help you get a better grasp of the four elements in the 4-Mat system.

(a) **ABSTRACT:** Simply summarize the content of the book in your own words. Include as many of the key concepts and ideas as you can. Strive to be both comprehensive and intensive. The abstract should be one singlespaced page if you are typing. If you are handwriting, your abstract should be 1 & 1/2 to 2 pages in length.

Remember that meaning making requires first that you transform the reading materials into your OWN words. Effective "note taking" is more than capturing another person's words; it requires transforming a communication into your own language and symbols. Use explicit and visible QUOTE marks to identify the author's words. All other written material not clearly cited should be your own constructions and abstracted summaries of what you read.

(b) **CONCRETE:** Describe one or two personal experiences which reading the book reminded you of. Be as specific and concrete as you can, including who, what, when, where details.

If you can connect what you are reading and hearing with what you have previously lived or observed, you will be profoundly changed by the semester. If you cannot connect the semester with past and present personal realities, you will never be able to teach or use what you are learning with any conviction and effectiveness.

(c) **REFLECTION:** What questions did reading this book raise in your mind? Simply list three or four of them. Make sure they relate directly to the MATERIAL CONTENT of the book NOT to the experience(s) you have just described in b.

(d) **ACTION:** All ministry related learning MUST lead to acts of ministry--whether through transformation of your inner person or your acquiring of useful knowledge or skills. Here describe what you simply must DO if you keep faith with what you have now discovered as a result if reading this book. Include BOTH PRESENT actions you must take and actions related to your FUTURE practice of ministry.