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DO 629 Readings in Wesley

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DO 629
READINGS IN WESLEY
FALL 1999
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 DO628, 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 DO628 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.
- C. A notebook should be kept of all outlines and notes taken (but not class notes), plus a record of the student’s reading. The notes should be kept by subject (e.g., Wesley’s life, justification, predestination, etc.). 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 10, October 1, November 12

III. Textbooks

- A. Required:
 - John Wesley, Wesley’s Fifty-two Standard Sermons, ed. N. Burwash.
 - _____, A Plain Account of Christian Perfection.
 - Kenneth Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation.
 - Harold Lindstrom, Wesley and Sanctification.
 - Kenneth Collins, A Real Christian.
- B. Recommended:
 - Allan Coppedge, John Wesley in Theological Debate.
 - Kenneth Collins, A Faithful Witness.
- C. If all the required and recommended readings have already been completed, then please read:
 - Richard Heitzenrater, Wesley and the People Called Methodists

READING SCHEDULE

Readings should come from the recommended reading list that you were not able to cover in assignments for DO628. If you have already taken DO628 a previous semester but have **not** read the required readings under each heading, those should be read first.

****BACKGROUND****

September 7-11

Read and Outline: (Required)

Collins, Kenneth, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Introduction, pp. 13-17. Chapter 2: Convincing Grace, pp-68.

Read only: (Recommended as hours permit)

Collins, Kenneth, A Real Christian.

“BACKGROUND”

September 13-17

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, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 3: Justification, pp. 69-100.

Read only: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, III, “Awake, thou that sleepest.” Charles Wesley.

Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 2, “Christology.”

Collins, A Real Christian. Complete this work.

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

September 20-24

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Standard Sermons, Sermons V, “Justification by Faith,” XIX, “The Great Privilege of those that are Born of God,” ZLV, “The New Birth.”

Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 4: Regeneration, pp. 101-130.

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.

Schmidt, Martin, John Wesley, Vol. I, Chapter 7, “The Conversion.”

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

September 27 – October 1

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Standard Sermons, Sermon X, “The Witness of the Spirit, I.”

Wesley, John, Works, VIII, A Farther Appeal, Part I, Section, I, Sub-section 1-6.

Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 5: Christian Assurance, pp. 131-152.

Read only: (Recommend)

Collins, A Faithful Witness, Chapter 3, “The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit,” pp. 57-76.

Wesley, Sermons, XI, “The Witness of the Spirit, II” XII, “The Witness of our Own Spirit.”

Wesley, Works, VI, Sermon, LXXXVI, “A Call to Backsliders.”

****DOCTRINE OF GOD****

October 4-8

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Works, VI, Sermon LXVII, “On Divine Providence.”

Coppedge, Allan, John Wesley in Theological Debate, pp. 123-132.

Read only: (Recommended)

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 11-15

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, Sermon XLIV, “Original Sin.”

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

Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 1: Grace, Creation and Fall, pp. 19-46.

Read only: (Required)

Wood, Burning Heart, Chapter XXI, “The Loathsome Leprosy,” XXV, “The Wrath to Come.”
Wesley, Works, VI, Sermon 85, “On Working Out Your Salvation.”
Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, pp. 185-190.

Read only: (Recommended)

Wesley, Works, VI, Sermon LVII, “On the Fall of Man,” LXII, “The End of Christ’s Coming.”
Collins, A Faithful Witness, “The Doctrine of Humanity.”

****SANCTIFICATION****

October 18-22

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. 126-160.

Read only: (Recommended)

Wesley, Sermons, Sermon XIV, “The Repentance of Believers,” XVII, “The Circumcision of the Heart.”
Coppedge, The Promise of Something More.
Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 6: Sanctification, pp. 153-170.

****CHRISTIAN PERFECTION****

October 25-29

Wesley, A Plain Account of Christian Perfection. Use study guide in syllabus.
Lindstrom, Sanctification, pp. 126-160.

Read only: (Recommended)

Wesley, Works VI, Sermons LXXVI, “On Perfection,” and LXXXIII, “On Patience.”
Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 6: Sanctification, pp. 171-184.

****PASTORAL THEOLOGY****

November 1-5

Read only: (Required)

Wesley, Works, VIII:
“A Plain Account of the People Called Methodist.”
“Nature, Design, and General Rules of the United Societies.”
“Rules of the Band-Societies.”
“Directions Given to the Band-Societies.”
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,” SLVII, “heaviness through Manifold Temptations,” XLI, “Wandering Thought,” 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 8-12

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, SVI, “The Means of Grace,” XXXIV, “The Original, Nature, Property, and Use of the Law.”

Wesley, Works VII, Sermon CXV, “The Ministerial Office,” SCVII, “On Obedience to Pastors,” LXXIV, “Of the Church.”

Read only: (Recommended)

Wesley, Works, “Communion,” VII, pp. 147-157, “Baptism,” X, pp. 189-201.

Collins, The Scripture Way of Salvation, Chapter 4, “The Doctrine of the Church.”

****PREDESTINATION****

November 15-26

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)

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

****PREDESTINATION AND AUTHORITY****

November 29-December 3

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.

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

December 6-10

Read and Outline: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, Sermon XXXIX, “Catholic Spirit.”

Coppedge, Allan, “How Wesleyan’s Do Theology,” Doing Theology in Today’s World, ed. John Woodbridge and Thomas McComisky, pp. 267-289. If this has been read in DO501, then read:

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

Read only: (Required)

Wesley, Sermons, Introduction to Edition by N. Burwash, pp. V-SVIII; Sermon XXXVI, “The Law Established Through Faith, II;” Sermon XXXVII, “The Nature of Enthusiasm.”

Read only: (Recommended)

Williams, Wesley’s Theology, Chapter I, “The Catholic Spirit: Doctrine and Opinion.”

Oden, Doctrinal Standards in the Wesleyan Tradition, pp. 15-68.

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