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## SF 660 Christian Devotional Classics

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# CHRISTIAN DEVOTIONAL CLASSICS

SF (PR) 660

SPRING 1999

Donald E. Demaray

Senior Beeson Professor of Biblical Preaching

**Required Reading:** Richard J. Foster, *Devotional Classics*. Harper, 1993.

Donald E. Demaray, Editor, Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*.  
Alba, 1996.

Donald E. Demaray, Editor, Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the  
Presence of God*. Alba, 1997.

**Optional Honors Program:** Read a classic like William Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout  
and Holy Life*, Ed. and Abr. for Modern readers by John  
W. Meister, *et. al.* Westminster, 1955.

*Please consult professor for other reading options.*

You may have a creative idea of your own for honors  
credit. Please feel free to talk to professor.

## Goals to include helping students work toward:

- \* A comprehensive view of the Christian devotional classics, broadening both  
scope and appreciation of the great traditions: Wesleyan, Catholic,  
Eastern, Western, Quaker, monastic, etc.
- \* Understanding the catholicity of our faith, cross-gender and cross-ethnic, as  
showing the *ecclesia*, the Body of Christ.
- \* Using the Christian classics as rich resources for preaching and teaching.
- \* Employing the classics as instruments of nurture and growth toward personal  
wholeness.
- \* Advancing in holy living, tackling issues of personal ethics and social justice.
- \* Enriching knowledge of the substance of Christian theology.

- \* Learning more about the meaning and practice of prayer, mediation and devotional reading.

**Class procedures and requirements include:**

- \* Lecture/class discussion and handouts.
- \* Bibliographical studies.
- \* Assigned reading.
- \* Exercises and group work.
- \* Term paper: choose your own subject (see below for suggestions).
- \* Practicum: Choose either to preach or teach from a classic devotional passage.

**Bibliography attached.**

**Practicum:** Approximately half the course will center on the classics in class discussion. About half the course will focus on practicum. Keep your presentations brief enough to allow for class critique. Choose your own passage and topic for preaching or teaching.

**Term Paper:** An opportunity to open doors for students to study and write on a subject of their own interest, such as . . .

- \* An in-depth study of spirituality in a single writer (examples: Wesley, Augustine, à Kempis).
- \* A phase of spirituality (examples: an aspect of Holiness or Quaker thought, British or American evangelicalism, social reform, spiritual disciplines, preaching devotional ideas, healing, etc.)
- \* A movement (examples: the idea of discipline in writers like S. E. Wirt or Dallas Willard; meditation in writers like Merton or Nouwen; hymn-writing in persons like Charles Wesley or John Newton).
- \* Please feel free to come up with your own idea for research. Relish the sense of ownership in your paper.

*Grading based on reading, faithful attendance, term paper, practicum, etc.  
The professor will make a chart of each student's work with averages calculated.*

*If you wish to lift your grade, feel free to enter the honors program.  
Please talk to the professor at any point.*