

1-1-2004

DO 660 The Christian Doctrine of Holiness

Paul W. Chilcote

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Chilcote, Paul W., "DO 660 The Christian Doctrine of Holiness" (2004). *Syllabi*. Book 1503.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/1503>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

DO660
THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS

Spring Semester 2004
ATS Florida
Thursday, 6:15-9:00 p.m.
paul_chilcote@asburyseminary.edu

Dr. Paul W. Chilcote
Office 407-482-7651
Home 407-971-9911
PWChilcote@cs.com

PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION

This seminar is a survey of the doctrine of Christian holiness with special attention given to the contribution of John Wesley. The Wesleyan doctrine of perfect love, or Christian Perfection, is examined in the light of relevant materials in the Wesley corpus, the history of the doctrine in Methodist theology, and contemporary attempts to reformulate the concept of perfection with reference to Christian discipleship in various Wesleyan traditions today. A wide acquaintance with the classics of the holiness movement is cultivated. The experiential and ethical aspects of the doctrine are emphasized.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able:

1. to articulate major biblical emphases and themes in relation to the doctrine of holiness;
2. to describe and freely discuss John Wesley's *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*;
3. to understand the various aspects and historical developments of the doctrine of holiness in the Wesleyan tradition, particularly the Holiness Movement;
4. to use and critically a reasonable range of literature related to the study of the doctrine of Christian holiness in the Wesleyan tradition;
5. to lead others into a deeper experience and understanding of holiness on the basis of interactive learning processes in the seminar; and
6. to have grasped the importance of the doctrine of holiness for the Christian life and the practice of ministry.

SCHEDULE/OUTLINE

Fri	Feb 13	Introductions, Syllabus, and Assignments Biblical Background and Context: The "Grand Depositum" of Methodism General Biblical Themes Paul and Hebrews Johannine Material [Presentations on the biblical material] Common Reading: Sangster, 21-56
Fri	Mar 05	Influences from the Christian Tradition Gregory of Nyssa Macarius the Egyptian Thomas à Kempis Jeremy Taylor William Law Pres: M. Christensen, "Theosis and Sanctification"

Pres: "Sanctification in the Methodist and Benedictine Traditions"
Wesley's Sermons on Christian Perfection
Circumcision of the Heart (1733)
The Scripture Way of Salvation (1765)
On Working Out Our Own Salvation (1785)

Common Reading: Maas, chapter 1

Fri Mar 26 Wesley's *Plain Account of Christian Perfection*
Prefaces to *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739-42)
The Character of a Methodist (1739)
Sermon on *Christian Perfection* (1741)
1744 Minutes
Thoughts on Christian Perfection (1760)
Letters Wrote by Jane Cooper
Farther Thoughts on Christian Perfection (1763)
Cautions and Directions (1762)

Common Reading: Sangster, 57-76, 93-103
Wesley, *Plain Account*, 5-116

Fri Apr 16 Theological Reflections: Holiness and the Life of Prayer
Pres: R. N. Flew, "Methodism"
A History of Holiness in the Wesleyan Tradition
The Model of the Cruciform Life
Pres: C. Michalson, "The Hermeneutics of Holiness"
The Psychology of Holiness
Pres: P. Watson, "Luther and Wesley"
American Permutations of the Wesleyan Doctrine
Pres: Phoebe Palmer, *The Way of Holiness*
The Witness of Wesleyan Hymnody (Pres: Holiness in the *UMH*)

Common Reading: Langford, "Holiness Theology"
Maas, chapters 2, 4, & 5
Sangster, 77-92, 104-67

Fri May 07 Reformulations of the Doctrine of Holiness
Christian Perfection and Equipping God's People
Holiness and the Love of Neighbor
Christian Perfection and Liberation into Service
Christian Perfection in Ministry
A Wesleyan Vision of Holiness of Heart and Life
Celebration of Holy Communion

Common Reading: Maas, chapters 3 & 6, Pss 1 & 2
Sangster, chapter 6

RESOURCES

Required Texts:

- Robin Maas, *Crucified Love: The Practice of Christian Perfection*
Abingdon ISBN 0687100097
- Steven Manskar, *A Perfect Love*
Discipleship Resources ISBN 0881773883
- William Sangster, *The Path to Perfection*
Epworth ASIN 0716204053

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. General Class Participation/Reading (10%)

Your lively and informed participation in all class activities is valuable for you and contributes to the edification of all. Active involvement in class will be taken into account in determining final grades, both in terms of presence and engagement. In order to be disciplined in the reading of the necessary materials for the class, you are required to submit a “reading report” in which you indicate that you have read the required texts for the course and any additional readings, noting the author, title, and total number of pages read. In order to obtain an “A-level grade” in this course, you must read at least 1,800 pages (min. 1,600 = “B-level”).

2. Seminar Presentations (70%)

Each student is required to make three different kinds of presentations:

A) ***Biblical Foundations Presentation*** (10%). The presentations on biblical texts should not be more than **10-15 minutes** each in length. Presenters must prepare a one page handout for classmates to accompany their presentation on **Friday, Feb. 13**. ***Since this assignment/presentation comes on the first day of class, the instructor will assign specific tasks to students prior to the beginning of the seminar!!***

B) ***Historical Background*** (20%). Each student will make a **20 minute** presentation either on an influential figure in the Christian tradition or on one of Wesley’s sermons on **Friday, March 5**. These assignments will be made on the first day of class. Again, presenters must prepare at least a **one page handout** for classmates to accompany their presentation, including summarization of arguments and main points.

C) ***Presentations on the Plain Account Corpus*** (20%). These **20 minute** presentations on **Friday, March 26** will be made on primary source materials related directly to Wesley’s *Plain Account of Christian Perfection*. Again, presenters must prepare at least a **one page handout** for classmates to accompany their presentation, including summarization of arguments and main points.

D) *Analytical Presentations or Discussion Leadership* (20%). Especially during the second half of the seminar, much time will be spent looking at the tradition of “Christian Perfection” through a number of different lenses. There will be Discussions of chapters 2-6 of *Crucified Love* by Robin Maas. Five students will be assigned the task of leading those discussion sessions, either on **Friday, April 16 or Friday, May 5**. There are also **five** readings that reflect on different themes related to the doctrine that will require reporters. In either case, the leader or reporter should plan for about **20 minutes** in class related to their task.

3. Written Assignments (20%)

Two additional writing assignments (10% each) are required in the seminar.

A) *Reflective Praxis Plan* (10%)

You are required to write a **two page** praxis plan (about 500 words; typed, double spaced, 12 pt font) that concisely describes a plan of action in order to educate, experience, and deepen holiness of heart and life in yourself or others under your spiritual care. The praxis plan is due and will be discussed in the seminar on

B) *Holiness Manifesto* (10%)

You are required to write a **two page** manifesto (about 500 words; typed, double spaced, 12 pt font) in which you complete the following statement: “In my Wesleyan tradition, ‘to go on to perfection’ means . . .”

*May the desire of our hearts throughout this seminar
be the substance of John Wesley’s prayer:*

O God,

*fill my soul with so entire a love of thee
that I may love nothing but for thy sake.*

*Give me grace to study thy knowledge daily,
that the more I know thee, the more I may love
thee.*

*Let it be the one business of my life to glorify thee,
by every word of my tongue and every work of
my hand.*

Amen.