DO 629 Readings in Wesley

Allan Coppedge

1-1-1998

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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:

- A Plain Account of Christian Perfection.
- Thomas Oden, *John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity*.
- Harold Lindstrom, *Wesley and Sanctification*.

Either:

- Skevington Wood, *The Burning Heart*.

Or:


B. Recommended:

Allan Copenhage, *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)

Read only: (Recommended as hours permit)

**BACKGROUND**

September 9-13

Read and Outline: (Required)

Read Only: (Required)

Read Only: (Recommended)
Oden, *Scriptural Christianity*, pp. 177-180, 187*
**JUSTIFICATION/NEW BIRTH**

September 16-20

**Read and Outline: (Required)**


**Read only: (Required)**


**Read only: (Recommended)**


**WITNESS OF SPIRIT/ASSURANCE**

September 23-27

**Read and Outline: (Required)**


Oden, *Scriptural Christianity*, pp. 228-240.

**Read only: (Recommended)**


Wesley, *Works*, VI, Sermon LXXXVI, "A Call to Backsliders."

Oden, *Scriptural Christianity*, 221-228.

**DOCTRINE OF GOD**

October 1-4

**Read and Outline: (Required)**


Read only: (Recommended)
Oden, *Scriptural Christianity*, 29-44, 112-120.

**SIN AND PREVENIENT GRACE**

October 7-11
Read and Outline: (Required)
Wesley, *Sermons*, Sermon XLIV, "Original Sin."

Read Only: (Required)

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)

Read only: (Recommended)
Oden, *Scriptural Christianity*, pp. 311-333.

**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.)
Read only: (Recommended)
Oden, Scriptural Christianity, pp. 334-343.

**PASTORAL THEOLOGY**

October 28-November 1
Read only: (Required)
Wesley, Works, VIII:
"A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists."
"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, 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)
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."

**PREDESTINATION**

November 11-15
Read and Outline: (Required)
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)

Read only: (Required)

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."
## THEOLOGY OF JOHN WESLEY

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### COLLATERAL CHART

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