DO 602 The Doctrine of God

Allan Coppedge

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DO 602
THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

PURPOSE

The design of this course is to provide a significant understanding and appreciation of the doctrine of God within Christian theology as well as the proper function and use of systematic theology in the life of the individual and the church. The ultimate purpose to which all theology is directed, is that we might know God more completely so that we might glorify Him by being more perfectly conformed to His image and more adequately prepared to serve Him.

OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce the nature of systematic theology.
2. To examine the nature of classical Christian theism.
3. To appreciate the impact of the doctrine of God on all other doctrines in Christian theology.
4. To understand the implications of a worldview, and particularly the distinctiveness of a Biblical world view.
5. To know the attributes of God and their interrelations.
6. To be able to distinguish the roles of God and how the analogies of each role effect other doctrines of the Christian faith.
7. To be able to explain the orthodox position on the Trinity and the influence of Trinitarian thinking on all Christian theology.
8. To appreciate the Biblical balance and the wholeness of Wesleyan theology in relation to the doctrine of God.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Study Assignments:** reading with outlines and notes of assigned material. A collateral chart (to be described in class) should be kept which should include a record of the number of hours per week spent reading, outlining, taking notes, and Bible studies. The number of hours studied will determine the grade options available to the student for the entire course. To be eligible to earn any grade up through an “A” a total of at least 78 hours should be spent over the semester or about 6 hours per week. For a “B” at least 72 hours per semester or about 5.5 hours a week. For a “C” 65 hours per semester or about 5 hours per week. A minimum of 60 hours in necessary for a passing grade.

2. A **notebook** should be kept of all outlines, study notes, and Bible studies (but not class notes), plus a record of the student’s reading and hours. The notebook should be organized by subject. A grade will be given the notebook based on the quality of the outlines and notes taken, the number of hours spent on assignments, and the completion of assignments on time. It will constitute 25% of the final grade.

3. A **paper** on some aspect of the doctrine of God. Discussion with the professor and commitment to a topic to be done by October 13. The paper is due November 17. This will constitute 25% of the final grade.

4. Two essay **examinations** will be given, each constituting 25% of the final grade. One will be at mid-term, on October 19; the other will be a final on December 12 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
5. **Class attendance and participation.** Class attendance and participation is assumed. A record of absences from class should be kept on the collateral sheet. More than three unexcused absences could adversely effect the student’s final grade.

Out of courtesy to the other members of the class, it is requested that no food or beverage be brought into the classroom.

**TEXTBOOKS**

1. Required texts:
   Walter Kasper, *The God of Jesus Christ.*

2. Collateral texts:
   Colin Gunton, *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology.*
   John Zizioulas, *Being As Communion.*

3. Requested in class:
   The Holy Bible

**READING SCHEDULE**

To be distributed in class
PROLEGOMENA         September 8 – 11

Required Reading:
  Thomas Oden, The Living God. Preface and Introduction
  Allan Coppedge, The Roles of God. Chapters 1 & 2
  Donald Bloesch, God The Almighty. Chapters 1 & 2.

Recommended:

NATURALISM & SUPERNATURALISM

Required Reading:
  James W. Sire, The Universe Next Door.
  Allan Coppedge, Roles of God. Chapter 3, “God the Creator.”
  James Pritchard, Anet, Ennuna Elish