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DO 620 The Person and Work of Christ

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The Person and Work of Christ

“Preach Christ, always and everywhere. He is the whole Gospel. His person, His offices and work must be our one great, all-comprehending theme.”—Charles Spurgeon

“We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ (Acts 4:12). We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else. If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name Jesus that it is ‘of him’ (1 Cor 1:30). If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in his anointing. If we seek strength, it lies in his dominion; if purity, in his conception; if gentleness, it appears in his birth . . . If we seek redemption, it lies in his passion; if acquittal, in his condemnation; if remission of the curse, in his cross (Gal 3:13); if satisfaction, in his sacrifice; if purification, in his blood, if reconciliation, in his descent into hell; if mortification of the flesh, in his tomb; if newness of life, in his resurrection . . . If inheritance of the Heavenly Kingdom, in his entrance into heaven; if protection, if security, if abundant supply of all blessings, in his Kingdom. . . In short, since rich store of every kind of good abounds in him, let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other.”—John Calvin

“I offered Christ…”—John Wesley

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this course is to provide an intensive treatment of a major Christian doctrine, namely, the person and work of Jesus Christ (Christology). Assuming the orthodox, Chalcedonian understanding of the person of Christ, the class will focus on the work of Christ by reflecting on Christ’s incarnation, crucifixion, descent into hell, resurrection, ascension and return. Our primarily purpose in considering the significance of each of these aspects of Christ’s work is to discern their application for Christian preaching, Christian ministry, and the mission of the Church.

II. OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course students will have:

A. Reflected deeply on the meaning of Christ’s incarnation, crucifixion, descent into hell, resurrection, ascension and return and considered ways of communicating their significance to others.

B. Grasped the centrality of Christology for all Christian theology, practice and ministry.

C. Been further equipped to “offer Christ” to those to whom they minister.

D. Been enriched in their own relationship to Christ through growth in their understanding of His person and work.
E. Examined, evaluated and used a reasonable range of literature related to the study of the work of Christ.

III. TEXTBOOKS

Paul Beasley-Murray, *The Message of the Resurrection*
David Bryant, *Christ is All!*
Gerrit Dawson, *Jesus Ascended*
Jurgen Moltmann, *The Way of Jesus Christ*
Stephen Seamands, *Wounds that Heal*
John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*
Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. **Attendance** at 90% of all class sessions and active participation in discussions.

B. **A Journal** (20%) based on your reading of David Bryant’s *Christ Is All!*. Each week of class you will be reading one chapter of the text and writing a 1-2 page (doublespaced typed) personal reflection or prayer or meditation related to how this material engaged your mind and heart. Four times during the semester, we will devote a class session to discussing insights you gained from the text and how it impacted you spiritually. You will turn in your journal twice during the course of the semester. Below is the schedule for the reading, journal, and class discussions.

Sept 5-10. Introduction & Chapter 1
Sept 11-18. Chapters 2
Sept 19-25. Chapter 4
Sept 26-Oct 2. Chapter 5

C. **A Group Project and Class Presentation** (20%). Each group will be assigned one of the Course Texts. The group will read the book and then present a 30 minute report
to the class. In your report, be sure to tell us who the author is, what is the thesis and main content of the book, and what is the significance of the book. In presenting the book to the class be creative in your use of handouts, powerpoint, video clips, drama, etc.

The day when the group makes their class presentation is also the due date for every class member to have completed reading the book. On that day each class member is to bring the book to class along with three paragraph quotes from the book which represent:
1. The thought or idea in the book that had the greatest impact on you.
2. A passage from the book that best captures the overall thrust of the book.
3. A passage which I either disagreed with or would like further clarification on.

D. A Critical Book Review (20%) of Jurgen Moltmann’s The Way of Jesus Christ (5-7 pages, doublespaced, 12 font typed). This paper is due at class on November 2. In your review DON’T summarize the content of the book. Assume that your reader is thoroughly familiar with that. Instead analyze and critique the book in terms of its strengths and weaknesses.

D. A Final Project due Dec 7 (40%). Choose one of the following three options:

a. A Sermon (8-10 pages, doublespaced, 12 font typed). Choose a text directly related to the person and work of Christ. Make sure that your sermon is a “biblical” sermon (i.e. a sermon which expounds the meaning of the chosen text) and not merely “Christian” sermon (i.e. a sermon which is Christian in content but is only indirectly related to the chosen text). However, make sure it is also engaging and applicable to the everyday practical lives of the average person in the pew and not merely a seminary exegesis paper.

b. A Magazine article (8-10 pages, doublespaced 12 font typed). Write an article on some aspect of the person and work of Christ for a popular Christian magazine, one that is targeted primarily for a lay audience. Communicate in a clear and engaging way.

c. A Research paper (10-12 pages, doublespaced 12 font typed). Write a research paper on some aspect of the Person and Work of Christ. Make sure you include at least 12 sources in your bibliography or works consulted.

V. Course Schedule and Related Readings

Introduction

Sept 5. Course Introduction

Sept 7. The Centrality of Christ
Module 1 – INCARNATION

Sept 12. Proclaiming the Incarnation

Sept 14. Proclaiming in the Incarnation

Sept 19. Discussion of Bryant, *Christ Above All*, xiii-77

Sept 21. Group Presentation and Class Discussion of Yancey’s *The Jesus I Never Knew*

Module 2 – CRUCIXION

Sept 26. Proclaiming the Cross


Oct 3. Proclaiming the Cross

Oct 5 Discussion of Bryant, 79-177. Turn in Journal

Oct 10. No Class. Work on Group Projects

Oct 12. Group Presentation and Class Discussion of Stott’s *The Cross of Christ*

Oct 17. Proclaiming the Cross

Oct 19. Group Presentation and Class Discussion of Seamands’ *Wounds that Heal*

Module 3 – DESCENT

Oct 24. Proclaiming the Descent into Hell

Oct 26. Discussion of Bryant, 180-267

Oct 31. Proclaiming the Descent into Hell

Module 4 - RESURRECTION

Nov 2. Proclaiming the Resurrection

Nov 7 Proclaiming the Resurrection

Nov 9 Group Presentation and Class Discussion of Beasley’ Murray’s *The Message of the Resurrection*
Nov 14. No Class

Nov 16. Proclaiming the Resurrection

**Reading Week - No Classes**

**Module 5 – ASCENSION**

Nov 28. Proclaiming the Ascension

Nov 30. Discussion of Bryant, 268-401. Turn in Journal

Dec 5. Group Presentation and Class Discussion of Gerritt Dawson’s *Jesus Ascended*

Dec 7. Proclaiming the Ascension

Dec ?. Final Class meeting during Exam Week. Proclaiming the Return of Christ.