

Spirit, Church and Last Things

ST240

Dr. Robert Peterson

Covenant Theological Seminary

Course Information

I. Course Description

A study of the person and ministries of the Holy Spirit, election, the nature and purpose of the church, the means of grace, the return of Christ, and the eternal state.

II. Objectives

By the end of this course, students will ...

- be able to articulate a reformed understanding of the doctrines of the Spirit, the Church, and Last Things, identifying key Scriptural passages which support these doctrines as well as passages that are difficult for the reformed understanding.
- be able to interact respectfully and knowledgeably with those who hold different views on these doctrines.
- be able to identify key areas of contemporary Christian life which are impacted by these doctrines.
- more deeply understand and appreciate the special covenant character of their relationship with Jesus Christ.

III. Themes & Keywords

Personality, salvation, seal, union with Christ, glorification, election, body, Word & sacraments, sign & seal, sovereignty, inauguration & expansion, consummation, continuity & discontinuity

IV. Texts

These books can be purchased from most Christian booksellers, or you can order them online from the Covenant Seminary bookstore by visiting www.covenantseminary.edu or by calling the bookstore at 314-434-0110 (toll-free 877-213-3353).

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1996.

Clowney, Edmund, P. *The Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Ferguson, Sinclair, B. *The Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Fudge, Edward, and Peterson, Robert A. *Two Views of Hell: A Biblical & Theological Dialogue*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Hoekema, Anthony, A. *The Bible and the Future*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1979.

Letham, Robert. *The Lord's Supper*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2001.

Peterson, Robert A. *Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1995.

Westminster Confession of Faith. Atlanta, Committee for Christian Education and Publications of the Presbyterian Church in America, 1983.

Recommended Reading: Throughout the course, Dr. Peterson will identify books that you will find helpful for further study. These books are identified with a book icon (📖). You will want to note the many books related to topics covered in the lectures.

V. Class Calendar

- Lecture 1: The Holy Spirit: The Person of the Holy Spirit (Part 1) *Reading: Ferguson pp. 1-78*
- Lecture 2: The Holy Spirit: The Person of the Holy Spirit (Part 2) *Reading: Ferguson pp. 79-138*
- Lecture 3: The Holy Spirit: The Person of the Holy Spirit (Part 3) *Reading: Ferguson pp. 139-206*
- Lecture 4: The Holy Spirit: The Fruit of the Spirit *Reading: Ferguson pp. 207-255*
- Lecture 5: The Holy Spirit: Gifts of the Holy Spirit *Reading: Appendix A: "Election" Romans 8:28-30*
- Lecture 6: Romans 8:28-30: Called According to His Purpose *Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14*
- Lecture 7: Ephesians 1:3-14: Chosen Before the Foundation of the World (Part 1)
- Lecture 8: Ephesians 1:3-14: Chosen Before the Foundation of the World (Part 2) *Reading: Berkhof pp. 109-118*
- Lecture 9: "Mock Quiz" *Reading: Romans 9-11*
- Lecture 10: Romans 9-11: Election in Salvation History (Part 1) *Reading: Peterson & Williams*
- Lecture 11: Romans 9-11: Election in Salvation History (Part 2) *Reading: Peterson & Williams*
- Lecture 12: A Systematic Summary of Election (Part 1)
- Lecture 13
- Lecture 14: A Systematic Summary of Election (Part 2)
- Lecture 15: The Doctrine of the Church: The Nature of the Church *Reading: Berkhof pp. 555-602*
Clowney pp. 13-70
- Lecture 16: The Doctrine of the Church: Historical Theology of the Church
- Lecture 17: The Doctrine of the Church: The Marks of the Church
- Lecture 18: The Doctrine of the Church: The Attributes of the Church (Part 1) *Reading: Clowney pp. 71-186*
- Lecture 19: The Doctrine of the Church: The Attributes of the Church (Part 2)
- Lecture 20: The Doctrine of the Church: The Service of the Church *Reading: Clowney pp. 187-268*
- Lecture 21: Discussion & Grading of Quiz #2 on Clowney's *The Church*
- Lecture 22: The Doctrine of the Church: Church Government & Presbyterian Churches
- Lecture 23: The Doctrine of the Church: Church Offices *Reading: Berkhof pp. 604-657*
- Lecture 24: Discussion & Grading of Berkhof Quiz
- Lecture 25: The Means of Grace: The Word and Sacraments (Part 1)
- Lecture 26: The Means of Grace The Word and Sacraments (Part 2)
- Lecture 27: The Means of Grace: Historical Views of Baptism *Reading: Clowney pp. 269-290*
- Lecture 28: The Means of Grace: Baptism *Reading: Letham Chapters 1 & 2*
- Lecture 29: The Means of Grace: The Lord's Supper *Reading: Letham Chapters 3 & 4*
- Lecture 30: The Means of Grace: Prayer *Hoekema pp. 3-128*
- Lecture 31: The Last Things: "Already" and "Not Yet"
- Lecture 32: The Last Things: The Second Coming
- Lecture 33: The Last Things: Signs of the Times *Reading: Hoekema pp. 129-252*
- Lecture 34: The Last Things: The Millennium
- Lecture 35: The Last Things: Dispensationalism & the Rapture
- Lecture 36: Discussion & Grading of Hoekema Quiz *Reading: Hoekema pp. 253-287; Peterson (Hell On Trial) pp. 1-17, 139-157, 161-179, 183-221, 223-242*
- Lecture 37: The Last Things: The Resurrection Body *Reading: Peterson & Fudge pp. 83-113, 117-181*
- Lecture 38: The Eternal State

Appendix A: The Doctrine of Election (including an Excursus on Foreknowledge)

Appendix B: Millennial Charts

Appendix C: Final Exam Study Sheet

Appendix D: Expansion of Certain Outline Points

VI. About the Professor

Robert A. Peterson joined the faculty in 1990, having served as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and New Testament at Biblical Theological Seminary for ten years. A respected churchman, he has served as pastor of several churches including church planting efforts. His commitment to foreign missions has recently taken him to Africa on a teaching and preaching mission. His experience as a minister of the Gospel is reflected in the practical emphases in his systematic theology classes.

Dr. Peterson is much beloved by students for his obvious pastoral concern, contagious excitement for theology, and engaging style of teaching. He is also known for his daily one-on-one lunches with students. This serves as a time of fellowship, theological discussion, and mentoring. Dr. Peterson is married and has four sons.