



Nipawin Bible College
BT429 - Incarnational Ministry: Doctrine of God, Christology, Pneumatology, and Mission
Instructor: Dr. Sean McGever, PhD
Spring Theology Intensive 2019
2 Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class, we will explore the theology and practice of incarnational ministry through the lens of how God “dwells among His people.” Together, we will survey the biblical accounts of God’s special presence on earth. Further, we will explore how this special presence interacts theologically with the doctrine of God’s omnipresence. These biblical and doctrinal foundations will form the basis for practical and pastoral approaches to incarnational theology as an approach to evangelism, discipleship, and mission. Pastoral reflection on personal boundaries, pride, guilt, and other dynamics experienced in front-line ministry will emerge from this careful study of incarnational theology.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Books (274pp.)

Beale, G. K., and Mitchell Kim. *God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014. (Entire book: **166pp.**)
Billings, J. Todd. *Union with Christ: Reframing Theology and Ministry for the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011. (Intro, Ch. 1, 3, 5: **108pp.**)

Articles (42pp.)

Anselm. *Monologion*, Ch. 20-23. Available via a pdf prepared for the class and at https://www.ccel.org/ccel/anselm/basic_works.iv.xxi.html (8pp.)
Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*, Question 8: The Existence of God in Things. Available via a pdf prepared for the class and at https://www.ccel.org/ccel/aquinas/summa.FP_Q8.html (9pp.)
Augustine. Letter 137 to Volusianus. Available via a pdf prepared for the class and at <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1102137.htm> (10pp.)
McGever, Sean. *Christ is the Only Incarnation: Appropriate Use of Incarnation Language*. Available via a pdf prepared for the class. (10pp.)
Wesley, John. Sermon: On The Omnipresence of God. Available via a pdf prepared for the class and at <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/sermon-111-on-the-omnipresence-of-god> (5pp.)

THE BIG QUESTION

Can God be everywhere (omnipresent) and finitely present? If so, how do we understand God’s presence and dwelling in the biblical witness? How might these questions inform how we do ministry if God really dwells *in* Christians?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1) Student will be able to outline the doctrine of God's omnipresence, including reference to God's "special presence" within this doctrine.
- 2) Student will be able to summarize the biblical narrative of God's dwelling on earth in the Garden, Tabernacle, Temple, Incarnation, and in Christians through the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Student will be able to produce a strategy for ministry which is informed by incarnational theology.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Short Essay Quiz – (20% of the class grade, to be given in-class at the end of day two)

- This will be a short two-page essay response quiz based on a question I will give at the end of day two. The quiz will be open-note, open-note. It will be a chance for you to show that you are tracking with the material and can form your own thoughts on the topic. Excellent papers will engage scripture and key theologians studied in this class.

Incarnational Theology Paper – (40% of the class grade, due Friday by 5PM, March 22nd, 2019)

- Write a six-page paper which articulates your answer to the following question: "What is incarnational theology?" Excellent papers will engage scripture, key theological concepts, and theologians studied in this class.

Incarnational Ministry Training Resource (20% of the class grade, due Friday, by 5PM, March 29th, 2019)

- Building upon your Incarnational Theology Paper, create a three-page training resource for adults who want to engage in incarnational ministry to teenagers. The format should look like a resource you could hand to 20 people going through a two-hour leadership training. The final product should be polished (professional and attractive formatting) and also include sufficient depth to demonstrate solid engagement with the concepts and substance from the class.
 - Page 1: Introduction, goals, and basic theological basis for incarnational ministry.
 - Pages 2-3: Outline two leadership training Bible studies designed to ground the trainee in the scriptural basis for incarnational ministry.
 - Page 4: Create a "Top 10" list of key principles and specific practical tactics and/or best practices for incarnational ministry.

ASSIGNMENT VALUES

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|---|------------|
| Reading Affidavit (due when class begins) | 20% |
| Quiz (In-class, 2 pages, short essay) | 20% |
| Incarnational Ministry Training Resource (4 pages, due...) | 20% |
| Incarnational Theology Paper (6 pages, due...) | 40% |

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **no later than 5:00 pm** on the day that they are assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018-2019

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018-2019

Reading: 316 pages.

Writing: 12 pages.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. Translated by John Behr. Yonkers, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011.
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- . "The Problem with 'Incarnational Ministry' | Christianity Today," August 2012. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/july-august/the-problem-with-incarnational-ministry.html>.
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- Cole, Graham A. *The God Who Became Human: A Biblical Theology of Incarnation*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 2013.
- Guder, Darrell L. *Be My Witness: The Church's Mission, Message, and Messengers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1985.
- . "Incarnation and the Church's Evangelistic Mission." *International Review of Mission* 83, no. 330 (July 1994): 417–28.
- . *The Incarnation and The Church's Witness*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1999.
- Langmead, Ross. *The Word Made Flesh Towards an Incarnational Missiology*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2004.
- Letham, Robert. *Union with Christ: In Scripture, History, and Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishers, 2011.
- Macaskill, Grant. *Union with Christ in the New Testament*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Root, Andrew. *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: From a Strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 2007.
- Toren-Lekkerkerker, Berdine van den, and Benno van den Toren. "From Missionary Incarnate to Incarnational Guest: A Critical Reflection on Incarnation as a Model for Missionary Presence." *Transformation* 32, no. 2 (April 1, 2015): 81–96.
- Wright, N T. (Nicholas Thomas). "One God, One Lord, One People: Incarnational Christology for a Church in a Pagan Environment." *Ex Auditu* 7 (1991): 45–58.