



Nipawin Bible College
TH2102 - Introduction to Biblical Theology
Chris Hutchison
Winter 2022
2 Credit Hours
chris@ebcnipawin.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biblical theology is not the opposite of *un*-biblical theology. Rather, it is an approach to understanding the whole Bible that seeks to properly “put together” the themes, patterns, and storyline of the Bible as they unfolded over the course of redemptive history. In this class we’ll seek to understand what Biblical theology *is* and how it *works*. Then, we’ll put what we’ve learned to work as we explore the plot structure of the Bible. Finally, we’ll identify our own place within that plot, and review some of what this all means for our lives today.

This class will be lecture-based, with ample opportunity for student interaction and engagement. We will spend much of our time directly engaging with Scripture itself with the prayer that God, through Scripture, will directly engage with us, transforming us into His image as we behold His glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Hamilton Jr., James M., *What is Biblical Theology?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
105 pages (whole book).

Schreiner, Thomas R., *Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017. **110 pages (whole book).**

Course Material emailed to the students featuring selections from:

Gentry, Peter J. and Wellum, Stephen J., *God’s Kingdom Through God’s Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015. **27 pages.**

Hutchison, Christopher H., selected sermons. **42 pages.**

Gentry, Peter J. and Wellum, Stephen J., *Kingdom Through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants (Second Edition).* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012, 2019. **68 pages.**

THE BIG QUESTION

How does the Bible fit together as one unit, who is its main character, and how do we best understand our place in its storyline?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to define biblical theology, and explain how it is unique from systematic and historical theology.
2. Students will become familiar with three major approaches to “putting the Bible together” (Dispensationalism, Covenant Theology, and Progressive Covenantalism) and begin to develop their own convictions about which approach is most faithful to the text of Scripture itself.
3. Students will grow in their appreciation for Scripture as one, unified, divinely-inspired work.
4. Students will develop a deeper love for Jesus Christ as they discover how all of Scripture points to Him.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Course Reading - 25%

- Students will complete all course reading, making notes and highlighting as required. If any reading is left incomplete, students are expected to notify the instructor.
- Specific due dates for each reading requirement are as follows:
 - Read Hamilton’s *What is Biblical Theology?*, the introduction from Schreiner’s *Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World*, chapter 1 of *God’s Kingdom Through God’s Covenants* (pp. 17-43), and *Kingdom Through Covenant* pp. 51-58, 73-76, 94-105, & 146-148 before the first day of class.
Monday, January 3, 2022
 - Read chapters 1 & 2 of Schreiner’s *Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World* before class on Tuesday.
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
 - Read chapters 3 & 4 of Schreiner’s *Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World* before class on Wednesday.
Wednesday, January 5, 2022

- Read chapters 5 & 6 of Schreiner's *Covenant and God's Purpose for the World* before class on Thursday.

Thursday, January 6, 2022

- Read or listen to sermon selections from course reader before class on Friday as well as *Kingdom Through Covenant* chapter 19 (pp. 799-839).

Friday, January 7, 2022

Class Journal - 15%

- Students will take a minimum of 15 minutes each day to reflect, in writing, on their time in class. They should take notes of their discoveries, insights, devotional thoughts, reflections, questions, or even struggles with the material. I will present an application question or two each day in class to help germinate this kind of thinking.
- Journal should be submitted by email, either as text or photograph of handwriting.
- Marks will be based on a thoughtful and personal engagement with the classroom instruction.

Friday, January 7, 2022

Application Reflection - 20%

- "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22, ESV). A major goal of any time in class should be life transformation. Particularly, in this course we hope to experience how a big-picture understanding of the Bible is soul-enlarging and life-impacting.
- To that end, think of at least one specific aspect or issue in your life or ministry, current or potential, which will or could be impacted by the truths we studied in this class.
- Some examples:
 - How a big-picture view of the Bible affects your personal devotions.
 - The way in which your understanding of the covenants may impact how you intend to administer baptism as a leader in a local church.
 - How a whole-Bible theology of singleness and marriage may impact your personal or ministry priorities.
- Write at least one page describing this expected impact and the potential outcomes it may bring for yourself and, if applicable, others.

Friday, January 21, 2022

Biblical Theology Paper - 40%

- Select one of the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20:1-17 or one of the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-12 and write a biblical theology of it, tracing the significance of the commandment/Beatitude through the storyline of the Bible.
- If you choose a commandment, your paper should explain how the commandment was interpreted and fulfilled by Christ, and what its relevance is for us within the New Covenant. (For example, a Biblical theology of the sixth commandment

should include reflection on passages such as Genesis 4:1-12, Matthew 5:21-22, Hebrews 12:24, and 1 John 3:15.)

- If you select a Beatitude, your paper should reflect on how Christ's words would have been understood by His audience as well as the significance of the Beatitude for us today.
- The focus of this paper is not academic research but Biblical familiarity and competency. Thus, students are expected to use the Bible as their primary source. A study Bible or other basic Bible study tools are permitted.
- The paper should be at least five or six pages in length, but marks will be based less on quantity and more on quality of content and carefulness of thought displayed.

Friday, January 21, 2022

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **at 8:30 a.m.** on the day that they are assigned. Written assignments should be submitted by email to chris@ebcnipawin.ca.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

- The classroom will be a technology-free zone. Laptops, tablets, and cell phones will not be permitted. Notes are to be taken by hand, and full engagement is expected.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook [Relevant Academic Year]

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook [Relevant Academic Year]

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL THEOLOGY CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Subject	Reading <i>*Due <u>before</u> each class</i>	Written
January 3	Lecture 1 – Introducing Biblical Theology Lecture 2 – Understanding and Comparing the Three Main Approaches to “Putting the Bible Together”	Hamilton’s <i>What is Biblical Theology?</i> Introduction from Schreiner’s <i>Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World</i> <i>God’s Kingdom Through God’s Covenants</i> (pp. 17-43) <i>Kingdom Through Covenant</i> pp. 51-58, 73-76, 94-105, & 146-148	Class Journal
January 4	Lecture 3 – The Covenant with Creation Lecture 4 – The Covenant with Noah	Chapters 1 & 2 of Schreiner’s <i>Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World</i>	Class Journal
January 5	Lecture 5 – The Covenant with Abraham Lecture 6 – The Covenant with Israel	Chapters 3 & 4 of Schreiner’s <i>Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World</i>	Class Journal
January 6	Lecture 7 – The Covenant with David Lecture 8 – The New Covenant	Chapters 5 & 6 of Schreiner’s <i>Covenant and God’s Purpose for the World</i>	Class Journal
January 7	Lecture 9 – Synthesis: Putting it All Together Lecture 10 – Our Place in the Story	Read or listen to sermon selections from course reader <i>Kingdom Through Covenant</i> pp. 799-839	Class Journal
January 21			Application Reflection Biblical Theology Paper

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gentry, Peter J. and Wellum, Stephen J. *God's Kingdom Through God's Covenants: A Concise Biblical Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.

Gentry, Peter J. and Wellum, Stephen J. *Kingdom Through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants, 2nd Ed.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Hamilton Jr., James M. *What is Biblical Theology?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.

Hamilton Jr., James M. *Work and Our Labour in the Lord*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.

Hutchison, Christopher H. *You Are Here: Finding Our Place in the Biggest Story Ever Told*. <https://ebcnipawin.ca/youarehere/>.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *Covenant and God's Purpose for the World*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.

Schreiner, Thomas R. & Wright, Shawn D. *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2006.