

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, OST751, 2 hours

Sinclair B. Ferguson, Ph.D.

Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

Dr. Sinclair Ferguson is Adjunct Professor of Theology at RTS/Orlando. He received his B.D., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen. Dr. Ferguson has authored numerous books including *Children of the Living God*, *Discovering God's Will*, *A Heart for God*, and *John Owen on the Christian Life*, as well as *Deserted By God* and the children's favorite, *The Big Book of Questions and Answers*.

Course Description

The aim of this course on the work of the Holy Spirit is to provide an introduction to the person and work of the Holy Spirit with special attention to the biblical-theological exposition of the systematic formulation of His ministry.

Required Textbooks

Bavinck, Herman. *The Certainty of Faith*. St. Catharines, Ontario: Paideia Press, 1980.

Gaffin, Richard B. *Perspectives on Pentecost*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1979.

Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1955.

Smeaton, George. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*. 1889. Reprint, Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1974.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.

Suggested Reading

At the end of each lesson, a list of suggested reading is provided. Each of these entries is also included in the Bibliography with this syllabus. These books are not part of the required material for the course. They have been included solely to point interested students to more comprehensive and in-depth treatments of the subjects covered in this course.

Course Requirements

Online Student Handbook

The online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located on the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

Requirements in Brief

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

Follow the Study Guide provided.

Listen to all recorded lectures.

Complete all readings.

Submit a research paper.

Final examination

Research Paper (45%)

The research paper is a master's level paper. That means that the work needs to be done at a graduate level. The paper should include not only the raw data that you use, such as historical facts, but the paper should show that you have digested and analyzed those data, and then that the data have been evaluated. To do this, multiple sources are needed where possible. Analyze and evaluate the data at several key points, such as data sources for critical data. The analytical process that is being used should to be evident. If others have already done something in the way of research on your subject, you will want to bring that in.

Length and References

The paper is to be ten to twelve pages, counted without footnotes and bibliography, using a Times New Roman twelve point font or its equivalent. For a paper of this length, no less than twelve, and preferably twenty references, should be used. At least half of these should be specifically referred to or quoted in the paper and properly cited in footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations. Any other sources also need to have been used in some way by the student in the research for the paper (as background knowledge), even if not specifically cited or footnoted.

References listed in the Bibliography or Reference List may include individual chapters in books, especially when the book is an anthology, and each chapter actually constitutes a separate article. Journal articles and web sites may also be used as references.

Development of the theme

The paper itself needs to develop and unfold your subject, giving enough of the background by way of introduction to show the significance of your subject and to enable your reader to ascertain your purpose in writing the paper. Develop your subject by selecting and presenting data that you have accumulated, and include any additional background that will be helpful.

Then analyze, synthesize and evaluate what you have found. Your personal interaction with the data is important, showing your line of thinking, your analysis, your synthesis and evaluation.

Submission

Submit the paper in your online portfolio, or electronically, as an attachment to a cover e-mail message, using RTF (Rich Text Format), MS Word, or Word Perfect. If you submit your paper as an e-mail attachment, notify us in the cover e-mail message what format you used in the paper. Since RTF strips away formatting, this is the least desirable way to send your papers.

You may use any one of the three forms of citation: Footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations. Be consistent, however. If you use in-text citations, explanatory footnotes or

endnotes may be used, but not as a substitute for bibliographic data used in the in-text citation and Reference List. For submitting your paper in the online portfolio, use either in-text citations or endnotes.

Style

Use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, Second Edition, for formatting, including Title page; Table of Contents; headings and sub-headings; and a Bibliography or Reference List. One of the criteria for evaluating the paper will be style: Is the paper written in a clear, straightforward style of academic prose? Use the guidelines in Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*.

Final Examination (50%)

A final examination will be administered at the end of this course. It will include the student's choice from a selection of essays.

All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu/>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments. Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu).

Time Limit

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

Contact Information

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COURSE OUTLINE

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, OST751, 2 hours

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Lesson One

The Holy Spirit and His Story

The Identity of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Reading: George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 1-99.

Lesson Two

The Spirit of Jesus Christ

Reading: George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 100-145.

Lesson Three

Pentecost

Reading: Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. *Perspectives On Pentecost*

Lesson Four

The Spirit of Order

Reading: John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 79-87.

George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 146-174.

Lesson Five

Union With Christ

Reading: John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 161-173.

George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 291-317.

Lesson Six

Calling and Conviction

Reading: John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 88-94.

George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 317-346.

Lesson Seven

Regeneration

Reading: John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 95-105.

George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 175-220.

Lesson Eight

Conversion

Reading: John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 106-140.

George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 346-386.

Lesson Nine

Sanctification

Reading: John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 141-160.
George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 221-290.

Lesson Ten

Assurance

Reading: Herman Bavinck. *The Certainty of Faith*.
John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, pp. 174-181.
George Smeaton. *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 386-414.

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY
The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, OST751, 2 hours
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