

Biblical Stewardship PM 770Z

Instructor of Record:
[Stephen D. Lowe](#), Ph.D.
Professor of Christian Education
Erskine Seminary
Three Credits

Please be sure to read and familiarize yourself with ALL content in this syllabus and in the online classroom.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome! Although I can't give you a personal welcome, as I might do in my on-campus course, I do want to welcome you warmly to this vital learning experience. I want this course to be a significant and vital part of your seminary education. You are one of many students taking advantage of the alternative delivery of high quality theological education through our EDEN distance learning network. I am available when you need me because we aren't limited by office hours or distance. I look forward to getting to know you better as we progress through the course materials. Anytime you experience difficulty or have a question about course content or course requirements, please use one of the communication means identified above to reach me. I pray God's wisdom as you expose yourself to the study of his Word.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to "educate persons for service in the Christian Church."

CONTACT INFORMATION



Email slowe@erskine.edu



Mail P.O. Drawer 668, Due West, SC 29639



Phone 864.379.8748



Website



Fax 864.379.8887

<http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics/Files/Faculty/SLowe.html>

Course Description:

This course addresses the neglected study of biblical stewardship. Topics covered in the course include a general overview of biblical stewardship, the dangers of wealth, teaching stewardship to children, giving and eternity, and

Christian generosity. Students learn how to build a local stewardship ministry and teach Biblical stewardship principles in the local church. Elective. Three Credits.

Video Lectures on DVD:

Several exceptional teachers, financial consultants, and pastors address the topic of stewardship via DVD: Ken Boa, Bruce Waltke, Randy Alcorn, Chris Dardaman, Andy Stanley, Randy Pope, Johnny Hunt, Rick Warren, Patrick Johnson, Alan Gotthardt.

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to explore the topic of stewardship as presented in scripture and develop a comprehensive understanding of its application today.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will compare and evaluate views of biblical stewardship among authors and spokesmen.
2. Students will create a comprehensive definition of biblical stewardship based on the literature.
3. Students will explore a focal topic related to biblical stewardship and its application today.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

You may use Erskine Seminary's Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskinetextbooks to order your textbooks for this course. Please click the "Shop by Course" link to see if the books required for this course are listed under the courses shown. If they are not available on ecampus, you may order them from other online book distributors.

Blomberg, Craig L. 1999. *Neither poverty nor riches: A biblical theology of possessions*. New Testament Studies in Biblical Theology 7. Edited by D. A. Carson. Dowers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Hall, Douglas John. 1990. *The Steward: A biblical symbol come of age*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock.

Teleios. 2005. *Stewardship*. <http://teleios.us/home.php>: Teleios. (These are the DVD disks for the class.)

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA AND SCALE

The following grading scale, from the Seminary catalog is used to assign a numeric value to each completed assignment. All scores are weighted equally.

Your final grade is the average of each grade received; **remember that you also must complete each part of the Professional Assessment requirements in order to pass the course.** A letter grade will be computed on the basis of your average raw score using the following grade scale recently adopted by the Seminary faculty:

- A Level Work = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.
- C Level Work = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.
- D Level Work = Inadequate mastery of basic facts and information presented in the course; insufficient or inappropriate use of common terms and language indicating an inadequate grasp of the material; and an inferior ability to analyze and judge proposals, ideas or concepts.

Erskine Seminary Grading Scale:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

COURSE RESOURCES

Click on the links below for information relevant to seminary policies

[Writing Theological Papers](#)

[Style & Form Standards](#)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

FAQ's

1. All assignments must be submitted via e-mail attachment (unless otherwise notified).

2. Please use Microsoft Word when submitting assignments electronically.
3. All assignments should be clearly marked on the e-mail subject line with the student's last name and assignment number.

COURSE PLATFORM

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, "Institutions shall ensure that distance education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program." It is with this stipulation that EDEN has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences. The learning platform is Moodle and according to their website, "Moodle is a course management system designed to help educators who want to create quality online courses . . . and create effective online learning communities." You will be provided with additional information concerning Moodle tutorials, site information, and the peer mentoring program. In order to meet the online discussion component of this course, you will need:

- A computer (or access to a computer)
- High speed access to the Internet

COURSE OVERVIEW

Assignment One – DVD Lectures and Discussions

Assignment Two – Definition Paper

Assignment Three – Book Review

Assignment Four – Research Paper

Assignment One – DVD Lectures and Discussions

Place the first DVD disk of Biblical Stewardship into your computer's DVD drive and follow the installation instructions. After installation you will see an opening screen that outlines the four DVD disks you received. The software shows both the video and the corresponding manuscript of the lecture. The software automatically moves the screens simultaneously through the outline of the lecture, the text of the manuscript, and the videoed lecture.

Assignment Two – Definition Paper

Write a definition paper based on the textbooks, other literature such as journal articles, and lectures for this course. First, demonstrate from the literature the

various and comprehensive meanings of biblical stewardship. Compare and evaluate these views as you present them. Then create and explain on the basis of this foundational material a comprehensive definition of biblical stewardship which covers both the larger boundaries of the concept as presented in the Bible and the particular aspects of its meaning. The paper must be 10 to 16 pages long, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins all around.

Assignment Three: Book Review

Read the textbook by Hall and write a brief review of the book as if you were writing for the *Christian Education Journal*. Be sure and analyze and evaluate the views of the author. The book review must be no longer than 2000 words and no shorter than 1000 words as indicated in the guidelines.

Assignment Four: Research Paper

Write a 10-16 research paper in which you explore a focal topic related to biblical stewardship and its application today. The topic must be sufficiently narrow to cover in a thorough fashion in 10-16 pages. Blomberg focuses on possessions and Hall focuses on a biblical symbol. Your topic must be much more narrow than these. Look through the chapter headings and sub-chapter headings of these books for ideas. Then search the literature of journal articles and other books. The paper must end with a section that applies your focal topic to today's church or Christian. This paper is due by the end of final exam week.

RELEVANT INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

1. Language about God and Humanity: Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").
2. Any late assignment will be automatically reduced by one letter grade regardless of reason. *Please make this class a high priority and keep ahead of assignments in order to compensate for the exigencies of ministry.*
3. **Plagiarism, defined as the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise, is a clear violation of the Erskine Seminary Honor Code as set forth in the [Student Handbook](#) and *Seminary Catalog*. It is also a clear violation of the will of God in regard to taking something that belongs to someone else without his/her permission. The penalty for an infraction of the plagiarism policy is severe and may potentially result in the permanent dismissal of a student from the seminary. If you have any questions concerning the appropriate use of referenced sources, please contact me prior to submitting your work for grading.**

REFERENCE LIST

Note: Following is a list of books upon which the teaching of this class in some way is based. All citations in this syllabus are in Turabian's parenthetical and reference list style.

- Alcorn, Randy. 2003. *Money, possessions, and eternity*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
- Augsburger, David. 2006. *Dissident Discipleship: A spirituality of self-surrender, love of God, and Love of neighbor*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press.
- Benson, Bob, Sr., and Michael W. Benson. 1989. *Disciplines for the inner life*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc.
- Blackaby, Henry T., and Claude V. King. 1990. *Experiencing God: Knowing and doing the will of God*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. 1954. *Life together*. Translated by John W. Doberstein. New York, NY: Harper and Row Publishers.
- _____. 2003. *Discipleship*. Edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly and John D. Godsey. Translated by Barbara Green and Reinhard Krauss. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works*, vol. 4. Edited by Wayne Whitson Floyd. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
- Bruce, A. B. 1988. *The training of the twelve: Timeless principles for leadership development*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications.
- Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. 2005. *Spiritual disciplines handbook: Practices that transform us*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books.
- Callen, Barry L. 2001. *Authentic spirituality: Moving beyond mere religion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Castleman, Robbie. 2003. The Evangelical spirituality of creation, care, and the kingdom of God. In *For all the saints: Evangelical theology and Christian spirituality*. ed. Timothy George and Alister McGrath, 155-64. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.
- Chan, Simon. 1998. *Spiritual Theology: A systematic study of the Christian life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- Conn Joann Wolski. 2000. Toward spiritual maturity. In *Exploring Christian spirituality: An ecumenical reader*, ed. Kenneth J. Collins, 355-78. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Dawn, Marva F. 2003. Practiced Theology – lived spirituality. In *For all the saints: Evangelical theology and Christian spirituality*, ed. Timothy George and Alister McGrath, 137-54. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.
- Demarest, Bruce A. 1998. New dimensions in spirituality & Christian living. In *New dimensions in evangelical thought: Essays in honor of Millard J. Erickson*, ed. David S. Dockery, 374-93. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Dockery, David S. 2000. An outline of Paul's view of the spiritual life: Foundation for an Evangelical spirituality. In *Exploring Christian spirituality: An ecumenical reader*, ed. Kenneth J. Collins, 339-51. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Emmons, Robert A. and Michael E. McCullough eds. 2004. *The Psychology of gratitude*. London, England: Oxford University Press.
- Farley, Benjamin Wirt. 1995. *In praise of virtue: An exploration of biblical virtues in a Christian context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Foster, Richard J. 1985. *The challenge of the disciplined life: Christian reflections on money, sex & power*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco.
- _____. 1992. *Prayer: Finding the heart's true home*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco.
- _____. 1998. *Celebration of discipline: The path to spiritual growth*. 3rd ed. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco.
- Grudem, Wayne. 1994. *Systematic theology: An introduction to Biblical doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press.
- Harris, Murray J. 1999. *Slave of Christ: A New Testament metaphor for total devotion to Christ*. New Testament Studies in Biblical Theology 8. Edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Hinson, Glenn E. 1963. Early Christian Practices. Unpublished manuscript of notes for Church History 76A. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY.
- Houston, James M. 2003. Christian spirituality: A contextual perspective. In *For all the saints: Evangelical theology and Christian spirituality*, ed. Timothy

George and Alister McGrath, 27-53. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Humphreys, Fisher H. 1986. Living as a disciple. *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 28 (2): 79-84.

Lebell, Epictetus. 2004. *The art of living: A classic manual on virtue, happiness, and effectiveness*. New York, NY: Harper Collins.

McGrath, Alister E. 1999. *Christian spirituality*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.

_____. 2003. Loving God with heart and mind: The theological foundations of spirituality. In *For all the saints: Evangelical theology and Christian spirituality*. ed. Timothy George and Alister McGrath, 11-26. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Miller, Calvin. 2003. The depths of God. In *For all the saints: Evangelical theology and Christian spirituality*, ed. Timothy George and Alister McGrath, 195-203. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Talbot, Mark R. 2003. Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In *For all the saints: Evangelical theology and Christian spirituality*, ed. Timothy George and Alister McGrath, 116-34. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Trueblood, Elton. 1952. *Your other vocation*. New York, NY: Harper & Row Publishers.

_____. 1961. *The company of the committed*. New York, NY: Harper & Row Publishers.

_____. 1967. *The incendiary fellowship*. New York, NY: Harper & Row Publishers.

Warren, Rick. 1995. *The purpose driven church: growing without compromising your message & mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

White, James Emery. 1992. *Opening the front door: Worship and church growth*. Nashville, TN: CO

Whitney, Donald S. 1991. *Spiritual disciplines for the Christian life*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress.

Wilken, Robert Louis. 2003. *The spirit of early Christian thought: Seeking the face of God*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Willard, Dallas. 1991. *The spirit of the disciplines: Understanding how God changes lives*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco.

_____. 2005a. How does the disciple live? Retrieved 21 June 2005 from <http://www.dwillard.org>

_____. 2005b. The key to the keys of the kingdom. Retrieved 21 June 2005 from <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=40>.

_____. 2005c. Kingdom living. Retrieved 21 June 2005 from <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=92>.

_____. 2005d. Rethinking evangelism. Retrieved 21 June 2005 from <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=53>.

_____. 2005e. Why bother with discipleship? Retrieved 21 June 2005 from <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=71>.

_____. 2005f. How Does the Disciple Live? Retrieved 21 June 2005 from <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artid=103>.

Willard, Dallas. 2005. Transcribed by Scott Sevier. New age of ancient Christian spirituality. Retrieved 21 June 2005 from <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=95>.

Williams, Wallace A. C. 2003. C. S. Lewis: Spiritual disciplines for mere Christians. In *For all the saints: Evangelical theology and Christian spirituality*, ed. Timothy George and Alister McGrath, 177-94. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Williams, W. Stephen. 2004. An analysis of Transtheoretical Stages of Change in the formation of a spiritual discipline. Ed.D. diss., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Willis, Avery T. 1980. *Master life*. Nashville, TN: The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

Wink, Walter. 1988. The education of the apostles: Mark's view of human transformation. *Religious Education* 83 (2): 277-90.