

## ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### For Christ and His Church

#### **DN 910 CO: THE PSALMS AS CHRISTIAN PRAYER**

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#### **PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE:**

This course begins with a study of the biblical psalms as they were used in the worship of Israel. It looks at the way the psalms were used in the worship of the New Testament Church and traces this development through the ancient church and into the Middle Ages. Particular attention is given to the revival of psalmody at the time of the Protestant Reformation and the development of the various Protestant psalters through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries until the present.

#### **TEXTBOOKS:**

Hughes Oliphant Old, The Psalms as Christian Prayer (This is at present an unpublished manuscript. Availability will hopefully be forthcoming.)

William L. Holladay, The Psalms Through Three Thousand Years: Prayerbook of a Cloud of Witnesses (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993)

#### **PREPARATION:**

Begin to observe the Christian discipline of praying through the psalms on a daily basis. Try to do this for at least a month before class, averaging ten psalms a day. Discuss your thoughts and meditations, writing them down in a spiritual journal. This journal should be no more than thirty pages, no less than twenty. Let your thoughts be guided primarily by the psalms, but also consult some of the classic psalm commentaries such as those of John Calvin, Matthew Henry, Patrick Millar, Mark Futato, Peter Martyr Vermigli, and H.-J. Kraus. This may take half an hour to an hour a day. These prayer journals should be a sort of pastor's daily prayer ministry as he prays

for and with his congregation.

### **SOURCE DOCUMENTS, PSALM COMMENTARIES, AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING:**

Mark D. Futato, Transformed by Praise: The Purpose and Message of the Psalms (Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co., c. 2002)

Millar Patrick, Four Centuries of Scottish Psalmody (London: G. Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, 1949).

Peter Martyr Vermigli, Sacred Prayers Drawn from the Psalms of David, The Peter Martyr Library, trans. John Patrick Donnelly (Kirksville, Missouri: Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies, 1996).

John Cassian, The Twelve Books of the Institutes of the Cenobia, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, second series, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1973)

Athanasius, The Life of Antony and the Letter to Marcellinus, Classics of Western Spirituality (New York, Ramsey and Toronto: Paulist Press, 1980).

Terrence Kardong, Benedict's Rule: a Translation and Commentary (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, c. 1996)

Korneel Vermeiren, Praying with Benedict: Prayer in the Rule of St. Benedict (Kalamazoo, Mich.: Cistercian Publications, 1999)

J. A. Lamb, The Psalms in Christian Worship (London: The Faith Press, 1962)

John Calvin, Commentary on the Psalms (Several editions are available; most easily available from a second hand bookstore)

Matthew Henry, Exposition of the Whole Bible (Here we are interested only in the exposition of the psalms in an unabridged edition. Several editions are available, Fleming Revell being the most recent.)

Hans-Joachim Kraus, Psalms, 2 vols. (Minneapolis: Augsburg, c. 1988 and 1989)

C. S. Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms (London: Collins, 1961, c. 1958)

Ross J. Miller, "Calvin's Understanding of Psalm-Singing as a Means of Grace," Calvin Studies VI (Davidson, North Carolina: Colloquium on Calvin Studies, 1992)

Emily Brink, "A Reformed Approach to Psalmody: The Legacy of the Genevan Psalter" (2004).

Emily Brink, Psalter Hymnal Handbook (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, c. 1998).

Samuel Jan Lenselink, ed., Clément Marot, The Genevan Psalter, French title: Les Psaumes de Clément Marot (Assen: Van Gorcum, 1969). (Although this work is in French, it is essential to an understanding of Reformed psalm piety.)

Ted J. Postema, Psalmody Through the Ages: A Survey of the History of Psalmody (Brantford, Ontario: Free Reformed Publications, 2005)

Erik Routley, Exploring the Psalms (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975)

James H. Charlesworth, ed., The Odes of Solomon (Chico, California: Scholars Press, 1977)

Rendel Harris, The Odes and Psalms of Solomon (Cambridge, England: The University Press, 1909)  
(This is hard to find but worth searching out.)

Sigmund Mowinckel, The Psalms in Israel's Worship (New York: Abingdon Press, c. 1962; Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1992) (While some of us may find problems with Mowinckel's conclusions he is very helpful in showing us how the psalms were originally used.)

Jean Daniélou, The Bible and the Liturgy (Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1956). (A key work for the liturgical renewal movement)

Patrick Henry Reardon. Christ in the Psalms (California: Conciliar Press, 2000)

The Psalter Hymnal (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1988)

Susan Gillingham, Psalms Through the Centuries (Malden, MA, and Oxford: Blackwell Publications, 2008)

John Witvliet, The Biblical Psalms in Christian Worship: A Brief Introduction and Guide to Resources (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007)

James E. Adams, War Psalms of the Prince of Peace (Philipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1991)

Nancy L. DeClaissé-Walford, Reading from the Beginning: The Shaping of the Hebrew Psalter (Macon, GA: Mercer University press, 1997)

John Goldingay, Psalms, 3 vols., Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006-2008)

Richard B. Hays, "Christ Prays the Psalms: Israel's Psalter as Matrix of Early Christology," in The Conversion of the Imagination: Paul as Interpreter of Israel's Scripture (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005)



**SUPPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PSALTERS FOR THOSE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT** (Mined from the Princeton Seminary Library)

William Beveridge, A Defence of the Book of Psalms, Collected into Metre by Thomas Sternhold, John Hopkins and Others (London: Printed by R. Smith, and sold by W. Taylor, 1710)

Nicholas Brady and Nahum Tate, A New Version of the Psalms of David (London: Printed by M. Clark, 1699)

A Brief and Full Account of Mt. Tate's and Mr. Brady's New Version of the Psalms (London: Printed for Joseph Wild, 1698)

The Genevan Psalter, 1562-1865 (Geneva: Bibliothèque publique et universitaire, 1986)

Rendel Harris, An Early Christian Psalter (London: James Nisbet & Co., 1909)

John West MacMeeken, History of the Scottish Metrical Psalms with an Account of the Paraphrases and Hymns and the Music of the Old Psalter (Glasgow: M'Culloch, 1872)

The New England Psalter, or, Psalms of David: With the Proverbs of Solomon and Christ's Sermon on the Mount (Boston: Printed for, and sold by J. Perkins, 1774)

Waldo Selden Pratt, The Music of the Pilgrims: A Description of the Psalm-book Brought to Plymouth in 1620 (Boston: Oliver Ditson Co., 1921)

The Scottish Psalter of 1635, ed. Richard Runsiman Terry (London: Novello, 1935)

Philip Sidney, The Psalmes of David (Chiswick: From the Chiswick Press, by C. Whittingham for R. Triphook, 1823)

Rochelle A. Stackhouse, The Language of the Psalms in Worship: American Revisions of Watts' Psalter (Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 1997)

Sternhold and Hopkins Psalter, 1848 ed. (London: Printed for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1848)

Trinity Psalter: Psalms 1-150 (Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant Publications, c. 1994)

Charles Wesley, The Wesleyan Psalter, ed. Thomas O. Summers (Nashville: E. Stevenson & F. A. Owen, M. E. Church, South, 1855).

John Wesley, John Wesley's Prayer Book: The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America, ed. James F. White (Cleveland, Ohio: OSL Publications, c. 1991)

## **SEMINARY POLICIES:**

**Drop/Add/Withdrawal:** Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

### **Office Hours**

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

### **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”).

### **Conduct in Theological Discussions**

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

### **Incompletes**

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree **to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.**) **If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these**

grades automatically become “F.”

**Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy:**

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

**Policy Regarding Absences**

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

**Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements**

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.