

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

DN 956: THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY DISCUSSION

February 12, March 11, April 15, and May 6, 2008

To be held at the Columbia Center

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Office hours: by appointment

CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE:

8:30-10:00 am—instruction

10:00-10:30 am—break

10:30 am- 12:30 pm—instruction

12:30-4:00 pm—lunch and free time

4:00-5:30 pm—instruction

5:30-6:30 pm—evening meal time

7:00-8:30 pm—instruction

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is a comparative study of the different theologies of worship most frequently advanced today. The theologies of worship associated with the Second Vatican Council, High Church Anglicanism, the contemporary Christian worship movement, the charismatic movement, and the Church Growth movement are discussed and critiqued in light of Scripture and a Reformed theology of worship. This course is intended for working pastors and more advanced students.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course aims at giving pastors, music directors, and other Christian leaders an understanding of the vigorous discussion of how the church should worship today. We will read a variety of leading authorities, ranging from Cardinal Danielou to Marva Dawn and Michael Horton.

**TEXTBOOK:**

Old, Hughes Oliphant. Themes and Variations for a Christian Doxology (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992). (Out of print. However, it can be gotten from a second hand bookstore. It is also available from the author.) ISBN: 0-8028-0614-7

#### RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTARY READING

The student is advised to read as much of the following before the beginning of the course as possible. A useful source for locating books, both new and used, is [www.isbndb.com](http://www.isbndb.com), a data base of ISBNs. You can locate books by ISBN, by author, or by publisher. Click on the book title and the data base will tell you where books are available, and the new and/or used prices.

Casel, Odo. The Mystery of Christian Worship. New York: Crossroad Publications, 1999.  
(A German Catholic monk active in the Thirties who did much to awaken an interest in the Greek roots of worship—A great book!) ISBN 082451808X My copy is in German!

Daniélou, Jean. The Bible and the Liturgy. Notre Dame, Ind.: Notre Dame University Press, 1956.  
(A liberal French Catholic who did much work on the Jewish roots of Christian worship.) ISBN: 55-9516

Dawn, Marva. Reaching Out without Dumbing Down. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.  
(A Lutheran trained at Notre Dame, she is a good representative of the liturgical renewal movement.) ISBN-13: 9780802841025, ISBN: 0802841023

Dawn, Marva. A Royal Waste of Time. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., c. 1999.  
ISBN-13: 9780802845863, ISBN: 080284586X

Frame, John M. Worship in Spirit and Truth. Philipsburg, N. J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1996. ISBN: 0-87552-242-4

Gore, R. J. Covenantal Worship. Philipsburg, N. J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., c. 2002. ISBN 0875525628

Hart, D. G. and John R. Muether. With Reverence and Awe. Philipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 2003. ISBN: 0875521797, ISBN-13: 9780875521794

Horton, Michael. A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of God-Centered Worship. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.  
(An important evangelical Presbyterian thinker.) ISBN 0801064686

Jeremias, Joachim. The Eucharistic Words of Jesus. New York: Fortress Press, 1977.

(German Lutheran New Testament scholar of the highest rank—a short but difficult book worth the effort.)

(ISBN 0800613198 My copy is in German.)

Kavanagh, Aidan. On Liturgical Theology. New York: Pueblo Publishing Co., 1984.

(Liberal Catholic who thinks *sola scriptura* should be replaced by *lex orandi lex credendi*)

ISBN: 0-916134-67-9

Lohmeyer, Ernst. Lord of the Temple. Richmond, Virginia: John Knox Press, 1962.

(Great German Lutheran New Testament scholar.)

Leclercq, Jean. The Love of Learning and the Desire for God. New York: Fordham University Press.

(French Catholic monk who has done much to explain the worship of the medieval monastery. A great book!)

ISBN: 0823204073

Morgenthaler, Sally. Worship Evangelism. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1995.

(Teaches worship at Fuller Seminary—deserves a good hearing.)

ISBN: 031022649X, ISBN-13: 9780310226499

Ong, Walter J., S.J. The Presence of the Word. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1981.

(A very sane thinker on the importance of the ministry of the Word. He explodes a lot of contemporary clichés.)

ISBN: 0-8166-1043-6

Peterson, David. Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992.

(Australian Evangelical Anglican who has many penetrating insights into the nature of worship.)

ISBN: 0-8028-0689-9

Redman, Robert. The Great Worship Awakening. Jossey-Bass, 2002.

(A great introduction to the contemporary Christian worship movement.)

Torrance, James B. Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

(Scottish theologian who is the uncle of the new President of Princeton Seminary.)

ISBN: 0-8308-1895-2

Wainwright, Geoffrey. Doxology: The Praise of God in Worship, Doctrine, and Life. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

(A British Methodist who attempts to put worship in the context of the whole Christian life.)

ISBN: 0-19-520433-6

#### REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. Distance education depends heavily by its very nature on the student reading a considerable amount of material before the first meeting of the class.
2. Four book reports of no less than four, no more than five, pages are to be turned in at the beginning of the first class. The student may be required to read these reports to the class and discuss it during the afternoon class sessions. Half the report should give the argument or message of the book and half should give the student's reaction or criticism.
3. A term paper is to be submitted of no less than twenty pages and no more than twenty-five. It is to be on a topic approved by the professor. This will be due by the first of July, 2008. Please use twelve point type. References to Scripture and to the theologians we have studied greatly enhance the paper.
4. Suggested themes for term papers:
  - Distinguish between the liturgical renewal movement and the contemporary Christian worship movement, and evaluate each.
  - Given the needs of your congregation, what could be learned from the liturgical renewal movement and, on the other hand, what would one want to avoid?
  - What do you consider the most positive features and what the more negative features of charismatic worship?
  - What features of the worship of your church do you find to be according to Scripture and what features do you find to be less than scriptural?
  - How have “the worship wars of the nineties” affected your congregation? Have the worship wars been disruptive or has there been a true worship awakening?

#### SEMINARY POLICIES

1. **STYLE MANUALS FOR RESEARCH PAPERS:** Erskine Seminary recommends the following style manuals for use with research papers: William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White, Elements of Style, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York: Macmillan, 1979); Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., rev. by John Grossman and Alice Bennett (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996); or The Chicago Manual of Style, 15<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003). For a Turabian software program, one may wish to consider StyleEase at [http:// www.styleease.com/ChiMain.htm](http://www.styleease.com/ChiMain.htm).
2. **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Roll will be taken both mornings and evenings. Those who miss more than a single morning or evening session

should expect to lose grade points.

2. **POLICY ON INCOMPLETES:** As in the case of all the grades, 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 requirement for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing all the course requirements. An “I” in any course must be removed by April 1 for a January Term, August 1 for Spring Term, November 1 for Summer Term, and March 1 for Fall Term. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.” Special arrangements can be made with the professor in consultation with other seminary officials in extenuating circumstances.
  
2. **NOTE REGARDING REGISTRATION/DROP ADDS:** I understand that once I have completed, signed, and submitted my registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **BINDING CONTRACT**, and my billing will be based on this registration. I further understand if I decide not to take this class, a “drop-add” form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.**

## SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

Tuesday, February 12

- A. Theology of worship in the Patriarchal tradition
  1. The creation narrative—creation and the Sabbath
  2. Adam and Eve walking with God in the cool of the evening—fellowship with God as worship
  3. The sacrifices of Cain and Abel
  4. The worship of Noah—the covenant and the sign of the covenant
  5. Abraham, the Covenant, and altar, and the Word—Abraham called on the name of the LORD, Genesis 12:1-9
  6. The worship of Melchizedek—Genesis 14:17-21
  7. The sealing of the Covenant—Genesis 15:1-15
  8. The covenant meal with the three heavenly visitors by the oaks of Mamre—Genesis 18:1-14
  9. Jacob’s meal with Isaac and the stolen blessing
  
- B. Theology of worship in the Mosaic tradition
  1. The Passover--Exodus 12 and 13
    - a. The service is commanded—Exodus 12:1-4 and 28
    - b. The foods are symbolic--Exodus 12:13, “The blood shall be

- a sign to you.”
  - c. This day shall be for you a memorial—Exodus 12:14
  - d. “Hold a holy assembly”—Exodus 12:16
  - e. Covenantal nature—those who do not participate in the rites are cut off—Exodus 12:19
  - f. “What means this service?”—Exodus 12:25-27-The Passover Haggadah
  - g. “Remember this day!”—Exodus 13:3
  - h. “You shall tell your son...when I come out of Egypt”—Why in the first person?
  - i. “It shall be to you a sign...and a memorial...that the law of the LORD be in your mouth.”—Exodus 13:9
2. The first tablet of the Law—a primary document for the theology of worship. It contains a number of fundamental principles for a biblical theology of worship.
- a. We are to worship but one God and him alone—The interpretation of Jesus: thou shalt love the Lord thy God...Cf. 1 Corinthians 10-14, especially 13
  - b. Commandment against idolatry
    - 1. Story of the Golden Calf
    - 2. Acts 17
    - 3. Colossians 1:15
  - c. The commandment against magic
  - d. The commandment to maintain the memorial

#### Afternoon session

(While the morning sessions will be devoted to the subject of various biblical theologies of worship, the afternoon sessions will be devoted to discussing various contemporary works on the theology of worship. We will have to leave the decision open as to which authors we will discuss until we see which books students have been able to attain.)

The first afternoon we will discuss R. J. Gore’s Covenantal Worship. We will also discuss Odo Casel, The Mystery of Christian Worship. Possibly we will get into Joachim Jeremias, The Eucharistic Words of Jesus and Jean Leclercq, The Love of Learning and the Desire for God.

Tuesday, March 11

- B. Theology of worship in the Mosaic tradition (continued)
  - 3. Exodus 24:1-11
    - c. The great “teach in” before Mount Sinai

- d. Exodus 24–Moses told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances
- e. “...and he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people”
- f. “All the LORD has spoken we will do.”–the covenant vow, the confession of faith, the pledge of allegiance
- g. The sprinkling of blood
- h. “Behold the blood of the covenant”–cf. I Corinthians 11:24-25
- i. “...and they beheld God and ate and drank”

C.

Theology of worship in the tradition of the Temple

- 3. The Prayer of Hannah in Shiloh--I Samuel 1-2
- 4. Solomon’s prayer of dedication–public prayer
- 5. Psalm 105:1-11
  - c. Worship as praise and adoration
  - d. The hymnic dimension
  - e. Worship as witness–the evangelistic dimension
  - f. Entering God’s presence and enjoying God’s presence
  - g. Worship as the expression of awe
- 6. The Wisdom psalms and meditation as worship–Psalm 1 and Psalm 119

Afternoon session:

We will discuss Jean Cardinal Danielou, The Bible and the Liturgy; Joachim Jeremias, The Eucharistic Words of Jesus; and Ernst Lohmeyer, Lord of the Temple.

Tuesday, April 15

D.

Theology of worship during the exilic and post-exilic

periods

- 3. Daniel and the worship of the Jews in Babylon
- 4. Psalm 137, “How can I sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”
- 5. The origins of the synagogue
- 6. “Spiritual sacrifices”
- 7. Psalms and prayers of the exile
  - c. Prayer of Manasseh
  - d. Daniel 9
  - e. Song of the three young men
- 8. Ezra and the return of the Law to the center of the worship of Israel–Nehemiah 8
  - c. According to rabbinical tradition this is the origin of the synagogue

- d. Ezra the priest has become Ezra the scribe
- e. The doxological framing of the reading
- f. The Lesson is read then explained
- g. This reconstituting of the ministry of the Word in Jerusalem read through the whole of the Torah in a week, as the tradition tells but, then its continuation occurred Sabbath by Sabbath.
- h. The free *lectio continua* then developed into the three year cycle in Palestine and the yearly cycle in Babylon

E. The prophetic criticism of worship

- 3. Samuel--obedience, not sacrifice
- 4. Amos
- 5. Micah
- 6. Hosea
- 7. Psalm 50, "Make thanksgiving your sacrifice."
- 8. The scandal of idolatry
- 9. Proliferation of sacrifices and luxury of the liturgy
- 10. Malachi--sacrifice of defective offerings

Afternoon session

We will discuss the following books: James Torrance, Worship, Communion, and the Triune God of Grace; D. G. Hart and John Muether, With Reverence and Awe, and Michael Horton, A Better Way.

Tuesday, May 6

F. Worship in the synoptic tradition and Acts

- 3. The nativity hymns in Luke
- 4. The boy Jesus in the Temple
- 5. The Sermon on the Mount and the teaching of Jesus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving
- 6. Luke 4--the teaching and preaching of Jesus as worship
- 7. Passover in the Upper Room
- 8. The supper at Emmaus--Luke 24
- 9. Acts 2:42
- 10. Acts 4:23-31--an early Christian prayer meeting

G. Pauline theology of worship

- 3. Preaching the Gospel as Worship--Romans 15
- 4. Service of prayer--I Timothy 2:1-8
- 5. Tithes and alms
- 6. I Corinthians 10 and typology
- 7. I Corinthians 10 and the Lord's Supper as koinonia

8. I Corinthians 11 and the Lord's Supper as memorial
- H.
- Theology of worship in Hebrews
  3. Worship and typology
  4. The heavenly dimension of Christian worship
  5. Worship in Christ
- I.
- Johannine theology of worship
  3. John 2—the wedding at Cana
    - c. Wisdom motif
    - d. Proverbs 9:1-6
    - e. Jesus as the true Bridegroom
    - f. Jesus as the Wisdom of God
  4. John 6:1-12—the problem of the harmony of the Gospels
    - c. Prophetic word and confirming sign
    - d. The meal as a converting ordinance
  5. John 6:25-63—The Bread of Life Discourse
    - c. Text—"He gave them bread from heaven to eat"
    - d. "And they shall all be taught by God"--Is. 54:13
    - e. The divinity of Christ
    - f. The centrality of preaching
- J.
- Theology of worship in Revelation
  3. John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day
  4. "He hath made us kings, priests unto god..."
  5. The Sabbatarian format
  6. Worship in chapters 4 and 5
  7. The heavenly hymnody
  8. Tabernacle of Temple typology and Christian worship
  9. The ultimate presence

Afternoon session

We will discuss the following: Sally Morgenthaler, Worship Evangelism; Marva Dawn, Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down; John Frame, Worship in Spirit and Truth; Aidan Kavanagh, On Liturgical Theology; Robert Redman, The Great Worship Awakening; and Geoffrey Wainwright, Doxology.