

Syllabus of Supplemental Study by Students for the Ministry

Presbytery of the United States
Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)

REQUIRED READING AND FIVE ESSAYS

All items in the Theological, Ecclesiastical and Experimental Divisions are to be read. Five essays of ten pages each are to be prepared by the student under the supervision of the Presbytery. The first essay is on the reading for the section on Covenant. The second is on the reading for the section on Faith. The third is on Owen's Grace and Duty of Being Spiritually Minded. The fourth is on The Memoirs of Rev. Thomas Halyburton. The fifth is on Baxter's Reformed Pastor. The object of the two essays from the Theological Division is to demonstrate a grasp of the material, and an ability to apply it to the presentation of the gospel. The object of the essay from the section on Pastoral Care is to demonstrate a thoughtful grasp of the method of visitation and catechizing set forth by Baxter. The object of the two essays from the Experimental Division is to demonstrate an understanding of the issues of spirituality set forth in the two texts, and of their relevance to a pulpit ministry in a congregation. The essays will be submitted to the Presbytery, who when they have approved them, will forward them to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

I. Theological Division

1. Biblical Theology

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1948.

Murray, John. "Systematic Theology," in *Collected Writings of John Murray*, 4:1-21. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1976-1982.

2. Scripture

Warfield, Benjamin Breckenridge. *Revelation and Inspiration*, vol. 1 of *The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield*. 1927-1932. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.

Hodge, A. A., and Warfield, Benjamin B. *Inspiration*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2008.

Murray, John. "The Attestation of Scripture," in *The Infallible Word*, ed. N. B. Stonehouse and Paul Woolley, 1-54. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1967.

Ridderbos, Herman N. *Redemptive History and the New Testament Scriptures*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1988.

3. Trinity

Warfield, Benjamin Breckinridge. "The Biblical Doctrine of the Trinity," in *Biblical Doctrines*, 101-172, and "The Divine Messiah in the Old Testament," in *Christology and Criticism*, 3-49, and "Calvin's Doctrine of the Trinity," in *Calvin and Calvinism*, 189-284, vols. 2, 3 and 5 of *The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield*. 1927-32. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.

Shedd, William G. T. "Trinity in Unity," in *Dogmatic Theology*, 1:249-333. 1888. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971.

Prestige, G. L. *God in Patristic Thought*. London: S. P. C. K., 1952.

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*, 83-87, 95-137, 223-279. Fourth edition. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1968.

4. Predestination

Warfield, Benjamin Breckinridge. "Predestination," in *Biblical Doctrines*, 3-67, vol. 2 of *The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield*. 1927-32. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.

5. Incarnation

Warfield, Benjamin Breckinridge. "The Person of Christ," in *Biblical Doctrines*, 175-209, vol. 2 of *The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield*. 1927-32. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.

Warfield, Benjamin Breckinridge. "The Emotional Life of Our Lord," in *The Person and Work of Christ*, 93-145. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1970.

Shedd, William G. T. "Christology," in *Dogmatic Theology*, 2:259-349. 1888. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971.

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*, 138-162, 280-343. Fourth edition. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1968.

6. Atonement

Murray, John. "Redemption Accomplished," in *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 9-78. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1961.

Martin, Hugh. *The Atonement in Its Relations to the Covenant, the Priesthood, the Intercession of Our Lord*. 1870. Reprint. Edinburgh: Knox Press, 1976.

Anselm. *Why God Became Man*, in *Why God Became Man and the Virgin Conception and Original Sin*, ed. Joseph M. Colleran, 57-163. Albany: Magi Books, 1969.

7. Covenant

Morris, Leon. "Covenant," in *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, 65-111. London: Tyndale Press, 1972.

Hodge, Charles. "Covenant of Works," "Covenant of Grace," in *Systematic Theology*, 2:117-122, 354-377. London: James Clarke and Company, 1960.

Edwards, Jonathan. "Observations Concerning the Scripture Oeconomy of the Trinity, and Covenant of Redemption," in *Treatise On Grace and other posthumously published writings*, ed. Paul Helm, 77-94. Cambridge: James Clarke and Co., 1971.

Rutherford, Samuel. *The Covenant of Life Opened, or, A Treatise of the Covenant of Grace*, 72-95, 104-33, 339-55. Edinburgh: Robert Brown, 1655.

Vos, Geerhardus. "The Doctrine of the Covenant in Reformed Theology," in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos*, ed. Richard B. Gaffin, 234-67. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1980.

ESSAY ON COVENANT

What does a study of the features progressively added to the successive covenants in Old Testament redemptive history teach us about the ethical implications of God's covenant with his people? Also, what significance does the distinction between the covenant of grace and the covenant of redemption have for the responsibility of those to whom the gospel offer comes, and for the responsibility of believers walking in covenant with God?

8. Faith

Murray, John. "Faith," in *Collected Writings of John Murray*, 2:235-263. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1976-1982.

Murray, John. "Redemption Applied," in *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 79-181. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1961.

ESSAY ON FAITH

Expound the nature of faith as knowledge, assent and trust, and demonstrate the implications for distinguishing the biblical concept from that of Roman Catholicism.

9. Justification

Murray, John. "Justification," in *Collected Writings of John Murray*, 2:202-222. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1976-1982.

Murray, John. *The Epistle to the Romans*, 1:108-210, 336-362. London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1970.

Traill, Robert. "A Vindication of the Protestant Doctrine concerning Justification from the Unjust Charge of Antinomianism," in *The Works of Robert Traill*, 1:252-296. Edinburgh: George Caw for J. Ogle, 1810.

10. Sanctification

Murray, John. "Definitive Sanctification," "The Agency in Definitive Sanctification," "Progressive Sanctification," in *Collected Writings of John Murray*, 2:277-304. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1976-1982.

II. Experimental Division

- Bunyan, John. *Pilgrim's Progress*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1979.
- Guthrie, William. *The Christian's Great Interest*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1969.
- Owen, John. *A Practical Exposition upon Psalm CXXX*, in *The Works of John Owen*, ed. William H. Goold, 6:323-648. 1850-53. Reprint. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965-68.
- Owen, John. *The Grace and Duty of Being Spiritually Minded*, in *The Works of John Owen*, ed. William H. Goold, 7:261-497. 1850-53. Reprint. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965-68.
- Halyburton, Thomas. *Memoirs of the Rev. Thomas Halyburton*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 1996.
- Boston, Thomas. *Human Nature in Its Fourfold State*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1997.
- Alexander, Archibald. *Thoughts on Religious Experience*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1967.
- Duncan, John. *Pulpit and Communion Table*. Inverness: Free Presbyterian Publications, 1969.
- Martin, Hugh. *The Shadow of Calvary*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1983.
- Bonar, Andrew A. *The Life of Robert Murray M'Cheyne*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1960.

ESSAYS FROM THE EXPERIMENTAL DIVISION

The student is to prepare both of the following essays:

- 1. Expound the nature of worldly-mindedness, and the nature and method of spiritual meditation, as described by Owen in The Grace and Duty of Being Spiritually Minded.*
- 2. Analyze Halyburton's account of the subjective experience and process of thought in his conversion, with particular reference to his conviction of sin, his experience of illumination, and his exercise of faith in Christ.*

III. Ecclesiastical Division

1. Church Power

- Bannerman, James. *The Church of Christ*, 1:1-93, 187-321, 421-480, 2:186-344, 404-413, 421-434, 440-450. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1868.
- Thornwell, James Henley. "Argument Against Church Boards," "Argument for Church Boards Answered," *Collected Writings of James Henley Thornwell*, 4:145-216. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1974.
- Murray, John. "Government in the Church of Christ," "The Government of the Church," "The Form of Government," "Office in the Church," in *Collected Writings of John Murray*, 1:260-268, 2:336-350 and 357-365. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1976-1982.
- Murray, John. *Divorce*. Philadelphia: Committee on Christian Education, 1953.

Gillespie, George. *An Assertion of the Government of the Church of Scotland*. Edinburgh: James Bryson, 1641.

Isbell, Sherman. "The Church in Relation to Its Constitution," in *The Master's Trumpet* 3(April 2006):37-51.

2. Worship

Knox, John. "A Vindication of the Doctrine that the Sacrifice of the Mass Is Idolatry" (1550), *The Works of John Knox*, ed. David Laing, 3:29-70. Edinburgh: Wodrow Society, 1846-1864.

Bruce, Robert. "Sermons upon the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper," *Sermons by the Rev. Robert Bruce*, ed. William Cunningham, 1-157. Edinburgh: Wodrow Society, 1843.

Murray, John. "The Sabbath Institution," "The Pattern of the Lord's Day," "The Relevance of the Sabbath," in *Collected Writings of John Murray*, 1:205-228. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1976-1982.

Murray, John. "Song in the Public Worship of God." Available online at www.westminsterconfession.org/worship/song-in-the-public-worship-of-god.php.

Murray, John. *Christian Baptism*. Philadelphia: Committee on Christian Education, 1952.

Bannerman, James. *The Church of Christ*, 1:322-420, 2:1-185, 414-420, 434-440. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1868.

3. Church and State

Bannerman, James. *The Church of Christ*, 1:94-185, 2:345-403. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1868.

M'Crie, Thomas. *Statement of the Difference between the profession of the Reformed Church of Scotland, as adopted by seceders, and the profession contained in the New Testimony and other acts*. Edinburgh: George Caw for Ogle & Aikman, 1807.

Cunningham, William. "Relation between Church and State," and "The Westminster Confession on the Relation between Church and State," in *Discussions on Church Principles*, 196-234. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1863.

4. Practice of the Free Church of Scotland

The Practice of the Free Church of Scotland in Her Several Courts, eighth edition revised. Edinburgh: Knox Press, 1995.

5. Pastoral Care

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1974.

ESSAY ON PASTORAL CARE

Explain the reasons for conducting pastoral oversight of the flock and personal catechizing, and the methods for implementing them, set forth in Richard Baxter's Reformed Pastor.

6. Scottish Church History

- Mason, Roger. "Renaissance and Reformation: the sixteenth century," in *Scotland: A History*, ed. Jenny Wormald, 107-142. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Knox, John. "The History of the Reformation in Scotland," *The Works of John Knox*, ed. David Laing, 1:171-208, 295-350, 441-473, 2:84-92, 121-130, 261-292, 384-415, 425-461. Edinburgh: Wodrow Society, 1846-1864. Or in this alternative edition: *John Knox's History of the Reformation in Scotland*, ed. William Croft Dickinson, 1:74-97, 143-182, 249-271, 332-345, 2:1-24, 80-102, 108-134. London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1949.
- Kirk, James. "The Calvinist Contribution to the Scottish Reformation," "The Superintendent: Myth and Reality," "Minister and Magistrate," "The Politics of the Best Reformed Kirks': Scottish achievements and English aspirations in church government after the Reformation," *Patterns of Reform: Continuity and Change in the Reformation Kirk*, 70-95, 154-279, 334-367. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, Blackwell, 1989.
- Douglas, J. D. *Light in the North: The Story of the Scottish Covenanters*. Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1964.
- MacPherson, John. "The Church of the Revolution," "Marrow Controversy and Secessions," in *A History of the Church in Scotland*, 285-335. Paisley: Alexander Gardner, 1901.
- Brown, Thomas. *Annals of the Disruption*, 20-99. Edinburgh: MacNiven and Wallace, 1893.
- Stewart, Alexander, and Cameron, J. Kennedy. *The Free Church of Scotland 1843-1910: A Vindication*. Edinburgh: William Hodge and Company, [1910].
- Macleod, John. "The Reformed Church in Modern Scotland," in *The Princeton Theological Review* 24(1926):177-205.
- Murray, Iain H., and Murchison, Murdoch. *When Justice Failed in Church and State*. London: Colonel D. Underwood, 2001.

RESEARCH PAPER

An original research paper of twenty pages will be prepared by the student under the supervision of the Presbytery. The research paper is the occasion for the student to study in greater depth a specific problem in church principles. The student should choose one of the proposals listed below. The paper should demonstrate 1) an understanding of the interpretive problems associated with the research topic, 2) a familiarity with the primary sources and with scholarly discussion on the research topic, and 3) the student's resolution of the interpretive problems associated with the research topic. The Presbytery will assist the student with a research bibliography. The paper will be submitted to the Presbytery, who when they have approved the paper, will forward it to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

1. ***“The Church as Visible and Invisible”***: Assess the continuity and discontinuity between Knox, Rutherford, Boston, John Erskine and Murray, in their views regarding the nature of the church as visible and invisible, and give evidence of how their distinctive positions are reflected in aspects of their theology and church practice.
2. ***“Erastianism and the Westminster Confession”***: Examine the literature by Gillespie and Rutherford with a view to assessing claims that Erastianism is propounded in the original form of the Westminster Confession, and investigate the rationale presented when the American Synod declared in its adopting act of 1729 the sense in which it understood chapter twenty-three of the Confession, and when it amended that chapter in 1788.
3. ***“Private Judgment and Liberty of Conscience”***: Account for the shift from Calvin, Knox and Rutherford, to Archibald Bruce and Bannerman, in their view of religious toleration in society, within the context of an establishment of religion.
4. ***“The Extent and Limits of Church Power”***: Assess the argument, developed by Knox, Rutherford, John MacLaurin and Archibald Bruce, for lawful resistance to tyrannical authority in church and state.
5. ***“The Inviolability of a Church Constitution”***: Examine in earlier Scottish Presbyterian literature the theoretical underpinnings for the concept of a church constitution which is inviolable, as it comes to mature expression in Archibald Bruce and the constitutionalist party within the Free Church of Scotland.
6. ***“The Forms of Religious Worship”***: Examine how the definition of elements and circumstances, the adiaphora, and the role of necessary consequence, enter into the classical Reformed principles of worship expounded by Calvin, Knox, Gillespie and Rutherford.
7. ***“Isaac Watts and Psalmody”***: Examine the literature in which Isaac Watts argues that the Psalter is insufficient for sung praise in the New Testament church, and develop a detailed refutation based on the sufficiency of Scripture and the classical Reformed principles of worship espoused in Scottish Presbyterianism.
8. ***“The Defense of the Sabbath”***: Assess the strength of objections by Martin Luther and Norman MacLeod to the obligation of a Christian Sabbath, and investigate the response in classical Reformed literature to those objections.
9. ***“The Minister of the Word and the Ruling Elder”***: Assess the argument in the Second Book of Discipline, and in Gillespie, Miller and Murray, for a distinction between the minister of the Word and the ruling elder, with particular attention to differences in regard to function.

10. “The Rationale for Infant Baptism”: Examine the varied ways in which Calvin, Rutherford, Boston, Cunningham and Murray reference the covenant of grace, with its privileges and responsibilities, in their construction of an argument for infant baptism.

11. “The Nature of the Lord’s Supper, and Preparation for Its Observance”: Assess the exposition of the Lord’s Supper by Calvin, Robert Bruce, Boston and John Willison, in regard to 1) the sacrament considered as sign and seal, and 2) the role accorded to conscience and self-examination before, during, and subsequent to observance of the sacrament.

12. “The Practice of Church Discipline in the Scottish Reformation”: Describe how church discipline functioned at the Scottish Reformation, discuss the church’s theoretical justification for it, and indicate its actual impact on society.

13. “Sixteenth-century Expansion of the Court System in the Scottish Reformed Church”: Trace the origin of presbyteries and synods in the Scottish Reformed church, and the development of their functions during the course of the sixteenth century.

14. “Continuity and Innovation respecting Church Polity during the Consolidation of the Scottish Reformation”: Assess the principles and institutional practices which betray continuity or innovation in church polity in the Scottish Reformed Church between 1560 and 1600.