

# **The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**

## **84945: Christology and Atonement**

Fall Semester, 2007  
Thursday: 11:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.: NRT 207  
Instructor: Stephen J. Wellum, PhD  
Credit: 4 hours

### **Seminar Syllabus**

#### **I. Seminar Description**

Scripture's teaching on Christ's atoning sacrifice will be examined in light of various theories of the atonement, both ancient and contemporary. Special concern will be shown to understand current models of the atonement, along with historical, philosophical, theological, and biblical interaction regarding their viability. Four hours.

#### **II. Seminar Objectives**

- To become acquainted with the issues and challenges facing systematic theology in doing a theology of atonement in our contemporary, pluralistic, and postmodern context.
- To appreciate the role of historical theology and philosophy in the development of the doctrine of the atonement throughout church history.
- To discuss critically by comparing and contrasting various theories of the atonement throughout church history in light of Scriptural teaching.
- To understand and critically evaluate in light of Scripture the current discussion, criticisms, and debate regarding substitutionary atonement.
- To think through critically the debate regarding the extent of the atonement.
- To grasp with greater depth the interrelationships between various doctrines especially some of the interrelationships between the doctrines of God, human beings, sin, and the person of Christ as they find their expression in a theology of the atonement.
- To research and write a paper that will understand and advance current evangelical discussion in the important doctrinal area of Christology and atonement.
- To promote critical thinking and discussion about the crucial issues, biblically, historically, philosophically, and theologically in the area of Christology and atonement.

#### **III. Seminar Reading List**

- Beilby, James and Paul R. Eddy, eds., *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006.
- Boersma, Hans. *Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross: Reappropriating the Atonement Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004.
- Gunton, Colin E. *The Actuality of the Atonement: A Study of Metaphor, Rationality, and the Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

- Hill, Charles E. and Frank A. James III, eds., *The Glory of the Atonement: Biblical, Theological, and Practical Perspectives*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Jeffery, Steve, Mike Ovey & Andrew Sach. *Pierced for our Transgressions: Re-discovering the Glory of Penal Substitution*. Nottingham, UK: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.
- Owen, John. *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1959.

#### IV. Seminar Requirements

- Attendance at all seminar sessions is mandatory. You may be excused for illness or extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the professor. But the professor must approve all absences from the seminar beforehand.
- The seminar participant is expected to read all assigned materials, according to the course schedule, and whatever further background materials may be necessary for full participation in the seminar process. The assigned readings will be discussed in a seminar format and participants must come to the seminar prepared to discuss the reading assignment for that day. Each seminar participant is expected to contribute productively to class discussions. Seminar participation and involvement is an important component of this course.
- In addition, each seminar participant will have the opportunity to lead one or more of the day's discussion, depending upon class size. On the day that you lead the seminar you must come prepared with a written report (somewhere between 5-10 pages, but possibly more depending upon the reading assignment) outlining and detailing the main points of the reading and the points of discussion for that day. Each person will post their report on ecampus for other students to access before they come to the seminar.
- Students will prepare a major research paper on a subject of their choosing as it directly relates to the subject matter of the seminar. Proposed topics must receive approval from the instructor. Papers should be 20-25 pages in length and should conform to *The Southern Seminary Manual of Style* guidelines, available in the Lifeway Bookstore. Papers will be graded on content, depth of analysis, and overall quality of research.
- Students will present their research paper in a formal session as scheduled. Each paper must be completed, copied for each class member, and distributed in class no later than one week prior to a student's class discussion period.
- Every seminar participant must read each paper carefully and come to class prepared to interact substantively with them. Furthermore, each student will be responsible to prepare a brief (3-4 pages) response to one of their colleague's papers, assigned by the instructor. These responses will not be presented in class, but copies of them will be distributed to the instructor and to the student whose paper is critiqued. In addition to writing this brief response, each student will also be responsible for leading and directing the initial questioning during the class session devoted to the paper he or she has critiqued.

## V. Seminar Grade

- Seminar participation (25%)
- Seminar leadership and reports (25%)
- Research paper (50%)
- Grades below B are not sufficient for crediting a seminar in the Ph.D. or Th.M. program.

## VI. Seminar Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Focus</b>	<b>Reading Required</b>
Aug 16	Introduction to the Seminar Beilby/Eddy, <i>Nature of the Atonement</i> Leader of the session: Professor	JB&PE, 9-201
Aug 23	Hill/James, <i>Glory of Atonement</i> Leader(s) the session: _____	CH&FJ, 23-208
Aug 30	Hill/James, <i>Glory of Atonement</i> Leader(s) the session: _____	CH&FJ, 209-452
Sept 6	Morris, <i>Apostolic Preaching of Cross</i> Leader(s) of the session: _____	LM, 11-213
Sept 13	Morris, <i>Apostolic Preaching of Cross</i> Gunton, <i>Actuality of the Atonement</i> Leader(s) of the session: _____	LM, 214-304 CG, 1-_____
Sept 20	Gunton, <i>Actuality of the Atonement</i> Boersma, <i>Violence, Hospitality, Cross</i> Leader(s) of the session: _____	CG, _____ HB, 13-261
Sept 27	Jeffery, <i>Pierced for our Transgressions</i> Leader(s) of the session: _____	PFOT, 21-148
Oct 4	Fall Break (=No Class)	
Oct 11	Jeffery, <i>Pierced for our Transgression</i> Leader(s) of the session: _____	PFOT, 149-336
Oct 18	Owen, <i>Death of Death</i> Leader(s) of the session: _____	JO, Book 1-2
Oct 25	Owen, <i>Death of Death</i> Leader(s) of the session: _____	JO, Book 3-4

Nov 1            Student Papers  
Nov 8            Student Papers  
Nov 15           ETS Meetings in San Diego, CA (=No Class)  
Nov 22           Reading Days and Thanksgiving Break (=No Class)  
Nov 29           Student Papers

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**Reading Key:**

- JB&PE = James Beilby & Paul Eddy, *The Nature of the Atonement* (IVP).
- CH&FJ = Charles Hill & Frank James, *The Glory of the Atonement* (IVP).
- LM = Leon Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross* (Eerdmans).
- CG = Colin Gunton, *The Actuality of the Atonement* (Eerdmans).
- HB = Hans Boersma, *Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross* (Baker).
- PFOT = S. Jeffery, M. Ovey, A. Sach, *Pierced for our Transgressions* (IVP).
- JO = John Owen, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* (Banner of Truth).

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**Special Needs:**

- In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

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Office: #238 Norton, 502.897.4725 or Ext. 4725  
Email: [swellum@sbts.edu](mailto:swellum@sbts.edu)