

Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Fall 2012

PT5531 THE CHRISTIAN WORKER'S PERSONAL LIFE & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Professor: Dr. Jefferson L. Lawrence

Class Hours: 2

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course development of the church worker's own personal walk with God. Special attention is given to leadership of one's self and spiritual formation through the classic spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer life, devotional habits, etc.) as well as call to work, relationship with spouse and children, and ability to relate to and minister to people. **REQUIRED FOR M.Div., M.A.B.C., M.A.B.S., M.A.M., M.A.B.C.R., M.A.Mis., C.Mis., C.B.C.R., C.B.S. – Two Credit Hours**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course will be a journey seeking life transformation rather than solely imparting information. The classes will touch tangentially on many subjects covered in other courses including:

- † discipleship of self (PT5710 addresses discipleship of others);
- † leadership of self (PT5733 addresses leadership of others);
- † growth of self (PT5739 addresses growth of church);
- † education of self (PT5602 addresses education of others);
- † administration of self (PT5631 addresses administration of church);
- † behavior of self (ST3655 addresses ethics in general);
- † counseling of self (BC7501, BC7505, and BC5730 address counseling in more detail).

The life transformation goals and objects of this course will include the following:

1. Understanding the four all encompassing relationships (vis-à-vis, Francis A. Schaeffer, specifically, theological, psychological/ physiological, sociological, and ecological) in life that are destroyed by the Fall and Sin, and living reconciled and restored by the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all four relationships.
 - a. In considering the student living a life reconciled to the triune God (theological relationship), special attention will be given to:
 - i. Living in such a way so as to reflect the image of God to all creation and being holy as God is holy.
 - ii. Examining internal and external calling of God to Christian work, as well as well as the qualifications and qualities of a Christian worker.
 - b. In considering the student living a life reconciled to him/her-self (psychological/ physiological relationship), special attention will be given to:

- i. The Christian worker’s oversight of self will be considered in the areas of servanthood, humility, self-leadership, confronting and overcoming sin, and change.
 - ii. Attention will be devoted to cultivating the students’ understanding and practice of spiritual disciplines, including but not limited to, Bible study and meditation, prayer, etc.
 - c. In considering the student living a life reconciled to others (sociological relationships), special attention will be given to:
 - i. Cultivating the students’ relation with spouse, children, family;
 - ii. The relationship with those in the Church, including fellow church staff;
 - iii. The relationship with the Lost.
 - d. In considering the student living a life reconciled to creation/the world (ecological relationship), special attention will be given to:
 - i. Consideration of a biblical theology of work;
 - ii. Biblical view of money;
 - iii. Avoiding worldliness.
2. Developing a working knowledge to begin mastering the spiritual tools for cultivating a life reconciled in the four aforementioned relationships. Three specific spiritual tools will be reviewed and then integrated concurrent with four restored relationships.
 - a. The perspective of the Christian Worker taking oversight of themselves and for the Church, as the Apostle Paul charged the Ephesian Elders in Acts 20:28;
 - b. Pursuing Holiness;
 - c. Practicing the classical spiritual disciplines;
 - d. Cultivating the “fruit of the Spirit.”

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts (To Be Read “Cover to Cover”):

Adams, Jay E. *Christian Living in the Home*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1989 (143 pgs).

_____. *How to Help People Change: The Four-Step Biblical Process*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986 (224 pgs).

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Edited by William Brown. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1974.

Fraze, Randy. *The Christian Life Profile Assessment Tool Workbook*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

One of the books on “Prayer” listed in the Bibliography to be determined jointly with the instructor (each student is to select a different text).

One of the books on “Holiness” listed in the Bibliography to be determined jointly with the instructor (each student is to select a different text).

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997 (272 pgs).

**Texts From Which Excerpts Will Be Read (“Not Read Cover to Cover”)
Which Students are Highly Encouraged to Acquire for the Library:**

Adams, Jay E. *Shepherding God’s Flock: A Handbook on Pastoral Ministry, Counseling, and Leadership*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975.

Spurgeon, Charles H. *Lectures To My Students* (Complete and Unabridged). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1954.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Since this course is transformational rather than primarily informational, there will be no written examinations. The student will be required to examine himself/herself in the material covered and report on their spiritual growth via both written and verbal reports.

Attendance

The student is expected to attend all classes unless Providentially hindered. If the student must be absent from a class, he/she must contact the instructor to arrange a personal mentoring time to make-up the material covered in the classroom. Such absences and make-up meetings must be held to a minimum.

Scripture Memorization

Each week, the instructor will assign for memorization one short Scripture passage related to the material covered that week in class. The student are to memorize and meditate upon that Scripture verse. Students’ memorization Scripture verses will be checked each week and at the end of the semester.

Journal

The student will maintain a bound journal throughout the semester in which he/she is to reflect on what he/she is reading and learning in class, what Scriptures upon which he/she is meditating, matters upon which he/she is praying, etc. Entries must be dated and made weekly at least. This is not a notebook of notes taken in class! Students are to reflect upon what they are learning for life application and how it is affecting life transformation. The journal will be checked periodically by the instructor throughout the semester, turned in at the end of the semester to be reviewed *strictly confidentially* by the instructor, and returned to the student.

Essay/Papers and Verbal Reports

The student will write five essays/papers, each being five (5) to ten (10) pages on the following five areas (for a total of three papers):

1. A particular area in the student’s theological relationship (between God and him/her) which needs to be transformed by the reconciling/restoring power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. A particular area in the student’s psychological/physiological relationship (between him/her and his/her-self) which needs to be transformed by the reconciling/restoring power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. A particular area in the student’s sociological relationships (between him/her-self and others) which needs to be transformed by the reconciling/restoring power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. A particular area in the student’s ecological relationship (between him/her-self and creation/the world) which needs to be transformed by the reconciling/restoring power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
5. The student’s reflections and plans for living a holy life, being holy as God is holy.

The paper is to be divided in the following major sections, vis-à-vis 2 Timothy 3:16: Introduction (1-2 pages), Doctrine (1-2 pages), Reproof (1-2 pages), Corrections (1-2 pages), Training in Righteousness (1-2 pages), and Conclusion (1-2 pages). Self-application for life transformation is the goal of these papers. Each student will present to the class a verbal report lasting no more than ten minutes, on the paper prepared on each of these five areas. Emphasis should be placed on self-application and life transformation.

Term Paper

The student shall prepare a twenty (20) page term paper on their philosophy of ministry in the particular area of their Christian work. This term paper should demonstrate the student’s comprehensive comprehension and integration of all facets of the material covered throughout the semester. The final term paper must be submitted within two weeks from the last day of the meeting of the course.

Extra Credit

The student may earn an unlimited amount of extra credit by reading and writing book reviews on any of the classic writings on the material covered in the course delineated in the Bibliography, or a classic writing pre-approved by the instructor.

Style

The five essays/papers and the term paper must be written in accordance with the most recent edition of Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (The University of Chicag Press). Additionally the student shall following the specific implementation of the Turabian manual as outlined in the most recent edition of *The Southern Seminary Manual of Style* (Louisville, KY: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) available free of charge at www.sbts.edu/resources/Style_Manual_PDF.aspx .

Assigned Reading

It will be evident to the instructor and fellow students as to whether or not each student has read assigned reading prior to class. In order to glean the most from this course of study, each student is expected to read beforehand to be ready to discuss material in class. At this graduate level of study, students need NOT be graded on completion of assigned reading. The instructor and fellow students will assume that reading will be done beforehand.

COURSE GRADING

Completion of journaling assignment	10 points
Completion of assigned Scripture memory	10 points
Each essay/paper (10 points each)	50 points
Verbal report on each essay/paper (5 points each)	25 points
Term paper on philosophy of personal ministry	30 points
Classroom discussion and participation	<u>10 points</u>
Total Possible Points	135 points
Extra credit – written and verbal report on classic work	10 points each

Points			Percent			Grade	Points			Percent			Grade
130	-	135	96%	-	100%	A	101	-	107	75%	-	79%	C
121	-	129	90%	-	95%	A-	95	-	100	70%	-	74%	C-
115	-	120	85%	-	89%	B	88	-	94	65%	-	69%	D
108	-	114	80%	-	84%	B-	81	-	87	60%	-	64%	D-
							0	-	80	0%	-	59%	F

COURSE SCHEDULE

See next page for course schedule.

PT5531 - Course Schedule

<u>Week No.</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	Sept 13	Overview and Introduction	Read <i>How to Help People Change</i>
2	Sept 20	Guarding Self & Pursuing Holiness	Read portions of <i>Reformed Pastor</i>
3	Sept 27	Practicing Spiritual Disciplines & Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit	Complete <i>Christian Life Profile</i>
4	Oct 4	Living Reconciled with God, Pt. 1	
5	Oct 11	Living Reconciled with God, Pt. 2	
	Oct 18	SEMINARY FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
6	Oct 25	Living Reconciled with Self, Pt. 1	Read book on Spiritual Disciplines Essay on Living Reconciled with God
7	Nov 1	Living Reconciled with Self, Pt. 2	
8	Nov 8	Living Reconciled with Others, Pt. 1	Essay on Living Reconciled with Self
9	Nov 15	Living Reconciled with Others, Pt. 2	Read <i>Christian Living in the Home</i>
	Nov 22	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
10	Nov 29	Living Reconciled with Creation, Pt. 1	Essay on Living Reconciled with Others
11	Dec 6	Living Reconciled with Creation, Pt. 2	Read book on Holiness
12	Dec 13	Overview & Conclusion	Essay on Living Reconciled with Creation; Submit Journal
13	Dec 27	Final Term Paper Due	

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- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 1954.
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