

## **The Person and Work of Christ: Classical and Contemporary Christology**

**Course Description:** This course begins with an examination of the foundations of Christology found in the portrayal of the Jesus Christ as the God-Man in the gospels, and as the crucified but risen Lord in the Pauline epistles. It then analyses how the doctrine of Christ developed as the early church responded to heresies like Gnosticism and Arianism which culminated in the formulation of the Nicene Creed. Further attention is given to the subsequent Christological controversies that include Apollinarism and Nestorianism and the doctrinal resolution at the Council of Chalcedon.

The doctrine of Christ as the Incarnate Savior is complemented by a study of Christ's work of atonement according to the gospels and Pauline epistles, and elaborated in the various theories of atonement. The classical doctrine of the person and work of Christ is then summed up in John Calvin's teaching of the threefold office of Christ as prophet, priest and king.

This is followed by an inquiry into how classical Christology has been challenged and developed further in the light of contemporary philosophy, historical criticism and liberation theology (Wolfhart Pannenberg and Jon Sobrino). Finally, the course explores how Christology may respond to the challenge of contemporary religious pluralism (John Hick) and historical skepticism (Bart Ehrman).

**Sample Bibliography:** A full list will be handed out in class lectures.

### **I. Basic Texts:**

- \*Gerald Bray, *Creeeds, Councils & Christ* (IVP, 1984). [selected chapters]
- Millard Erickson, *The Word Became Flesh* (Baker, 1996). [selected chapters]
- \*Richard A. Norris (ed.), *The Christological Controversy* (Fortress Press, 1980).
- \*William Rusch (ed), *The Trinitarian Controversy* (Fortress, 1980).
- \*Stephen Wellum, *God the Son Incarnate* (Crossway, 2016).

### **II. Biblical Christology**

- Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the God of Israel* (Eerdmans, 2008).
- Darrell Bock, *Jesus the God-Man* (Baker, 2016).
- #Oscar Cullmann, *The Christology of the New Testament* (John Knox, 1959).
- #Gordon Fee, *Pauline Christology* (Hendrickson, 2007).
- \*I.H. Marshall, *The Origins of New Testament Christology. Reprint ed.* (IVP, 1990).
- C.F.D. Moule, *The Origin of Christology* (Cambridge UP, 1997).
- \*Robert Reymond, *Jesus the Divine Messiah* (Mentor, 2001).

### **III. Early Christology**

- \*Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*. (Any reprint available in the Internet).
- Craig Evans, *Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels* (IVP, 2006).
- #Alois Grillmeier, *Christ in the Christian Tradition vol.1* (John Knox, 1975).[selected chapters]
- Larry Hurtado, *How Did Jesus Become a God?* (Eerdmans, 2005).
- #Richardson Hardy, *Christology of the Later Fathers* (John Knox, 1977). [selected chapters]
- #J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines 5e, reprint ed.* (Harper, 1976). [selected chapters]
- Fred Sanders *Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective* (B & H, 2007).
- Frances Young, *From Nicaea to Chalcedon* (SCM, 1983).

#### **IV. The Work of Christ – Atonement**

- #Gustaf Aulen, *Christus Victor* (MacMillan, 1969).  
#Hans Boersma, *Violence, Hospitality and the Cross* (Baker, 2006).  
J.F. Jansen, *Calvin's Doctrine of the Work of Christ* (James Clarke, 1956).  
#Steve Jeffery, Michael Ovey & Andrew Sach, *Pierced for our Transgressions* (Crossway, 2006).  
Mark Heim, Mark S., *Saved From Sacrifice* (Eerdmans, 2006).  
#Charles Hill & Frank James, *The Glory of the Atonement* (IVP2004).  
\*Leon Morris, *The Atonement* (IVP, 1983).  
#Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion* (Eerdmans, 2017).  
\*Robert Peterson, *Salvation Accomplished by the Son* (Crossway, 2011). [selected chapters]  
Peter Schmiechen, *Saving Power* (Eerdmans, 2005).  
\*John Stott, *The Cross of Christ* (IVP, 1986).

#### **V. Contemporary Christology**

- Leonardo Boff, *Jesus Christ Liberator* (1984).  
Gerald Collins, *Christology* 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2009).  
#Colin Greene, *Christology in Cultural Perspective* (Eerdmans, 2003). [selected chapters]  
Waler Kasper, *Jesus the Christ* (Paulist Press, 1976).  
Macquarrie, John. *Jesus Christ in Modern Thought*, (SCM, 1993).  
Wolfart Pannenberg. *Jesus God and Man* (Westminster, 1977).  
#Jon Sobrino *Christology at Crossroads* (SCM, 1978).

#### **VI. Contemporary Challenges to Christology**

- \*Michael Bird, Evans, Gathercole et.al. *How God became Man* (Zondervan, 2014).  
Bart Ehrman. *How Jesus Became God* (HarperOne, 2015).  
James Edwards, *Is Jesus the Only Savior* (Eerdmans, 2005).  
John Hick, *Incarnation and Myth* (SCM, 1977).

#### **VII. For Undergraduate Students**

- \*Gerald Bray, *Creeds, Councils & Christ* (IVP, 1984).  
Graham Cole, *God the Peacemaker* (IVP, 2010).  
Graham Cole, *The God Who Became Human* (IVP, 2013).  
\*Robert Letham, *The Work of Christ* (IVP, 1993).  
\*Donald Macleod, *The Person of Christ* (IVP, 1998).  
\*Donald Macleod, *Christ Crucified* (IVP, 2014).  
\*Robert Reymond, *Jesus the Divine Messiah* (Mentor, 2001).  
\*Leon Morris, *The Lord From Heaven* (Eerdmans, 1958).

#### **VIII. Reference Textbooks**

- Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology 3vol. in 1* (1985).  
Gerald Bray, *God has Spoken* (Crossway, 2014).

#### **IX. General Reading**

- Jaroslav Pelikan *Jesus Through the Centuries* (Yale UP, 1999).