

SOTERIOLOGY

I. Catalog Description

A study of the grace of God in salvation including election, the ministry of the Savior in His humiliation and exaltation, the nature and extent of the Atonement, efficacious grace, justification, regeneration, the salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit (including Spirit baptism, indwelling, and sealing), and eternal security. (3 hours; 2 hours MABC)

Prerequisite: ST101 Theological Method and Bibliology

II. Purpose of the Department

The purpose of the Department of Theological Studies is to equip godly servant-leaders for worldwide ministry by: passing onto students an understanding of the church's one true faith embraced within a distinctively dispensational, premillennial evangelicalism; encouraging students to think theologically as a response to Scripture with a sensitivity to the history of theology, philosophy, and culture; [and] helping students gain perspectives essential to spiritual formation, global servant-leadership, and the evaluation of contemporary issues and trends. (Catalog)

III. Objectives

A. All students (course taken for 2 or 3 credits)

1. The student will **understand** essential theological terms, concepts, and key biblical passages related to Soteriology, assessed by final objective exam.
2. The student will **articulate** the orthodox, protestant, evangelical doctrines of Soteriology accurately and succinctly, assessed by Section 1 (Brief Statement) of the Doctrinal Synthesis Paper.
3. The student will **explain** his or her doctrinal convictions regarding Soteriology with biblical, theological, and historical support, assessed by Section 2 (Exposition) of the Doctrinal Synthesis Paper (including notes).
4. The student will **relate** the doctrines of Soteriology to his or her life and ministry, assessed by Section 3 (Practical Reflection) of the Doctrinal Synthesis Paper.

B. All non-MABC students (course taken for 3 credits)

1. The student will **analyze** and **critique** the positions of the authors of a book, assessed by the Critical Interaction Paper.
2. The student will **demonstrate** his or her mastery of several issues in soteriology, assessed by the Short Essay Assignment. These issues include:
 - a. Describe the way of salvation, the place of faith, and the role of the sacrifices under the Old Testament economy
 - b. Explain the divine purpose behind the death of Christ and relate it to various historical models
 - c. Define justification, contrasting Protestant and Roman Catholic approaches
 - d. Describe the relationship between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of people in salvation
 - e. Compare and contrast Calvinism and Arminianism
 - f. Defend the doctrine of eternal security
 - g. Define pluralism, inclusivism, and exclusivism, and identify arguments for each
 - h. Explain how an individual can be saved
 - i. Explain the means of assurance

- j. Identify obstacles to the gospel in the culture in which they plan to minister

IV. Bibliography

A. Required Textbooks

All students (course taken for 2 or 3 credits)

Demarest, Bruce. *The Cross and Salvation*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1997. (544 pp.)

Kreider, Glenn R. (with Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Savigel). "Wise Unto Salvation: Gospel, Atonement, and Saving Grace." In Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Savigel, eds. *Exploring Christian Theology*. Vol. 2: *Creation, Fall, and Salvation*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2015. (104 pp.)

NOTE: For ST 104, only the second half of this volume must be read.

All non-MABC students (course taken for 3 credits)

Yancey, Philip. *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997. (304 pp.)

Articles assigned during the course.

B. Suggested

Baker, Mark D. *Proclaiming the Scandal of the Cross: Contemporary Images of the Atonement*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Chung, Sung Wook, ed. *Christ the One and Only: A Global Affirmation of the Uniqueness of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Fitzpatrick, Elyse M. *Found in Him: The Joy of the Incarnation and Our Union with Christ*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.

Hill, Charles E., and Frank A. James III, eds. *The Glory of the Atonement: Biblical, Theological, and Practical Perspectives*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Hoekema, Anthony. *Saved by Grace*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1988.

Husbands, Mark, and Daniel J. Treier. *Justification: What's at Stake in the Current Debates*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Johnson, Marcus Peter. *One with Christ: An Evangelical Theology of Salvation*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.

Okholm, Dennis L. and Timothy R. Phillips, eds. *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

Park, Andrew Sung. *Triune Atonement: Christ's Healing for Sinners, Victims, and the Whole Creation*. Louisville: WestminsterJohnKnox, 2009.

Peterson, Robert A. *Salvation Accomplished by the Son: The Work of Christ*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.

Piper, John. *The Future of Justification: A Response to N. T. Wright*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2007.

Schreiner, Thomas R., and Ardel B. Canedy. *The Race Set Before Us: A Biblical Theology of Perseverance and Assurance*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

- Schreiner, Thomas R., and Bruce A. Ware, eds. *Still Sovereign: Contemporary Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge, and Grace*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999.
- Schmiechen, Peter. *Saving Power: Theories of Atonement and Forms of the Church*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2005.
- Seifrid, Mark A. *Christ, Our Righteousness: Paul's Theology of Justification*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Spina, Frank Anthony. *The Faith of the Outsider: Exclusion and Inclusion in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005.
- Stackhouse, John, ed. *What Does it Mean to be Saved?* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2002.
- Stumme, Wayne, ed. *The Gospel of Justification in Christ: Where Does the Church Stand Today?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2006.
- Tiessen, Terrance. *Who Can Be Saved?: Reassessing Salvation in Christ and World Religions*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Wright, N. T. *Justification: God's Plan and Paul's Vision*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Yancey, Philip. *Vanishing Grace: Whatever Happened to the Good News?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
- Zahl, Paul F. M. *Grace in Practice: A Theology of Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007.

C. Supplementary Bibliography

- Aquinas on Nature and Grace*, edited by A. M. Fairweather. Library of Christian Classics. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1954.
- Calvin, John. *The Bondage and Liberation of the Will: A Defense of the Orthodox Doctrine of Human Choice against Pighius*. Edited by A.N.S. Lane, translated by G. I. Davies. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- Carson, D.A. (ed.) *Right With God: Justification in the Bible and the World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Carson, D. A. *Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Chafer, L. S. *Systematic Theology*. (the portion dealing with soteriology)
- Edwards, Jonathan. *The Freedom of the Will*. (available in various editions)
- Edwards, Jonathan. *Treatise on Religious Affections*. (available in various editions)
- Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*. (available in various editions)
- McGrath, Alister. *Iustitia Dei: A History of the Christian Doctrine of Justification*. (3rd edition) New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.
- Morris, Leon. *The Cross in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.
- Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Crucified God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Owen, John. *The Death of Christ* (Vol. 10 of his collected works [Banner of Truth]).

Pinnock, Clark. *A Wideness in God's Mercy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Pinnock, Clark, ed. *The Grace of God and the Will of Man*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

Plantinga, Richard J., ed. *Christianity and Plurality: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.

Ryrie, Charles C. *So Great Salvation*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1989.

Sproul, R. C. *Chosen by God*. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1986.

Stott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986. V. Requirements

All students (course taken for 2 or 3 credits)

A. Reading Assignments

Read the required textbooks and assigned articles as listed above.

Avoid interpreting the reading selections as the instructor's endorsement of any author's views. Instructors select readings for their pedagogical value toward meeting course goals and objectives.

B. Lecture Video Sessions

Attend the lecture video sessions. C.

Doctrinal Synthesis Paper

The student will develop a 5–7 single-spaced doctrinal synthesis paper on Soteriology. There are three distinct parts to the paper: 1) a Brief Statement, 2) a Detailed Exposition, and 3) a Practical Implications Reflection. (Note that elements of this doctrinal synthesis paper will be reused in ST106 Eschatology in the student's final capstone doctrinal synthesis assignment.)

1) The Brief Statement (150–200 words or one-fourth to one-third of a page). This first section will summarize Soteriology in non-technical (but biblically and theologically accurate) language similar to an article in a church's or ministry's doctrinal statement. It will include parenthetical key Scripture references and will reflect the orthodox, protestant, evangelical faith. (See sample doctrinal synthesis paper provided on Canvas.)

2) The Detailed Exposition (500–750 words or two-thirds to three-fourths of a page). This second section will provide a succinct but thorough elucidation of Soteriology using technical, traditional language and covering the major issues related to Soteriology (see course description and outline for major issues in this area of doctrine). This exposition should read like a paper one would submit as part of an ordination or interviewing process. Substantiating his or her detailed exposition, the student will include three to five single-spaced pages of endnotes (not footnotes) that provide biblical-exegetical, historical-theological, and scientific-philosophical evidences, arguments, and explanations of the doctrinal assertions. These endnotes will include not only key biblical references but also interpretive notes that incorporate commentaries, theological works, or historical citations. Biblical citations should be without quotation, except when an exegetical point is not obvious. Justify interpretations of ambiguous passages with clarifying notes. Exegetical, theological, and historical sources, references, and observations should explain the student's reasons for the affirmations in the main Detailed Exposition. In these notes, the student should incorporate insights gained from other courses in the curriculum, especially from other courses in the Biblical Studies and Theological Studies divisions. Bibliographic references should use Turabian formatting. E.g., Glenn R. Kreider, "Wise Unto Salvation: Gospel, Atonement, and Saving Grace," in Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Svingel, eds., *Exploring Christian Theology*, vol. 2, *Creation, Fall, and Salvation* (Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2015), 127. The student must incorporate sources beyond the required reading for this course.

3) The Practical Implications Reflection (500–750 words). This section will provide a discussion of practical applications and ministry implications of Soteriology. In this section the student will integrate insights from the course into his or her ministry emphasis, degree program, or anticipated area of vocational ministry focus. The student should also incorporate any insights gained from other courses in the curriculum, especially from the Ministry and Communications Division, as well reflections on his or her Christian walk and ministry experiences. Footnotes in this section should be minimal, but the student must properly cite any sources or quotations.

Submit your response in module 9.

D. Interactions

Participate in three (3) interactions:

1. Module 2: Gospel in the Old Testament
2. Module 3: Violence and the Atonement
3. Module 6: Justification in Catholic and in Protestant thought

PLEASE NOTE: Instructions for each of these interaction assignments are posted on Canvas. Please read and follow those instructions. Each assignment asks for critical interaction with the subject, including providing biblical support for your view. Understanding must precede criticism, and the criticism must be full of grace and truth. Failure to follow the instructions will result in no credit being given.

E. Final Exam

There will be one online, multiple choice, comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester. It will be closed book, closed note, and closed Bible, with no helps. The goal of this exam is to prompt a thorough review of the course materials to firm up essential theological terms, concepts, and key biblical passages related to Soteriology. Studying the major biblical texts, central issues, and key definitions will best prepare the student for the exam. It is recommended that students utilize *Exploring Christian Theology* as a study guide.

All non-MABC students (course taken for 3 hours)

A. Critical Interaction Paper

In addition to the required reading, students will choose to read one of the recommended books listed above. After reading the book, write a 7–10 page critical response paper. This paper is not simply a book review, but a critical interaction with the material. Briefly summarize the author's thesis, explaining key arguments used to support the thesis. Then evaluate the thesis and the means of presentation. Finally, discuss personal and ministerial application of this material. Please note: Not all the books listed reflect the perspective of the professor.

Please note: The required textbooks are NOT acceptable options to fulfill this assignment. This assignment requires the student to choose an additional book.

B. Short Essay Assignment

Students will also be required to complete the short essay assignment. It is designed to encourage each student to articulate answers to some of the questions that will be raised by the course, not to test whether the student can accurately restate the view of the professor. Criteria for grading will be: clarity, accuracy, consistency, response to key arguments, use of biblical evidence, and depth of thinking. Please do not use any notes, books, internet sources, or other helps in the completion of this assignment.

1. *Describe the way of salvation, the place of faith, and the role of sacrifices under the Old Testament economy.*

2. *Defend your view of substitutionary atonement, and provide biblical support. Contrast your view to at least two other substitutionary models of the atonement.*
3. *Discuss your view of the relationship between faith and repentance. Include biblical support for your position.*
4. *What is the meaning of justification? Provide biblical support for your position. How does the Protestant understanding of that concept compare with the Roman Catholic model?*
5. *How would you describe the relationship between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of humans in salvation? Compare your view to both the Calvinistic and Arminian models. Be sure to include biblical support for your position.*
6. *From your perspective, what are the best arguments for eternal security? Give three arguments and provide biblical support.*
- 7-8. *Define pluralism, inclusivism, and exclusivism, and identify at least one biblical argument for each. Refute the arguments for the positions you do not hold, and offer Scriptural support for the position you favor.*
9. *Tweet the gospel (using 140 characters, explain the gospel to a person who has limited understanding of the biblical story).*
10. *CASE STUDY: You are a member of a Christian community where you have some spiritual oversight or influence over people. You may not be in a leadership position but the members of the community look to you for insight and influence. A member of the community makes the following statement publicly to your community group. And then defends it. (In other words, this is not a misstatement or off the cuff remark; it is part of the prepared “sermon” and is emphasized in the message.)*

How will you respond?

“God has done 95% of the work for our salvation. He has left 5% for us to do. We must obey.”

VI. Policies

A. Summary of Time Estimates for This Course

The Student Handbook states, “Graduate-level work is expected to be more rigorous than at the undergraduate level. However, in order to help ensure that the amount of work required of students in their classes at the Seminary is appropriate, the faculty follow the guideline that for every hour students spend in class each week, they may expect to spend on average two to three hours outside of class on reading and other assignments. The amount of work required for classes will vary based on the material and content of each course” (Student Handbook 2016–2018, p. 7, “Academic Workload”).

The Academic Dean has advised professors to estimate 2 hours of homework for every “class hour” (50 minute period). For a three-hour class, that is a total of 84 hours of work outside of class (3 class hours per semester week x 14 class weeks x 2). For MABC students taking this course for two credit hours while participating in the 3-hour class period, the total hours of work outside of class should total approximately 42 hours (2 class hours per semester week x 14 class weeks x 2 = 56, minus 14 hours spent in the extra third hour of class participation).

Please note that any time estimates are based on reasonably established averages; therefore, they are approximations only. Actual time spent on assignments will necessarily vary based on content of reading, the nature of assignments, and student’s own reading speeds and workload capacities. Students are encouraged to plan according to their own strengths. The inevitable variables between students and between assignments is a key factor in establishing time estimates that are on the lower end of the Student Handbook’s “average two to three hours outside of class.”

B. Late Assignment

Submit assignments on time. Expect penalties for work submitted late. The instructor may waive penalties

for extreme circumstances.

PLEASE NOTE: “Students needing additional time to complete course work must petition the Credits Committee for an extension. The petition form is available on CampusNet, and must be submitted before the last day of the semester or session. Financial and grade penalties may apply to students who do not petition for extensions before the end of the semester or session. Students must read the extenuating circumstances criteria (Section 1.33) prior to submitting the petition, and must specify how their circumstances fit the criteria” (*Handbook*, 1.20.4)

The professor cannot grant extensions beyond the last day of the semester (see *Catalog* for the date for this semester).

C. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

The overall course grade is a composite of several factors. It is not a measure of personal worth or necessarily of the amount of information that a student feels that he or she has learned. Rather, it is a cumulative figure that bears a relationship to the student’s successful completion of the course requirements. This figure is determined in the following manner:

For MABC students (course taken for 2 credits)

Video Lectures	10 points
Interactions	30 points
Reading	35 points
Doctrinal Synthesis Paper	20 points
Final Exam	5 points

For non-MABC students (course taken for 3 credits)

Video Lectures	10 points
Interactions	15 points
Reading	20 points
Critical Interaction Paper	10 points
Short Essay Assignment	20 points
Doctrinal Synthesis Paper	20 points
Final Exam	5 points

D. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A	96-100	B	88-90	C	80-82	D	72-74
A-	94-95	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71
B+	91-93	C+	83-85	D+	75-77	F	0-69

VII. Supplemental Information

DTS does not discriminate because of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination, students should inform the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

Graduating Students are responsible to turn in assignments by the due date established by the Registrar and published in various places.

The Presence of the Professor

While the online learning environment is different than the live classroom environment, your professor is still involved and available. You can expect your professor to participate in the required interactions/discussions regularly and substantially. You can also expect your professor to have at least 3 virtual live “office hours”. Your professor will inform you of the times and means that these will occur. Most professors will likely use the Chat feature provided by our online platform at online.dts.edu.

VIII. Schedule

Module	Subject
1	Sin & Hope
2	Salvation in the Old Testament (Interaction #1)
3	Atonement (Interaction #2)
4	Satisfaction Theory Today
5	Conversion
6	Regeneration
7	Justification by Grace through Faith (Interaction #3)
8	Perseverance & Eternal Security
9	Exclusivity of the Gospel (paper)
10	Final Exam