

## Systematic Theology 0532

Department of Theology

Tyndale Seminary

Monday at 1:00 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. V. Shepherd

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Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays by appointment.

### Prerequisite

Systematic Theology I (0531)

### Description

The sequel to Systematic Theology I, this course continues the introductory studies that endeavour to acquaint students with the elemental “building blocks” of the Christian faith. (For a list of the specific *loci* or topics, see “Schedule” below.) The nature and necessity of theology will be considered throughout the semester, together with major doctrines that supplement those investigated last semester.

### Outcomes

Students will be equipped

[1] to see the truth of God in the interconnection of its various aspects, and to see the truth of God whole.

[2] to understand “the faith once for all delivered to the saints” and to express it in contemporary thought-forms.

[3] to apprehend theology's interaction with such cultural expressions as philosophy, literature, history, etc.

### Books:

**Required texts:** Bloesch, Donald G.; *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*, Volume 2.

: Newbigin, Lesslie; *Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt and Certainty in Christian Discipleship*

**Suggested supplement:** Colyer, Elmer M.; *Evangelical Theology in Transition: Theologians in Dialogue with Donald Bloesch*.

(Not part of the course but significant for the student's personal development in the context of theological study is Helmut Thielicke, *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*.)

A brief bibliography will be handed out in class.

### Assignments:

[1] Students will submit a “review article” of Lesslie Newbigin, *Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt and Certainty in Christian Discipleship*.

[2] Students will sit a final examination.

Note 1: The “review article” should not merely summarize the book (e.g., chapter by chapter), but it should nevertheless acquaint the reader with the content of the book at the same time that it reflects a *critical* engagement with the book in the light of the student's understanding of theology. It should inform the reader of the thesis of the book, the extent to which the author has developed the thesis, problematic issues that the author has or hasn't recognized, the extent to which the reviewer finds the book helpful or fruitful, the use that might be made of the book in the church, the challenge of the book and how that challenge might be met.

Note 3: The “review article” is to be submitted to the instructor by March 2 at the conclusion of the class (i.e., at 4:00 p.m).

Note 4: The “review article” is to be 2000-2500 words in length. It should not be longer than 2500.

Note 5: The deadline is not negotiable. An extension will not be granted (apart from medically documented illness or family emergencies such as death.)

Note 6: The penalty assigned for late submission will be one-third of a letter-grade for each day late.

Note 7: The instructor is not permitted to give any extension beyond the last day of class.

**Evaluation:**

The “review article” is worth 50%

The examination is worth 50%.

For seminary regulations concerning absenteeism, late work or incomplete work, please see the student handbook.

**Schedule**

Jan. 12	Reformation Controversies Concerning Justification (handout)	
Jan. 19	Faith Alone	Vol. I, chapt. IX
Jan. 26	The New Birth	Vol. II, chapt. II
Feb. 2	The New Birth (cont'd)	chapt. II
Feb. 9	Scriptural Holiness	chapt. III
Feb. 16	<i>No Class. Prof. Shepherd is speaking at McGill University, Montreal</i>	
Feb. 23	Scriptural Holiness (cont'd)	chapt. III (plus handout)
Mar. 2	The Cruciality of Preaching	chapt. IV
Mar. 9	The Cruciality of Preaching (Preaching is one topic for examination purposes)	chapt. IV
Mar. 16	<i>No Class; Reading Week</i>	
Mar. 23	Priesthood of All Believers	chapt. V
Mar. 30	The Two Kingdoms	chapt. VI
Apr. 6	The Church's Spiritual Mission	chapt. VII
Apr. 13	The Personal Return of Christ	chapt. VIII
Apr. 20	Final Examination	