



TH403/603
Grace and Eschatology
Semester 1, 2015

Brisbane School of Theology offers high quality, Bible-centred theological training in a diverse and supportive community, shaping the whole person for God's purpose. Aiming for more than simply growing students' knowledge of theology, BST is developing passionate, capable disciples who use what they know about God's word to serve him in the church and the world.

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• Know God's word; take it to the world •

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UNIT

Description	This is the third of four units (TH401/601, TH402/602, TH403/603, TH404/604), which cover God, Christ, and the church. This unit covers grace and eschatology, that is, the full extent of salvation from conversion (Grace) until Christ's return (eschatology) and what Christian thinkers, both past and present, have had to say on these issues.		
Teaching staff	Lecturer	Dr Alan Stanley <i>BAgr, DipAgrSci, ThM, PhD</i>	
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Additional information	Credit points	4	
	Co/pre-requisites	8cps of foundational OT and/or NT study, plus 4cps of CH or TH	
	No. of teaching weeks	13	
Assessment Summary	TH403		
	Item	Details/Due Date	Weighting
	Essay	3000 words Due: 10 th April	50%
	Essay	3000 words Due: 17 th June	50%
	TH603		
	Item	Details/Due Date	Weighting
	Essay	2500 words Due: 10 th April	40%
Essay	3000 words Due: 17 th June	50%	
Book Report	1500 words Due: 10 th June	10%	

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND UNIT CONTENT

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit **TH403 students** will:

a) Know and understand:

In relation to the doctrines of grace:

1. The Gospel of God
2. The concepts of repentance faith, forgiveness, justification, election and grace
3. The work of the Holy Spirit, especially in regeneration, sanctification and fellowship

In relation to eschatology:

4. The kingdom of God present and future
5. Judgment present and future
6. Consummation of all things in Christ
7. Death, immediate state, resurrection
8. Heaven and hell

b) Be able to:

1. Interpret the Bible theologically
2. Understand the major creeds and confessions and other classical theological statements
3. Trace the interrelationships with the major themes of Christian theology
4. Identify the role of cultural and ecclesial contexts in the task of Christian theology
5. Analyse the relationship between Christian doctrine and individual and corporate Christian life
6. Present an analytical, evidence based argument or reflection

c) Be in a position to:

1. Inform their Christian thinking in both formal and informal study with perspectives about the doctrines of grace and eschatology
2. Show how the doctrines of grace and eschatology are appropriated in personal life and the life of the community
3. Apply the doctrines of grace and eschatology to situations and issues in contemporary church and society

In addition to the above, on completion of this unit **TH603 students** will:

a) Know and understand:

9. Leading theologians and their interpretations of the doctrines of grace and eschatology

b) Be able to:

7. Discuss interpretations and applications of the doctrines of grace and eschatology

c) Be in a position to:

4. Evaluate uses of the doctrines of grace and eschatology

Unit Content

Section A: Doctrines of Grace

1. The Gospel of God;
2. Repentance, faith, forgiveness, justification, election, and grace;
3. The work of the Spirit; regeneration, sanctification and fellowship.

Section B: The Work of Christ

1. The kingdom present and future;
2. Judgement present and future;
3. Consummation of all things in Christ;
4. Death, intermediate state, resurrection;
5. Heaven and hell.

UNIT TIMETABLE

Wk	Date	Topic	For Discussion & Reading (optional)	Pre-reading
1	Feb 18	Salvation: The Plan for the Gospel	"What does it mean to be 'saved'?"	Bird, §§5.1-5.2
2	Feb 25	The Gospel of Salvation	"What is the Gospel?" "What's the Good News? Nine Evangelical Leaders Define the Gospel," <i>Christianity Today</i> 44.2 (2000): 46-51.	Bird, §5.3
3	Mar 4	<i>Ordo Salutis</i> 1: election, calling, regeneration	"Does God predestine people to salvation?"	Bird, §5.3 contd.
4	Mar 11	<i>Ordo Salutis</i> 2: faith, repentance, justification, indwelling, sanctification, glorification	"What is relation of faith to: works, obedience, faithfulness, love, and assurance?" •D. A. Carson, "Reflections on Christian Assurance," in <i>Still Sovereign</i> , 247-76. •D. A. Carson, "The SBJT Forum: Granted that there are spurious conversions in the Bible, what criteria help us to discern that a profession of faith is genuine?" <i>The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology</i> 5, no. 1 (2001): 78-81. •Alan P. Stanley, <i>Salvation is More Complicated Than You Think</i> , 21-58; Or Stanley, <i>Did Jesus Teach Salvation By Works</i> , 116-186.	Bird, §§5.4-5.5
5	Mar 18	Images of Salvation	"Can you lose your salvation?" • Thomas R. Schreiner, <i>Run to Win the Prize</i> (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2009), 24-51.	Bird, §§5.1-5.2
Mission exposure week (21-29 March)				
6	Apr 1	Communion with God, Union with Christ, life in the Spirit.	"What is union with Christ?"	
Easter, study week and holiday week (3-17 April)				
1st essay due April 10				
7	Apr 22	Intro. to Eschatology	"All Christian Theology is a subset of eschatology"	Bird, §§3.1-3.2
8	Apr 29	The Return of Jesus Christ	"Did the Son of Man Return in AD 70?" • Andrew Perriman, <i>The Coming of the Son of Man</i> , 38-73, 224-26. • M. Bird, "Parousia," in <i>Encyclopedia of the Historical Jesus</i> , 439-42.	Bird, §3.3
9	May 6	Tribulation & Millennium	"Will there be a literal millennium?" Seth Turner, "The Interim, Earthly Messianic Kingdom in Paul," <i>JSNT</i> 25.3 (2003): 323-42.	Bird, §3.4
10	May 13	The Intermediate State: What Happens when we die?	"What is Paradise?" Grant Macaskill, "Paradise in the New Testament," in <i>Paradise in Antiquity</i> , M. Bockmuehl and G. Stroumsa (Cambridge: CUP, 2009), 64-81.	Bird, §3.6
11	May 20	The Final Judgment	"What is the Purpose of Divine Judgment?" Stephen H. Travis, <i>Christ and the Judgment of God</i> , 323-27.	Bird, §3.5
12	May 27	The Final State: Heaven and Hell	"Resurrection is life after life after death" N. T. Wright, <i>Surprised by Hope</i> (San Francisco: HarperOne, 2008), 147-64.	Bird, §3.7
13	Jun 3	Spare		
14		Study Week	2nd essay due 17th June Book Report due 10th June	

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR TH403

This applies to students who are enrolled at Bachelor level.

Assessment 1	Item	Essay, 3000 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Write an essay on one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If we are justified by faith, how can we be judged by our works? Discuss this question with reference to the fate of believers at the final judgment. 2. What is the fate of children who die in infancy? 3. Explain the relationship between the Spirit, faith, and obedience. 4. Evaluate and discuss three different contemporary views on election. <p>Due: Fri, 10th April, 5.00 pm</p>
	Weighting	50%
Assessment 2	Item	Essay, 3000 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Write an essay on one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the intermediate state and assess its validity as a doctrine. 2. Discuss the various ways in which theologians, past and present, have understood the 'kingdom.' 3. Most Christians have traditionally believed that the Second Coming refers to Christ returning to earth at the end of history. Evaluate and discuss the Preterist view in light of what has traditionally been held. 4. Concerning the fate of unbelievers, does the Bible teach eternal torment or annihilation. Examine and evaluate the arguments for both. <p>Due: Wed, 17th June, 5.00 pm</p>
	Weighting	50%

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR TH603

This applies to students who are enrolled at Masters level.

Assessment 1	Item	Book review, 2500 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Write an essay on one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline and evaluate Karl Barth's doctrine of election. 2. To what extent does the New Testament legitimate a belief in universalism? 3. Discuss John Calvin's view on the relationship between faith, works, and salvation. 4. Trace the historical development of the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit as understood in Pentecostalism and evaluate its validity as a doctrine. <p>Due: Fri, 10th April, 5.00 pm</p>
	Weighting	40%
Assessment 2	Item	Essay, 3000 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Write an essay on one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What continuity and discontinuity is there between the present age and the new creation? 2. Outline and evaluate Jürgen Moltmann's eschatological approach to theology. 3. Outline and discuss the arguments for and against the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus. 4. Examine and evaluate the various teachings on the kingdom of God in the twentieth century and assess the impact they have had on the church. <p>Due: Wed, 17th June, 5.00 pm</p>
	Weighting	50%
Assessment 3	Item	Book Report, 1500 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Write a book report on one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda B. Colin, <i>Images of Salvation in the New Testament</i> (Downers Grove: IVP, 2010). • Bruce A. Demarest, <i>The Cross and Salvation</i> (Wheaton: Crossway, 2006). • Charles Talbert and Jason A. Whitlark, <i>Getting "Saved": The Whole Story of Salvation in the New Testament</i> (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011). • Alan P. Stanley (ed.), <i>Four Views on the Role of Works at the Final Judgment</i> (Counterpoints; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013). <p>Due: Wed, 10th June, 5.00 pm</p>
	Weighting	10%

LECTURE ATTENDANCE

Please note the [ACT policy](#) (see also BST Student Handbook) on lecture attendance in the *Undergraduate Handbook* and the *Graduate and Postgraduate Handbook*. You are required to attend at least 80% of lectures. This means you can miss a maximum of two lectures. If you know that you will not be at a lecture, please phone or email the lecturer beforehand. If you miss more than two lectures, your enrolment for this unit may be ended.

HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

You should allocate approximately 7 hours outside of class each week to this unit.

LATE SUBMISSION OF WORK

Please note the [ACT Late Penalties Policy](#) (including extensions; see also BST Student Handbook). Failure to submit any individual assignment on time may result in either a late penalty or a zero mark for the assignment.

PASSING THIS UNIT

To pass this unit you must complete and submit each assessment item. You must also attain an overall percentage mark of 50% or more.

PLAGIARISM

Please note the [ACT Academic Misconduct Policy](#) (see also BST student handbook) on plagiarism. This is a serious issue and it is your responsibility both to understand what plagiarism includes and to avoid it completely. If you are found to have plagiarised, there will be serious consequences as specified in the BST student handbook.

Penalties for plagiarism are as follows (from [ACT Academic Misconduct Policy](#)).

First offence:

Students will be subject to academic counselling, with the maximum penalty being to fail the item with no marks awarded. Where deemed appropriate, the minimum penalty available will be that students may be granted an opportunity to resubmit the assessment with a maximum of 50% for the assessment.

Second offence:

Fail unit, with no remedial opportunity.

Third or major offence:

Exclusion from any award of the ACT, or exclusion from the award for up to two years, or other outcome appropriate to the case but with an impact less serious than exclusion.

In the case of severe plagiarism and/or cheating, a student may be subject to a separate disciplinary process approved by the ACT Academic Board. Colleges are required to immediately report to the ACT Director of Academic Services all offences of wilful academic misconduct, for recording on TAMS.

READING MATERIALS

* Books marked with an asterisk are on the Frozen Shelf in the library.

Prescribed text

*Bird, M. F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Other recommended texts

- Beasley-Murray, P. *The Message of the Resurrection: Christ Is Risen! The Bible Speaks Today: Bible Themes Series*. Leicester: IVP, 2000.
- Bird, M. F. *The Saving Righteousness of God: Studies on Paul, Justification and the New Testament*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2007.
- Bloesch, D. G. *The Last Things: Resurrection, Judgment, Glory*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.
- Colijn, B. B. *Images of Salvation in the New Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2010.
- Demarest, B. A. *The Cross and Salvation*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2006.
- Erickson, M. J. *Christian Theology*. 2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Fudge, E., et al. *Two views of Hell*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.
- Horton, M. *Four Views on Eternal Security*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Horton, M. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Milne, B. *The Message of Heaven and Hell: Grace and Destiny*. The Bible Speaks Today: Bible Themes Series. Leicester: IVP, 2002.
- Peterson, D. *Possessed by God: A New Testament Theology of Sanctification and Holiness*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Leicester: Apollos, 1995.
- Perriman, A. *The Coming of the Son of Man*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2006.
- Pinnock, C. H., (ed.). *The Grace of God, the Will of Man: A Case for Arminianism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- Piper, J. *The Future of Justification: A Response to N.T. Wright*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2007.
- Piper, J. *Future Grace*.
- Riddlebarger, K. *The Case for Amillennialism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.
- Schreiner, T. R., & B. A. Ware, (eds.). *Still Sovereign: Contemporary Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge and Grace*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Schreiner, T. R., & A. B. Caneday. *The Race Set Before Us: A Biblical Theology of Perseverance and Assurance*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.
- Stanley, A. P. *Did Jesus Teach Salvation By Works? The Relationship Between Works and Salvation in the Synoptic Gospels*. ETSMS 4, ed. David Baker; Eugene: Pickwick, 2006.
- Stanley, A. P. *Four Views on the Role of Works at the Final Judgment*. Counterpoints. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Talbert, C., & J. A. Whitlark. *Getting "Saved": The Whole Story of Salvation in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Travis, S. H. *Christ and the Judgment of God*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2008.
- Wright, N. T. *New Heavens, New Earth*. Cambridge: CUP, 1999.
- Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Hope*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2008.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Attribute	Emphases of Unit			Comment
	Strong	Moderate	Light	
1) Passionate discipleship	√			This unit aims to bring students into a closer relationship with God by increasing the student's understanding about grace and hope.
2) Sound knowledge of Bible		√		This unit aims to increase the student's understanding of how to use the Bible in theology and the theological interpretation of sacred Scripture.
3) Humility and faithfulness	√			This unit aims to enable the student to comprehend the enormity of salvation, that is, the gracious initiative of God and yet the requirement for perseverance and faithfulness until the end. All these aspects are designed to produce humility and faithfulness.
4) Communicating the Gospel	√			This unit gets to the heart of the gospel and aims to develop within the students a greater ability to communicate clearly the biblical gospel of grace and hope.
5) Commitment to mission		√		This unit should foster a sense of missional urgency for apart from God's grace people remain unsaved and without hope.
6) Commitment to team ministry			√	
7) Basic ministry skills			√	
8) Commitment to lifelong learning	√			The issues surrounding salvation and eschatology are immense. This unit aims to provide direction for future study in these areas, exposure to key authors and theologians, and the range of views on these issues.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

1) They will be passionate disciples of Jesus Christ. Graduates will maintain a vibrant relationship with God, be passionate about following Jesus and walk by the Spirit in every area of life. They will seek to love God above all else and others as themselves in attitudes, words and deeds. They will be imitators of Jesus, obey His Word, deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Jesus wherever He may lead (Mark 8:34).

2) They will have a sound knowledge of the Bible. Graduates will have an in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible. They will be committed to the infallibility and authority of the Bible as God's Word in everything pertaining to salvation and the Christian life (2 Tim 3:14-17). They will do their best to be good teachers of the Bible who correctly explain the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).

3) They will have genuine humility and demonstrate faithfulness in life and ministry. Graduates will live lives of holiness, humility and faithfulness. They will be willing to acknowledge their shortcomings and mistakes, and be open to receive constructive criticism and advice. They will do nothing out of selfish ambition, but in humility will consider others better than themselves (Phil 2:3). They will be prepared to suffer for the sake of Christ, knowing that "we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

4) They will be effective communicators of the Gospel. Graduates will know the Gospel and will be eager and able to communicate the Gospel, especially in word, but also through writing and other media, in ways that are culturally sensitive and intelligible to others. They will have compassionate hearts, listening empathetically to people in their particular contexts. They will be ready to preach the Word at any time with patience and care (2 Tim 4:2), trying to persuade people to believe the Gospel and to become followers of Jesus (2 Cor 5:11).

5) They will have a great commitment to God's mission. Graduates will be aware of the needs and opportunities of local and global mission. They will endeavour to see the coming of God's kingdom in every sphere of life, strive for justice for the poor and work towards community transformation. They will be passionately committed to and will be active in working towards the fulfilment of the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20).

6) They will be committed to team ministry and servant leadership. Graduates will be committed to the local church as the family of God and as their context for ministry and base for mission (Heb 10:24-25). They will work enthusiastically and cooperatively with others in ministry teams. They will be open to Christians across various evangelical denominations and churches (Luke 9:49-50). As leaders they will be disciple-makers, following the Lord Jesus in serving, leading by example, and training and mentoring other leaders (Mark 10:43-45).

7) They will be competent in basic ministry skills. Graduates will be competent in basic ministry skills, including preaching, teaching, leading and caring for people. They will use their gifts to implement constructive change in the church and community (1 Tim 4:6-16). They will be culturally attuned and flexible in dealing with a range of issues (1 Cor 9:19-23). They will embrace accountability and maintain professional standards in various contexts. They will be "salt and light" in the world (Matt 5:13-14) and be able to "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph 4:12).

8) They will be committed to lifelong learning and personal growth. Graduates will be proactive in expanding their knowledge and abilities. They will be open to new challenges, be willing to face unfamiliar problems and accept wider responsibilities. They will continue to grow in faith, knowledge and maturity, "forgetting what is behind and pressing ... toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14).

