



TH402/602
THE DOCTRINE OF GOD
AND THE WORK OF CHRIST
Semester 2, 2016

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.

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UNIT

Description	The course aims to explore the depths of the nature of God especially as he has been revealed in Jesus Christ. We will think about things like pre-existence, incarnation, and the atonement; why it is that the New Testament does not appear to go out of its way to affirm Jesus' deity, and yet why it is that we can know without a doubt that Jesus is in fact God in the flesh. We will also look at controversial issues such as the extent of the atonement (did Jesus die for everyone or just the elect?). Does Christ have one nature or two? We will also look at the person and work of the Holy Spirit and God as Trinity.		
Teaching staff	Lecturer	Dr Alan Stanley <i>BAgr, DipAgSci, ThM, PhD</i>	
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Additional information	Credit points	4	
	Co/pre-requisites		
	No. of teaching weeks	13 weeks	
Assessment Summary	TH402		
	Item	Details/Due Date	Weighting
	Short Essay	1,000 words Due: September 1	30%
	Quizzes	Due: July 29, Aug 12, 26, Sep 16, Oct 7, 14	20%
	Major Essay	3,500 words Due: October 28	50%
	TH602		
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	Major Essay	3,500 words Due: October 28	50%

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND UNIT CONTENT

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the unit, students will:

A. Know and Understand:

In relation to the Christian doctrine of God

1. The being and attributes of God
2. The person of Christ
3. The Holy Spirit
4. The Holy Trinity

In relation to the work of Christ

5. His incarnation and ministry
6. The death and resurrection of Jesus
7. His ascension and session
8. Leading theologians and their interpretations of the doctrine of God and the work of Christ (TH602 only)

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
7. Discuss interpretations and applications of the doctrine of God and the work of Christ (TH602 only)

C. Be in a position to:

1. Inform their Christian thinking in both formal and informal study with perspectives about the doctrine of God and the work of Christ
2. Show how knowledge of the doctrines of God and the work of Christ is appropriated in personal life and the life of the community
3. Apply the doctrines of God and the work of Christ to situations and issues in contemporary church and society
4. Evaluate uses of the doctrine of God and the work of Christ (TH602 only)

Content

Section A: The Christian Doctrine of God

The being and attributes of God
 The Person of Christ, his humanity, his deity
 The Holy Spirit
 The Holy Trinity

Section B: The Work of Christ

His incarnation and ministry
 The death and resurrection
 His ascension and session

UNIT TIMETABLE

Wk	Date	Lecture Topics	Reading
1	July 15	The Being and Attributes of God	
2	July 22	The Being and Attributes of God contd.	§2.3 (pp. 126-139)
3	July 29	The Person of Christ: Pre-existence Quiz on Bird §§2.3, 4.7-4.7.1	§§4.7-4.7.1 (pp. 460-468)
4	Aug 5	The Person of Christ: Humanity & Deity	§4.7.2 (pp. 468-476)
5	Aug 12	The Person of Christ: Humanity & Deity contd. Quiz on Bird §§4.7.2-4.7.3	§4.7.3 (pp. 476-485)
6	Aug 19	Christological Issues Today	§4.2 (pp. 346-356)
7	Aug 26	The Person of the Holy Spirit	§§6.1-6.2 (pp. 609-620)
8	Sept 2	The Work of the Holy Spirit Quiz on Bird §§4.2, 6.1-6.3 1,000 Word Essay Due Sep 1, 5pm	§6.3 (pp. 621-648)
9	Sept 9	God as Trinity	§2.2 (pp. 92-125)
10	Sept 16	Introduction to the Work of Christ His Incarnation and Ministry Quiz on Bird §§2.2, 4.1, 4.3	§§4.1, 4.3 (pp. 341-345, 357-384)
MID-SEMESTER BREAK (Sept 22-Oct 3)			
11	Oct 7	The Death of Christ The Atonement (Theories / Extent) Quiz on Bird §4.4	§4.4 (pp. 385-434)
12	Oct 14	The Resurrection of Christ	§4.5 (pp. 435-448)
13	Oct 21	The Ascension and Session of Christ Quiz on Bird §§4.5-4.6	§4.6 (pp. 449-459)
	Oct 24-28	STUDY WEEK *Major Essay Due Oct 28, 5pm	
	Oct 31- Nov 4	EXAM WEEK	

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR TH402

Assessment 1	Item	Essay: 1,000 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Address one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discuss the significance of the third quest for the historical Jesus. b) To what extent are the Gospels written to defend the deity of Christ? c) Assess the arguments against the preexistence of Christ. d) Explain the process by which the Spirit transforms believers. <p style="text-align: center;">Due: Thursday, September 1, 5.00 pm</p>
	Weighting	30%
Assessment 2	Item	Fortnightly Quizzes
	Details/Due Date	<p>The quizzes are based on the textbook and are open book. Each quiz is made up of 10 multiple-choice questions and is to be completed within 20 minutes. They are to be completed on Moodle before the class due date. There are six quizzes but only five will contribute to the final mark. The lowest will not count.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Due: July 29, Aug 12, 26, Sep 16, Oct 7, 21</p>
	Weighting	20%
Assessment 3	Item	Essay: 3,500 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Write an essay on one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What kind of knowledge does God have of the future? In approximately 700 words discuss the implications for Christians in Australia today. 2. How is it possible to reconcile monotheism with a Trinitarian God? In approximately 700 words discuss why this is an important topic for Christians in Australia to consider today. 3. Explain, discuss and evaluate modalism. In approximately 500 words, discuss lessons we learn in the church from this ancient heresy. 4. Explain and assess the differences between limited and unlimited atonement. In approximately 700 words evaluate the relevance of the debate for the church in Australia today. <p style="text-align: center;">Due: Friday, October 28, 5.00pm</p>
	Weighting	50%

ASSESSMENT OUTLINE FOR TH602

Assessment 1	Item	Essay: 1,500 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Address one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assess the value of the quest for the historical Jesus. b) The New Testament does not emphasize one model of the atonement. Do you agree or disagree? Support your answer. c) What theological issues were at stake in the debate between the church in the East and West over the filioque clause? Is the debate relevant for the church today? d) Discuss the significance of Jesus' 'session' for the writers of the New Testament. Explain its relevance for Christians today. <p>Due: Thursday, September 1, 5.00 pm</p>
	Weighting	30%
Assessment 2	Item	Fortnightly Quizzes
	Details/Due Date	<p>The quizzes are based on the textbook and are open book. Each quiz is made up of 15 multiple-choice questions and is to be completed within 25 minutes. They are to be completed on Moodle before the class due date. There are six quizzes but only five will contribute to the final mark. The lowest will not count.</p> <p>Due: July 29, Aug 12, 26, Sep 16, Oct 7, 21</p>
	Weighting	20%
Assessment 3	Item	Essay: 3,500 words
	Details/Due Date	<p>Write an essay on one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the relationship between election and Christology in the theology of Karl Barth. 2. Discuss and evaluate the "kenosis" theory as an explanation of the incarnation. In approximately 700 words discuss the significance of this discussion for the Australian church today. 3. Discuss and evaluate Arianism. In approximately 700 words discuss the significance of this ancient heresy for the Australian church today. 4. Discuss and evaluate Wolfhart Pannenberg's view of the Holy Spirit and in approximately 700 words discuss its significance for the Australian church today. <p>Due: Friday, October 28, 5.00pm</p>
	Weighting	50%

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

Textbook for this unit:

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

Other useful systematic theology books include:

M. J. Erickson, *Christian Theology* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998).
 W. Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1994).
 S. Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God* (Exeter: Paternoster, 2000).
 M. Horton, *The Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011).
 A. McGrath, *Christian Theology* (London: Blackwell, 2001).
 J. R. Williams, *Renewal Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996).

Recommended for this course:

Aulen, G., A G Herbert, trans., *Christus Victor: A Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Idea of the Atonement* (London: SPCK 1965; reprint of 1931 ed.).
 Bloesch, D., *God the Almighty* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2005).
 Bloesch, D., *Jesus Christ: Savior and Lord* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2005).
 Boersma, H., *Violence, Hospitality and the Cross: Reappropriating the Atonement Tradition* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004).
 Cole, G., *He Who Gives Life: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2007).
 Cole, G., *God the Peacemaker* (NSBT; Downers Grove: IVP, 2009).
 Crisp, O., *Divinity and Humanity: The Incarnation Reconsidered* (Cambridge: CUP 2007).
 Eddy, P. and J. Beilby (eds.), *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2006).
 Erickson, M. J., *God the Father Almighty* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006).
 Ford, D. F. and M. Higon (eds), *Jesus* (Oxford; New York: OUP, 2002).
 George, T., *God the Holy Trinity* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006).
 Grenz, S. J., *Rediscovering the Triune God: The Trinity in Contemporary Theology* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2004).
 Gunton, C. E., *Act and Being: Towards a Theology of the Divine Attributes* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003).
 Gunton, C. E., *Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Toward a Fully Trinitarian Theology* (London/New York: T. and T. Clark, 2003).
 Gunton, C. (ed.), *The Theology of Reconciliation: Essays in Biblical and Systematic Theology* (London/New York: T. & T. Clark, 2003).
 Hill, C. E., and F. A. James (eds), *The Glory of the Atonement: Biblical, Theological and Practical Perspectives* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2004).
 Holmes, S., *The Wondrous Cross* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2007).
 Johnston, E. A., *She Who Is* (New York: Crossroad, 2002).
 Karkkainen, V.-M., *Christology. A Global Introduction* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003).
 Letham, R., *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship* (Phillipsburg NJ: P & R, 2004).
 Torrance, T. F., *The Christian Doctrine of God: One Being, Three Persons* (Edinburgh/New York: T & T Clark, 1996, Paperback ed. 2001).
 Marshall, I. H., *Aspects of the Atonement: Cross and Resurrection in the Reconciliation of Humanity* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2008).
 McKnight, S., *Community Called Atonement* (Nashville: Abingdon: 2007).
 Moltmann, J., *The Crucified God* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993).
 Moltmann, J., *The Trinity and the Kingdom of God* (London: SCM, 1981).
 Mattes, M. C., *The Role of Justification in Contemporary Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).
 Peterson, D. (ed.), *Where Wrath and Mercy Meet*, (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2001).
 Sherman, R. J., *King, Priest and Prophet: A Trinitarian Theology of Atonement* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 2004).
 Stott, J., *The Cross of Christ* (Leicester UK/Downers Grove IL: IVP, 20th Anniversary edition, 2007).

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

How this unit contributes to the College's Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Emphases of Unit			Comment (elaborate in terms of teaching and assessment)
	Strong	Mod	Light	
1) Passionate discipleship		√		Our tour of Greece and Turkey will take us to many historic sites where the early church began and grew.
2) Sound knowledge of the Bible	√			Theoretical knowledge is no substitute for personal experience. Our personal experience of places where the early Christians lived will add much to our biblical knowledge, understanding and memory.
3) Humility and faithfulness		√		We will have many opportunities to learn humility and faithfulness, through: the privilege of visiting Greece and Turkey; sensing the greatness of God's work throughout history; being reminded of biblical people; the people we meet; our interactions with each other.
4) Communicating the Gospel		√		Our experience of Greece and Turkey, both ancient and modern, will challenge us about knowing the gospel and how to communicate it today to people in different contexts.
5) Commitment to mission		√		We will be challenged about the fulfilment of God's purpose in Christ and the command to proclaim the Good News about Jesus. We will see the present unbelief of people's in these lands. We will also be reminded about God's desire to save and the success of the Gospel as we consider the book of Acts.
6) Commitment to team ministry		√		As we recall Paul's missionary journeys we will be challenged about team ministry. Through travelling together we will also learn how to work together as a team.
7) Basic ministry skills			√	While this will not be a focus of the unit, the experience of travelling together, reading, studying, reflecting and writing will enhance some basic ministry skills.
8) Commitment to lifelong learning	√			The rich experience of visiting Greece and Turkey will stir our desire to continue learning and growing.

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).

*Brisbane School of Theology is an operating name of Bible College of Queensland.
We are an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology, our ABN no. is 55009670160 and the ACT CRICOS no. is 02650E.*

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