

#314 Theology 4: The Church and Eschatology
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2005-2006

COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

This course is designed to cover the important doctrines dealing with the church—its character, make-up, officers, duties, and sacraments—and with the last days, including what is called personal eschatology (what happens at death and beyond) and general eschatology (what will transpire at the end of this age). On many of these doctrines all orthodox Christians agree, while with others there is widespread controversy. The class will seek to distinguish not only the biblical position in each area of doctrine, but also the degree of certainty and primacy the Scriptures give to each doctrine.

Contact with the professor

Please feel free to contact the professor (Dr. Battle in this case) anytime you have a question about the course material. Office phone: 253-272-0417; toll-free 877-977-2255 (877-WRS-CALL). Home phone: 253-759-3840. Cell phone: 253-720-7586. Email: battle@wrs.edu.

You will need to obtain a PalTalk account so that you can communicate directly with the professor, using text, voice, and video. Distance classes with several students at once can be held using PalTalk. You will have best results using a broadband internet connection. The program and service are free; upgraded service is provided for a modest fee. Obtain the program through this website: <http://www.paltalk.com/PalTalkSite/>. All professors in the seminary teaching PMP classes use this form of communication, and may set up appointments with you as desired.

Course notes and study questions

The course notes are provided on the seminary website (http://www.wrs.edu/courses/theology_4.htm). Please print these out. You should work through the notes during the year, in consultation with the professor and your pastoral mentor. The study questions provided will be used as the basis for your midterm and final examinations. Be especially careful to understand the answers you will give for the various study questions. These questions are in the order of the notes.

Examinations

There will be two exams during the year. These exams will cover the lecture material, and will be selected from the study questions provided. The midterm examination will cover Questions #1-28, and the final examination #29-59.

Reading assignments

Assignment #1 (due by time of Midterm Examination)

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 3, ch. 25; Book 4, ch. 1-19

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Part 3, ch. 20

A. A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith*, ch. 25-31

Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*

John Murray, *Christian Baptism*

Assignment #2 (due by time of Final Examination)

C. Hodge, Part 4, ch. 1-4

A. A. Hodge, ch. 32-33

James Oliver Buswell, Jr., *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*, Part 4, ch. 1, 4-7

Robert G. Clouse, ed., *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views*

Gleason L. Archer, Jr., Paul D. Feinberg, Douglas J. Moo, Richard R. Reiter, *The Rapture: Pre-, Mid-, or Post-Tribulational?*

Grading

The required reading will count 40% of the total grade, and the midterm and final examinations each will count 30%.