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The Midwest Center for Theological Studies

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## Law and Gospel in the Pastoral Ministry

### Course Description

This course is entitled “Law and Gospel in the Pastoral Ministry.” The reformation and Puritan theology of the Law and the Gospel will be the starting point for explanation and study. Polemic defenses of this view will be reserved for required and supplementary reading. This theology will be applied to various issues in the pastoral ministry, including: preaching, counseling, church unity and mission, church discipline, Christian freedom and Christian liberty, guidance, pastoral cases, and marriage and family life. The theology and application of the Law and Gospel theology to pastoral ministry is an essential study for a biblical pastoral ministry.

### Educational Objectives

By means of the course lectures, required reading, class discussion, and a final exam, the student will be able to understand, identify, and use the major principles of Law and Gospel theology as a foundation to a biblical pastoral ministry.

### Required Reading

All of the assigned reading will come from six required textbooks. The student is required to read thoroughly these works and to submit Reaction Book Reviews for each text. Supplementary texts and additional internet downloads are supplemental to the required readings. The student is simply to complete the assigned readings in the order specified. The six textbooks and supplementary readings are:

*Required reading for Book Reviews:*

1. Samuel Bolton. *The True Bounds of Christian Freedom* (London: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1964).
2. Charles Bridges. *The Christian Ministry* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust). The student will read and review the following portions: pp. 222-283, 361-383.
3. Stephen Tyng. *Lectures on the Law and the Gospel* (Vestavia Hills, Alabama: Solid Ground Christian Books).
4. Richard Barcellos. *In Defense of the Decalogue* (Enumclaw, Washington: WinePress Publishing, 2001).
5. Ernest Kevan. *The Grace of Law* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976)

6. Ernest Reisinger. *The Law and the Gospel* (Philipsburg, Pennsylvania: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1997).

*Supplemental Reading:*

7. Wayne Strickland, Editor. *Five Views of the Law and the Gospel* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996).

8. John Murray. *Principles of Conduct* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1981).

9. E. F. *The Marrow of Modern Divinity* (search online for a copy).

10. Patrick Fairbairn. *The Revelation of Law in Scripture* (Winona Lake, Indiana: Alpha Publications, 1979).

11. Second London Baptist Confession of 1689 (Read Samuel Waldron's *Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith* in correspondence to relevant portions of the Confession)

### Course Requirements for Credit

Because of the compressed time factor in this one-week module, the required work for the student will consist of 6 detailed book reviews and a final exam based upon the lectures, to be taken no later than one month following the week of lectures. The book reviews will be **Reaction Papers** consisting of 3 pages each, typewritten and single-spaced. They will include: (1) a two-page summary of the book and (2) a one-page application of its teachings to the thinking and life of the student. They must be **completed prior to taking the final exam and sent to Dr. Malone by email or snail mail**. Once the book reviews are received, Dr. Malone will send the final exam to the student. This final exam must be monitored by another non-related person or pastor and will be graded by Dr. Malone. It will be sent to him by email or snail mail. However, It is expected that the student will read the following 3 works **prior to or during the week of lectures**: (1) assigned portions of Charles Bridges, (2) Samuel Bolton in its entirety, and (3) Stephen Tyng's book.

### Grading Plan

The course grade will be based on the 6 book reviews and the final exam. Each book review will count 10 points of the final grade. The final exam will contain 20 questions (at least one taken from each of the lectures)—each worth two points for another 40 points for the final grade. A bonus question will be attached to the final exam, worth an extra 5 points. Thus, there will be a total of 105 points (five of which are extra credit) for the course and the student will be graded on the following plan.

### Academic Performance

No student will be deemed to have successfully completed the work for credit in any course who does not achieve a cumulative grade of 75 or above for his course work. No individual book review or final exam will be accepted which does not achieve a score of 71 or above. The letter equivalents for the percentile grades assigned are as follows:

A - 96-100	B-- 81-84
A- - 91-95	C+ -- 78-80
B+ - 88-90	C -- 75-77
B - 85-87	C- -- 71-74

### **Times and Places of Class Meetings:**

The lectures will be held in the MCTS classroom at the times and dates specified in the module brochure .

### **General Outline of Lectures**

Part One - The Theology of Law and Gospel for the Pastoral Ministry

Part Two - The Application of Law and Gospel Theology in the Pastoral Ministry

### **Schedule of Lectures (Roman numerals indicate lecture numbers on the major Parts)**

#### ***Part One - The Theology of Law and Gospel for the Pastoral Ministry***

1. *Introduction*
2. *Definition of Terms*
3. *The Law in Law-Gospel Theology (I)*
4. *The Law in Law-Gospel Theology (II)*
5. *The Law in Law-Gospel Theology (III)*
6. *The Gospel in Law-Gospel Theology (I)*
7. *The Gospel in Law-Gospel Theology (II)*
8. *The Gospel in Law-Gospel Theology (III)*

#### ***Part Two -The Application of Law and Gospel Theology in the Pastoral Ministry***

9. *Preaching*
10. *Counseling, Church Unity and Mission*
11. *Church Discipline, Christian Freedom and Christian Liberty*
12. *Christian Guidance*
13. *Cases of Pastoral Application (I)*
14. *Cases of Pastoral Application (II)*
15. *Cases of Pastoral Application (III)*
16. *Cases of Pastoral Application (IV)*
17. *Marriage and Family Life*

*All lectures will be delivered by Dr.Malone.*

