



COVENANT BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
— + —
INFORMED SCHOLARSHIP • PASTORAL HEART

HT50 • Life and Theology of Geerhardus Vos

Dr. Lane Tipton & Danny Olinger

2 Credit Hours

Course Description

As part of CBTS's mission to prepare men to undertake the *full* range of pastoral responsibilities and to equip Christian men and women for effective service in the church, this course seeks to advance the student's understanding and practice of the discipline of Reformed Biblical Theology as put forth in the writings of Geerhardus Vos and in accord with the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms.

Educational Objectives

1. The student will engage Vos's understanding that the Bible is a historical record, divinely inspired and infallible that culminates in the self-disclosure of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God. As such, the circle of revelation is not a school, but a covenant that comes to expression in history in and through God for his sovereignly determined ends. Special emphasis will also be placed on the Reformed belief that eschatology precedes soteriology.
2. To learn important lessons about biblical interpretation and application from a trusted and faithful historical figure. Learn from the example of a faithful theologian in the midst doctrinal drift and theological controversy.
3. To grow in love and appreciation for our Triune God of the Scriptures in the wisdom He displays through study of the life and theology of a faithful theologian and churchman.

Required Texts:

Olinger, Danny E. *Geerhardus Vos: Reformed Biblical Theologian, Confessional Presbyterian* (Reformed Forum, 2018), 3–26, 47–110, 215–279.

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology* (Banner of Truth, 2014), 3–44.

_____. "Christian Faith and the Truthfulness of Bible History," in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos*, edited by Richard B. Gaffin Jr., (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1980), 458–471.

_____. "The Doctrine of the Covenant in Reformed Theology," in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, 234–267.

_____. “The Eschatological Aspect of the Pauline Conception of the Spirit,” in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, 91–125.

_____. “Hebrews, the Epistle of the Diatheke,” in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, 161–234.

_____. *Pauline Eschatology* (P&R, 1986), 1–71.

_____. “The Priesthood of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews,” in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, 126–161.

_____. *Reformed Dogmatics: Volume 2: Anthropology*. Edited and translated by Richard B. Gaffin Jr., (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013), 1–75.

_____. *Reformed Dogmatics: Volume 3: Christology*. Edited and translated by Richard B. Gaffin Jr., (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013), 1–84.

_____. Review of Bavinck, ““*Gereformeerde Dogmatiek—Vol. Two*,” in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, 485–493.

_____. “The Scriptural Doctrine of the Love of God,” in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*, 425–457.

CBTS students are expected to read (not skim) all required reading assignments in order to receive credit for a class.

Course Requirements

1. **Lecture/Reading Completion:** At the end of the course students will take a “quiz” on CBTS Pathway stating that they have completed viewing all the lectures and completed all the assigned reading.
2. **Book Review:** Each student will write a 4-to-5-page critical book review of Olinger according to CBTS Book Review Style guide. Include practical lessons from the life of a faithful theologian in the midst of doctrinal drift and theological controversy.
3. **Term Paper:** Each student will write a 10-to-12-page paper on Vos’s view of Reformed Biblical Theology. Student will select one of the facets of Vos’s Biblical Theology presented in the course and a description and explanation of its importance and relevance to ministry. The paper must conform to the latest version of the CBTS Style Sheet.

Grading Plan

Grades will be calculated according to the following breakdown: (example below)

20% Reading Completion

35% Book Review

45% Term Paper

Academic Performance

No student will be deemed to have successfully completed the work in any course who does not achieve a cumulative grade of 75% or above for his course work. The letter equivalents for the percentile grades assigned are as follows:

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

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable because it is a form of theft and dishonesty. While the use of AI does not technically fall within the realm of plagiarism, its misuse can be equivalent to dishonesty and deception. Therefore, under no circumstances may AI software be used to directly generate any part of the student's paper or essay. For more specific guidance on how to avoid plagiarism and on the use of AI in research, see [the Student Handbook](#).