

Unit Outline



QTC



TH403/603 Doctrines of Grace and Eschatology

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Doctrines of Grace and Eschatology**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

UNIT OUTLINE **SEMESTER 1 2016**

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.actheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Academic Misconduct**". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays.**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

Information about this unit

Unit description

The unit *Doctrines of God & Christ* is designed to introduce students to those doctrines which deal with how the Christian God acts to place sinners back in relationship with himself, and how he continues to act in them such that they live out being members of his family, who ultimately will “enjoy him forever.” This involves examination of such issues as justification, grace, the law, faith, repentance, assurance, union with Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit, and sanctification. Associated questions relating to the end of the age and God’s plans for his Creation as well as his people are also considered at the end of the course. This unit will consider these fundamental Christian teachings as they are presented in the Scriptures of the Old & New Testaments, and in light of debates and insights past and present.

Learning objectives

TH403 Learning Outcomes

On completion of the unit, students will:

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

For this unit, 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 And
6. Present an analytical, evidence based argument or reflection’

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

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On completion of the unit, students will:

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

For this unit, 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 and
6. Present an analytical, evidence based argument or reflection
7. Discuss interpretations and applications of the doctrines of grace and eschatology

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
4. Evaluate uses of the doctrines of grace and eschatology

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

The TH units in the ACT courses are designed to sum up biblical teaching in key areas and integrate your understanding of the content of the biblical texts taken as a whole with the insights of historical and contemporary theology on the matters in question.

It is intended that this unit will assist students to better grasp the gospel of grace and the related work of the Spirit in their own lives and that of others. It also seeks to deepen students' understanding of the Lord's eschatological working through history to consummate all things in Christ, of the Christian hope, and of the Lord's plans as revealed in Scripture for the "last things." This unit aims to help integrate the findings of units in biblical studies and provide a foundation for ministry practices developed in the practical theology units.

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

TH403 is an advanced-level (400-level) core unit in the Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry and Associate Degree of Theology (includes WordWorks).

TH603 is an advanced-level core unit in the Master of Divinity & Graduate Diploma of Divinity. TH403/603 has the following ACT pre-requisites for all students except those enrolled in the Graduate Diploma:

- at least two of OT301/501, OT302/502, NT301/501, NT302/502;

AND

- at least one foundation-level Christian Thought unit (CH305/505 is the unit you would usually need to have taken at QTC to meet this requirement).

Normally at QTC, you will only be permitted to take TH403/603 once you have entered the second full-time year of your course (or part-time equivalent). GradDipDiv students are exempt from normal ACT prerequisite requirements, but at QTC will only be permitted to enrol in this unit provided they have already completed at least 16 cps with a Credit average or better, and with the permission of the unit lecturer.

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

The unit is taught week by week over 13 weeks of Semester. There are three classes each week, of 50 minutes duration. Some of these classes will be in traditional lecture format, others will be variously seminar-type discussions involving the whole group, small group discussions, or in-class student exercises.

This unit is worth 4 credit points towards your degree. At Bachelor level, a 4 cp unit is considered to require a total time commitment of 6-8 hrs per week, and 7-9 hours at MDiv level. Please speak with the lecturer as a matter of urgency if you are finding that you need to consistently spend more time than this on TH403/603.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete any set pre reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date. Please do be in touch as soon as you can if you anticipate having any difficulties with your assessments or with meeting the due date.

Note: Assignments submitted late and without an extension granted will incur late penalties (please refer to student handbook). Full attendance at lectures is required for all units in the ACT; repeated absences without reason and permission may result in application of the ACT's policy that your final assessment for this unit will not be marked, resulting in failure of this unit.

Teaching staff

LECTURER

Mark Baddeley

E: mbaddeley@qtc.edu.au

P: 07 3149 3658

Feel free to contact me with any questions during the Semester. We can discuss brief questions after class or at morning tea or lunchtime. If a longer time is required, please contact me by email to set up a time to talk.

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

In the case of this unit, we will cover the following topics over the course of the Semester, typically looking at them biblically, then in terms of how they have been understood historically, contemporary issues / challenges within the Christian and theological world, and in some cases also from the standpoint of apologetics. Attention will also be given to how these teachings can be related and communicated in the context of ministry.

- God's gospel of Grace
- The *ordo salutis* ("order of salvation") & the structure & character of God's salvation
- Election, grace, repentance, faith, forgiveness, justification, reconciliation
- The work of the Spirit: regeneration, sanctification, and fellowship
- The Kingdom of God, present and future
- Judgement, present and future
- Consummation of all things in Christ
- Death, the intermediate state, the resurrection
- Heaven and Hell
- Issues in theological method and the practice of Christian doctrine – from time to time, we will step sideways from the above topics to spend a lecture or two looking at issues that arise as modern Christians "do doctrine."

WEEK	TOPIC
Week 1	Introduction, Grace and Demand,
Week 2	Order of the Decrees, Election and Predestination
Week 3	Law, Faith
Week 4	Repentance, Justification
Preaching Conference Week	
Week 5	Repentance, Justification continued
Week 6	Other status changes such as adoption and sanctification
Easter Holidays	
Week 7	Union with Christ, work of the Holy Spirit
Week 8	Sanctification as process
Week 9	Eschatology – it's nature and purpose, Intermediate State
Week 10	Resurrection of the Body
Week 11	Return of Christ and Millennium
Week 12	Final Judgement, New Creation
Week 13	Hell and Final State

TH403 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENTS	DESCRIPTION
<p>3000 word Essay</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biblical doctrine of predestination? What are its implications for our understanding of the Christian life? 2. Critically evaluate the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone in conversation with at least one alternative understanding of justification. 3. What is the role of union with Christ in the Christian life? 4. What is the relationship between the work of the Holy Spirit and a person's coming to faith, and growth in faith? 5. What is sanctification? Is it positional or transformational? 6. What is the role of the promise of the resurrection of the body in the Christian hope? 7. "After death comes judgment" What is that judgment? How should its punishment be understood?
<p>Take-Home Exam</p> <p>2250 words</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<p>Three compulsory questions, 750 words each (2250 words total). These questions to be answered will be on topics covered in the unit other than those set for the essay. Students will receive the exam questions one week before the due date.</p>

TH603 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENTS	DESCRIPTION
<p>3000 word Essay</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to say that Christ is the mirror of our election? How significant is this for assurance? 2. Explain the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone and critically engage with one or two challenges coming from the New Perspective. 3. What is the nature of the believer's union with Christ? What is its significance of the believer's union with Christ for the Christian life? 4. "In the same way that the atonement is particularly connected to the second person of the Trinity, the Christian life is particularly connected to the third." What is the relationship between the work of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation? 5. To what degree does Christian maturity involve striving to put on a new way of life, and to what degree does it involve putting sin to death? Is it possible to do one without the other? What is the relationship between these two dimensions? 6. What is the relationship between the promise of a resurrection body and the promise of a new creation? 7. What is 'Hell'? Explain and defend your understanding of the biblical teaching on Hell, interacting with a range of historical and contemporary perspectives.
<p>Take-Home Exam</p> <p>3000 words</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<p>Three compulsory questions, 1000 words each (3000 words total). These questions to be answered will be on topics covered in the unit other than those set for the essay. Students will receive the exam questions one week before the due date</p>

Guide to Assessments

In this unit we are looking for both the research essay and the take home exam essays to offer a *sustained persuasive argument*. This involves several factors.

First, it requires you to have *articulated a clear answer to the question*—preferably one that you have written out in a sentence or two before you begin writing the essay. This answer should be clearly stated in the essay—often in the introduction, but certainly in the conclusion. Stronger essays are ones whose answers demonstrate one or more of: grasping the essence of the issues, offering something comprehensive, demonstrating a deeper understanding of the issues rather than one that, while accurate, is at a more introductory level, and showing an understanding of the implications of the answer.

Second, it requires you to *offer evidence* for your answer. There should be information in the essay that is relevant to the question and which supports your answer. Some essays may also want to discuss evidence that could be used to reject your answer and show why it doesn't actually do that when understood correctly.

Third, it requires you to *show how* the evidence you include actually does support your answer. A common mistake students make is to include information—quotes, Scriptural passages or the like—and do nothing with them but to have them in the essay as though their significance for their answer is self-evident. It almost never is to the reader (however much it might be to the writer) without explicit commentary that takes the reader by the hand and explains how that information helps supports the case they are making.

Fourth, it requires you to try and *persuade your reader that your answer is the correct one*. Good doctrine essays don't treat the exercise as a case of 'show and tell'—where the idea is simply to get all the ideas and information out and the order in which they come doesn't matter. Instead, the writer thinks about how to organize their material so as to build a case for their answer in the most persuasive fashion they can.

Finally, it requires you to engage with both Scripture and scholars and theologians. Ideally there should be signs that your answer is the way it is because you are convinced that that is what Scripture teaches. It should also be evident that you standing on the shoulders of others—modern scholars, and theologians modern and ancient, to help you read Scripture and think through the issues better than you could do on your own.

Learning Resources

Textbooks

There is no one (or two) particular works that I think cover the material of the unit so well and so comprehensively that it would justify me requiring you to buy it/them. There are a number of very good works available that are worth having on your shelf and using alongside others, and some of these are listed below.

In terms of where to spend your money, I think that when it comes to the doctrines of grace in particular, you can't go past the Reformers... and for systematic theologies, you can't go past Calvin's *Institutes*: Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1559 edition (2 vols, ed. McNeill; trans. Battles), WJK, 1960. The most significant Protestant systematic theology ever written, it is still very helpful to consult, and you should all own a copy for the long term as well as for your studies at college.

Students should also own and refer to at least a couple of well-established quality Protestant expositions of Christian doctrine during the course which have been written in the past thirty years. Several such systematic theologies are listed below; some of these I personally agree with more than others, however they all have contributed substantially from a Protestant perspective.

Other Key Reference Texts

There exists a very large number of recent works on the doctrines covered in this unit. One of the aims of this advanced unit is to help you to discover and evaluate these for yourself, as more material continues to be published over the coming decades. I have therefore listed below reference works and general systematic theologies as well as some entry-points to historical theology, that will help to introduce you to the issues and to identify and navigate your way through other materials, rather than listing specialist works that multiply and date rapidly – I've just listed a few key books in the area. See also the unit bibliography in the ACT Handbook. I will mention and discuss various particular authors and works as we move through the unit, and will also comment on "buying strategies" that different kinds of students might like to think about in relation to some of the works listed below.

1. Systematic Theologies

Bavinck, H., *Reformed Dogmatics*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Erickson, M., *Christian Theology*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Frame, J., *The Doctrine of God. A Theology of Lordship Series, vol 2*. NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2002; vol. 3 in this series also has some material of relevance to this unit.

Frame, J., *Salvation Belongs to the Lord*. NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2002.

Grudem, W., *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Horton, M.S., *Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims Along the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Reymond, R., *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. 2nd edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.

2. Reference Works & Introductions to Historical & Systematic Theology

- Allison, G. R., *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Bromiley, G.W., *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. London: T&T Clark, 2000.
- Cross, F.L. & Livingstone E.A., eds. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Douglas, J.D. & Cairns, E.E., eds. *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Elwell, W.E., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Flint, T. & Rea, M., eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Theology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Gibson, D. & Strange, D., eds. *Engaging with Barth*. London: T&T Clark, 2009.
- Hart, T.A., ed. *The Dictionary of Historical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Paternoster/Eerdmans, 2000.
- Hastings, A., Mason, A., & Pyper, H., eds. *The Oxford Companion to Christian Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Hawthorne, G., Martin, R. & Reid, D., eds. *The Dictionary of Paul & His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1993. See also other volumes in The IVP Bible Dictionary Series for articles which overview how parts of the biblical deposit present various doctrinal themes, and of relevant scholarship.
- Helm, P., *John Calvin's Ideas*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Kelly, J.N.D., *Early Christian Doctrines*. 5th ed. London: Continuum International, 1977.
- Marshall, I.H. et. al., *New Bible Dictionary*. 3rd edition. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
- McGrath, A.E., *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th edition. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- McGrath, A.E., *Historical Theology*. Malden: Blackwell, 1998.
- McGuckin, A., *The Westminster Handbook to Patristic Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004. See also other handbooks in this reference series that relate to other periods / theologians you need an entry to get you started on in terms of your reading.
- McKim, D., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Martin Luther*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- McKim, D., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to John Calvin*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- Rosner, B., et.al. eds. *The New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2000.
- Stump, E. & Kretzmann, N., eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Stump, E. & Kretzmann, N., eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Webster, J., *The Cambridge Companion to Karl Barth*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,

2000.

Webster, J., Tanner, K., & Torrance, I., *The Oxford Companion to Systematic Theology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

3. Doctrines of Grace – Starting Points

Ferguson, S., *The Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

Hoekema, A., *Saved by Grace*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Husbands, M. & Treier, D.J., *Justification: What's At Stake in the Current Debates?* Grand Rapids: IVP Academic, 2004.

Murray, J., *Redemption Accomplished & Applied*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Oden, T., *The Justification Reader*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Peterson, D., *Possessed by God: A New Testament Theology of Sanctification & Holiness*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2001

Seifrid, M., *Christ Our Righteousness: Paul's Theology of Justification*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2001.

4. Eschatology – Starting Points

Bauckham, R. & Hart, T., *Hope Against Hope: Christian Eschatology at the Turn of the Millennium*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Bock, D. & Gundry, S., eds. *Three Views on the Millennium & Beyond*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Goldsworthy, G., *The Gospel in Revelation*. (Part of the Goldsworthy Trilogy) Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2001.

Hoekema, A., *The Bible & the Future*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Horton, M., *Four Views on Eternal Security*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Milne, B., *The Message of Heaven & Hell*. (BST Bible Themes Series), Downers Grove: IVP, 1992.

Moltmann, J., *The Coming of God: Christian Eschatology*. Norwhich: SCM, 1996. (See also *Theology of Hope*)

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4