

Convergence

Historical Theology

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Instructor

Bill Clem
Community Groups Pastor, Mars Hill Church

I. Course Description

A study in the historic tensions and constructs of the doctrine of the atonement, as well as relating to present debate. Students will be expected to understand the various theories of the atonement and how the nature of sin and the work of God integrate in the articulation of this doctrine.

II. Objectives

- * Knowledge of the main theories and persons in the course of the development of the doctrine of the atonement from Apostolic times to the present day.
- * Understanding of contributing dynamics to the development of Christian thought and formulation of doctrine.
- * Appreciation of God's providence in the overall pattern of history.
- * Development of the skill of applying church history to contemporary ideas and issues.

III. Themes & Keywords

Atonement, Penal Substitution, Moral Influence, Ransom Theories, Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Church council, Church Authority, Church Autonomy, Priesthood of the Believer, Gospel, Rational, Biblical Integrity, Total Depravity, Redemption, Transformation, Character of God.

IV. Helpful Sources

Church History in Plain Language by Bruce Shelly, Word Publishing, 1995.

Embracing Grace: A Gospel for All of Us by Scot McKnight, Paraclete Press, 2005.

The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Present Day by Justo L. Gonzalez, Prince Press, sixth printing, 2006.

Christian Classics Ethereal Library – <http://www.ccel.org/index/classics/html>

V. Class Outline

Pre-course

Using only the scriptures (do not use a doctrinal statement or theological work), frame out a

working model of the atonement. In this statement you should describe the nature of man as affected by sin and the impact of the work of Christ upon the nature of sinful man. (Take 2-3 hours to do this; see it as if you were given Thursday afternoon in our class time.)

Part I: The Scriptures

We will spend Thursday looking at key scriptures that theologians use as pillars to their doctrinal models. We will look at O.T. practices and related doctrines that help frame up a working model of the doctrine of atonement.

Part II: Theories and Theologians

On Friday we will look at:

1. The story of recapitulation
2. The story of ransom
3. The story of satisfaction
4. The story of substitution
5. The story of example

You will evaluate each model based on:

1. Biblical integrity
2. The nature of sin
3. The work of God
4. The story of transformation

Part III: Class Presentation

On Saturday, you will present your working model of the atonement. You will share with the class how this module has shaped your view of the atonement and what, if any, were your additions or corrections from your pre-class project until now. The cohort will be asked to evaluate your model based upon:

1. Biblical integrity
2. The nature of sin
3. The work of God
4. The story of transformation

They will evaluate your presentation based upon:

1. How you could improve
2. What you did well
3. What spoke to their heart