

#314 Theology 4: The Church and Eschatology
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Spring 2011

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.

Examinations

There will be two exams during the semester. These exams will cover the lecture material, and will be selected from the study questions provided.

Reading assignments

Assignment #1

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

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, *Three Views on the Rapture*

Special Presentation

Each student will make a class presentation by taking a faulty position regarding one of the doctrines concerning the church, the sacraments, or eschatology which is presented by some group or writer, accurately presenting that view and its main support, then providing a refutation of that view, and offering a clear definition and support for the corresponding correct view. Please furnish a copy of your outline to each member of the class. This presentation should take about 30 minutes.

Grading

Required reading	35%
Special Presentation	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

Class schedule

Jan.	25	
Feb.	1	
	8	
	15	
	22	
Mar.	1	(no class)
	8	Reading Assignment #1 due
	15	Midterm Examination
	22	
	29	(Spring Recess)
Apr.	5	
	12	Special Presentation
	19	
	26	
May	3	Reading Assignment #2 due
	9	Final Examination