

**Preaching from the Psalms**  
**July 24-28, 2023**  
**Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando**

**PROFESSOR**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*This course advocates the idea that the Psalter was intended to be read in sequence as a book, and that doing so facilitates its use "as an anthology to be memorized for the enculturation of the youth" (Wenham). The "enculturation" in view likewise has to do with the teaching and embrace of Biblical Theology, which is the attempt to understand and embrace the interpretive perspective of the biblical authors. Being part of the Old Testament, which is a messianic document, produced from a messianic perspective, to sustain a messianic hope (Sailhamer), the Psalter feeds hopes and expectations for the future king from the line of David. Understanding the Psalter this way makes perfect sense of the way the Psalms are quoted in the New Testament, enabling Christians to pray and preach the Psalms and engage in deeper theological reflection on them.*

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Understand the Psalter in sequence as a book.
2. Evaluate critically contemporary theological and ecclesiological proposals regarding the interpretation of Psalms in light of historic Christian orthodoxy.
3. Relate the interpretation of the Psalter to the preaching, evangelism, and discipleship ministries of a local congregation.
4. Dialogue with other church leaders about the effect of insights from the Psalter on pursuing the Great Commission task and presenting every man complete in Christ.

**COURSE EXPECTATION**

1. Attendance is mandatory for all seminar sessions.
2. Read in their entirety each of the required texts for the week of the seminar. Unprepared students will not pass this course.
3. In lieu of a book review, students will write a one page (double spaced) response to each of the required readings. Students should state their understanding of the author's main point and how that main point is argued, then briefly reflect on the author's treatment of these issues. This assignment requires no title page.
4. Compose a research and application paper of 20-25 pages. The first half of the paper will explore a Psalm or some aspect of the the Psalter or the use of the Old Testament in the Psalter, examining the perspective of the biblical authors on the topic being addressed. The second half of the paper will provide the student's understanding of how the nature of Old Testament theology or the aspect of it that has been explored is developed in the New Testament and can be applied to the contemporary local church, presenting specific strategies, potential obstacles, and why such an application matters.

5.

All seminar assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and footnoted when necessary. Students should follow the style guidelines found in *RTS Manual of Style*. Papers that do not conform to the *Style Manual* will be heavily penalized and returned to the student for revision and resubmission. Due Date: **October 30, 2023**

## REQUIRED READING

### *Primary Source Reading*

Students are to read through the Psalter in its entirety in sequence 4 times (in English) for this course. Preferably, as many Psalms as possible will be read at one sitting. Students who wish to read the Psalter in Hebrew or Greek can substitute one trip through the Psalter in Hebrew or Greek for the four trips in English.

### *Reading in Secondary Literature*

#### **Required Texts**

Hamilton, James M., Jr. *What Is Biblical Theology?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2014. ALL

Hamilton, James M., Jr. *Typology—Understanding the Bible’s Promise-Shaped Patterns: How Old Testament Expectations Are Fulfilled in Christ*. Zondervan, 2022. ALL

Hamilton, James M. *Psalms Volume I: Psalms 1–72*. Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary. Bellingham: Lexham Academic, 2021.

Hamilton, James M. *Psalms Volume II: Psalms 73–150*. Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary. Bellingham: Lexham Academic, 2021.

Hamilton, James M., Jr. “David’s Biblical Theology and Typology in the Psalms: Authorial Intent and Patterns of the Seed of Promise.” In *The Psalms: Exploring Theological Themes*, edited by David M. Howard and Andrew J. Schmutzer. Bellingham: Lexham, forthcoming.

Hamilton, James M., Jr. “Did the New Testament Authors Read the Psalter as a Book?” *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*, no. 25 (2021): 9–33.

#### **Suggested Texts**

Cole, Robert L. *Psalms 1-2: Gateway to the Psalter*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2013.

Hensley, Adam D. *Covenant Relationships and the Editing of the Hebrew Psalter*. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. New York: T&T Clark, 2018.

Morales, L. Michael. *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord? A Biblical Theology of the Book of Leviticus*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2015.

Snearly, Michael K. *The Return of the King: Messianic Expectation in Book V of the Psalter*. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. New York: T&T Clark, 2016.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Flow of the Psalms: Discovering Their Structure and Theology*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2015.

Wenham, Gordon J. *Psalms as Torah: Reading Biblical Song Ethically*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

## GRADING

- Participation 20%
- Reading Reflection 30%
- Paper 50%

## RESPECT FOR DIVERGENT VIEWPOINTS

Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

## STYLE

All papers should be submitted using the guidelines found in the Southern Seminary Style Manual which is available at <http://sbts.libguides.com/style>.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (listening devices, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of someone else without giving them appropriate credit. Students are expected to always credit sources appropriately. Failure to do so will potentially result in the student's failure of this course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action as is deemed appropriate.

<b><u>DMin* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b> <i>In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.</i>  <b><u>NOTE:</u></b> <i>DMin Emphases are:</i> 1. <i>Reformed Expository Preaching (REP), and</i> 2. <i>Reformed Theology and Ministry (RTM)</i>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Biblical/Theological Foundations:</b>	Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)  <i>For meets: REP= Significant</i> <i>For meets: RTM= Significant</i>	Strong	Students will study both hermeneutical and homiletical principles for it effectively integrating interpretation and presentation.
<b>Historical/Contemporary Practices:</b>	Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.  <i>For meets: REP= Minimal</i> <i>For meets: RTM= Significant</i>	Moderate	Students will read a number of books on both the hermeneutical and homiletical side of interpreting the Psalms
<b>Integration:</b>	Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.	Strong	Students will not only study 'how to' but they will also 'do' what they are learning.

<b>Sanctification:</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student's sanctification.	Strong	Students will grow in knowledge of God, self, and the world, so that they can more enjoy the calling that God has given them.
<b>Hermeneutical/ Homiletical Analysis</b>	Demonstrates ability to interpret a text and apply homiletical principles to the text.  <i>For meets: REP= Significant</i> <i>For meets: RTM= Minimal</i>	Strong	Students will study how the Psalmists interpreted the Bible.