

Exposition of Proverbs

02OT6360



*She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called blessed.
—Proverbs 3:18 (ESV)*

Reformed Theological Seminary Orlando
Professor Glodo
Fall 2023

Course Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic (Subject to Change)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)¹</u>
Aug 24		Proverbs 1:1-2.22
31		Proverbs 3.1-4.27
Sept 7		Proverbs 5.1-7.27
14		Proverbs 8.1-10.16 Reading & lecture reflection due
21		Proverbs 10.17-11.31
28		Proverbs 12.1-13.25 Personal development project check-in
Oct 5		Proverbs 14.1-15.29 Reading & lecture reflection due
12	<i>No class – Fall Reading Week</i>	
19		Proverbs 15.30-16.30 Proposal due for final project
26		Proverbs 16.31-19.22 Reading & lecture reflection due
Nov 2		Proverbs 18.22-22.16
9		Proverbs 22.17-24.22 Reading & lecture reflection due
16	No class meeting – video lectures will be provided	Proverbs 25.1-29.27 Research project outline due
23		Proverbs 30.1-31.31
30		Personal development project due Reading & lecture reflection due
Dec 6	<i>Term Paper Deadline</i>	Final project due

¹ Proverbs reading for each week is the required reading for the Personal Development Project (see below) which may be done before the week listed or following.

02OT6300 – Exposition of Proverbs

Course Syllabus – Fall 2023

Instructor: Associate Professor Michael Glodo

Office hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00am and others time by appointment.

I am on campus much more than these hours and am glad to meet at other times by pre-arrangement or drop-in. It's always best to reach out ahead to make sure we connect.

During my published office hours, I will be in or near my office or else available in one of the public campus spaces. If the latter, there will be note on my door indicating where I am.

Contact information: mglodo@rts.edu, (407)278-4476 direct

Communication: I prefer communicating in person (and so should you!), but email and Canvas are fine, too. If we are Facebook “friends,” please don’t use the messaging function in place of email. I won’t respond to email between Saturday evenings and Monday mornings.

Class meeting: Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description.

This course will consist of exegesis, interpretation, and application of Proverbs within its historical, canonical, theological, and ecclesiological contexts in order to grow in wisdom and be a source of wisdom to one’s community. Particular attention will be given to the revelation of Wisdom in the person, works, and teaching of Jesus Christ. (2 hours)

Course Requirements.

Personal development project	25%
Project “Ben Shlomo”	10
Reading & lecture reflections	25
Final project	30
Course engagement	<u>10</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Required Reading

Items marked with an asterisk (*) are available on Canvas.

ESV Scripture Journal: Proverbs. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019. This [paperback version](#) of Proverbs will be necessary for the “Personal Development Project” described below. Alternatively, there is an illuminated version with an artistic cover found [here](#).

Barclay, Joh M. G. “Crucifixion as Wisdom: Exploring the Ideology of a Disreputable Social Movement.” In *The Wisdom and Foolishness of God: First Corinthians 1-2 in Theological Exploration*, 1–20. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.

Waltke, Bruce K. *Proverbs: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2021.

*———. “Does Proverbs Promise Too Much?” *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 34, no. 2 (1996): 319–36.

*———. “The Fear of the Lord: The Foundation for a Relationship with God” in *Alive to God: Studies in Spirituality Presented to James Houston*, ed. J. I. Packer and Loren Wilkinson, 17–33 (Downer’s Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

*———. “The Gift of Wisdom,” chapter 33 in *Old Testament Theology, an Exegetical, Canonical and Thematic Approach*, 897–902. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017.

*———. “Righteousness in Proverbs.” *Crux* 44, no. 4 (2008): 12–21.

Personal development project

The personal development project (PDP) is a reflective reading of Proverbs aimed at growing in wisdom. Students will read Proverbs according to the above reading schedule and do one of the below activities using the *ESV Scripture Journal: Proverbs*. Project books will be turned in for feedback on the dates indicated in the course schedule.

The threefold purpose of this assignment is 1) to do a close reading of Proverbs; 2) to read Proverbs with an awareness of the context provided by the Waltke-based outline; and 3) to become wise. This outline is available on Canvas in a format which can be inserted in and kept with your *ESV Scripture Journal: Proverbs*. Use of this outline will be explained in class.

Each week’s entry can precede or follow the assigned portion of Proverbs, but no more than two entries may be done in one week, and that only twice during the semester. For each entry indicate the portion of Proverbs read and the date of the entry. Students may alternate their choices from reading to reading.

The options are:

Option 1 – journal personal reflections on a portion of or the whole of each reading.

Option 2 – write an extended prayer on a portion of or the whole of each reading.

Option 3 – a creative project of your own design (subject to professor’s approval) such as sketching, paraphrasing the proverbs for children, or writing short children’s stories. There must be one artifact for each reading and require effort equivalent to options 1 and 2.

Project “Ben Shlomo”

“Ben Shlomo” (בֶּן שְׁלֹמֹה) means “Son of Solomon.” Since one of our goals is to listen to God’s sage-king in order to become wise, we want to become a son (“ben” בֶּן) or daughter, (“bath” בַּת) of Solomon. A vital skill in becoming and being a tree of life is being able to see how Proverbs applies to our contemporary situation. In other words, we need to not only understand Proverbs in its own world but also be able to express proverbs in our world. Therefore, starting with the second week of class you will submit your own contemporary version of a proverb drawn from the assigned portion of Proverbs for that week. There will be a total of ten. Your proverbs can summarize a section of your reading or an individual saying. For example,

“Proverbs 1.31-32 – Be wise about the schemes you cook up because you will eventually have to eat them.”

“Proverbs 23.29-25 - Include the morning after when you make your plans for the evening.”

The best submissions will be shared with the class from week to week and prizes will be awarded. Creativity is encouraged.

Reading & lecture reflections

On the dates indicated in the schedule you will submit a minimum 500-word reflection on a portion of Proverbs reflecting on both the reading and the lectures, the theological implications, and how the text relates to life in the world today.

Final research project

Students will complete a 3,000-4,000 word (single-spaced) research project whose subject and format will be developed in conversation with the professor. Potential topics will be discussed during the first half of the semester. Formats may include an exegesis paper on a topic or a passage, a children’s curriculum, a sermon series, etc., but must demonstrate substantive exegetical and theological research. A topic proposal with preliminary bibliography and a detailed outline with updated bibliography are due on the dates indicated in schedule above.

Course engagement

This portion of the assessment will be based on attendance, participation, and contribution to class meetings. Students should store mobile phones out of sight while class is in session, bring a printed Bible to every class, and limit use of laptops and tablets to class matters while class is in session.

Use of Resources

Students are expected to do their own original research and writing unless stipulated otherwise. Assignments must be the student’s original composition except when attributed through citation (e.g. footnotes). Students may not use artificial intelligence bots, language generation models, or similar tools (e.g. Chat-GPT) for research, compilation of materials, or completion of assignments. Students

will be asked at the end of the course to confirm their compliance with this policy. If you are unclear about the application of this policy, please see me.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Exposition of Proverbs

Professor: Michael Glodo

Campus: Orlando

Date: Fall 2023

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv 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 MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Mastery of the knowledge of the biblical text is essential to pastoral ministry. All required assignments require both comprehensive understanding and verbal articulation
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	All required assignments are centered on the understanding of the biblical text.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	The theological approach taken in this class to reading Proverbs in this class will emphasize Reformed distinctives such as the third use of the law, ecclesiology, and means of grace.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	The approach taken and assignments given all include the goal of becoming wise as defined by Proverbs
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	The comprehensive claims of Proverbs, including its grounding creation as well as redemption, make it a prime worldview book in scripture.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	While there will be minimal engagement with different Christian tradition, the class will develop skills to employ the creation foundations of Proverbs in the contemporary context.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	The primary class mode will be to investigate original meaning and communicate to contemporary persons. Doing a sermon series is one option for the final project. "Preaching Proverbs" is one unit of the class.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	

Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	Skillfulness in teaching wisdom to others to include home and church.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Since Proverbs is grounded in creational wisdom, it is relevant to public theology in a pluralistic world.