

# 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

*Course meeting at Redeemer Evangelical  
Church, Milwaukee, WI*

Professor Glodo

Spring 2026

## Course Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Reading Schedule<sup>1</sup></u>
Jan 31	An introductory video lecture will be available on Canvas which will provide an overview of the course and instructions in how to proceed until the first class meeting	<i>Read Waltke introduction &amp; Glodo lecture.</i>
7		Proverbs 1.1–2.22
14		Proverbs 3.1–4.27
21		Proverbs 5.1–7.27
28		Proverbs 8.1–10.16
Mar 6-7	In-person session 1 <i>Personal Development Journal Check-in</i>	Proverbs 10.17–11.31 All Waltke articles
14	<i>Preliminary proposal due for final project</i>	Proverbs 12.1–13.25
21	<i>Review question set 1 due</i>	Proverbs 14.1–15.29
28		Proverbs 15.30–16.30
Apr 4	<i>Final project outline due</i>	Proverbs 16.31–19.22
11		Proverbs 19.23–22.16
17-18	In-person session 2 <i>Personal Development Journal Check-in</i>	Proverbs 22.17–24.22 Barclay article
25	<i>Review question set 2 due</i>	Proverbs 25.1–29.27
May 2		Proverbs 30.1–31.31
9	<i>Final project due</i> <i>Personal development project affidavit due</i>	

---

<sup>1</sup> This is the reading schedule for the Personal Development Project and Project “Ben-Shlomo.”

# 02OT6300 – Exposition of Proverbs

## Course Syllabus – Spring 2026

*Instructor:* Professor Michael Glodo

*Office hours:* Most interaction outside of the course weekends will be through email or Canvas messaging. However, I'm happy to set up phone or video appointments.

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

*Communication:* My communication preference is email for normal course correspondence. For questions of general interest to the class, use the "Ask the Professor" discussion on Canvas.

"Canvas" is the online learning environment where course materials and assignments are located. If this is your first RTS course, you will need to log onto Canvas and familiarize yourself with it once you have registered for the course. When you register, you will be assigned an "rts.edu" email address to which all the Canvas communications will go. If you don't plan to monitor that email address regularly, be sure to [set up an alternative email address in Canvas](#).

*Class meetings:* March 6-7 and April 17-18, 2025  
3:00-5:00 & 6:00-9:00pm Fridays  
8:00am-noon, 1:00-5:00pm Saturdays

### 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"	15
Reading & lecture reflections	25
Final project	25
Course engagement	<u>10</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Assignments are due on Saturdays at 6:00pm Central time to enable you to prepare for the Sabbath or Lord's Day.

## Required Reading

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

*ESV Scripture Journal: Proverbs*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019. The [glue-bound](#) or [spiral-bound](#) of Proverbs will be needed 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.

\*Glodo, Michael J. “Pastoral Formation as Wisdom.” Unpublished lecture.

Waltke, Bruce K. *Proverbs: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2021. For students wishing to do a deeper dive, Waltke’s two-volume commentary in the NICOT may be substituted. Both shorter and longer versions are available in Logos format as well as print.

\*———. “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.

Students should read Waltke’s commentary on the same pace with the Proverbs reading schedule above and read the Waltke articles by the first in-person meeting.

While you are expected to do your own work for all assignments, you may find my Proverbs Sunday school class and Proverbs sermons helpful for conceiving of the end use of Proverbs for the church. Class recording are at <https://mikeglodo.com/media/>.

## Personal development project

The personal development project (PDP) is a reflective reading of Proverbs aimed at personal growth 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. Students will complete an affidavit to attest to the entries after the second weekend.

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 ultimately 3) to become wiser. Waltke’s 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.

Entries should be done weekly, so be sure to note the date of your entries as well as the relevant portion of Proverbs. If necessary, you may do double entries for (only) two of the semester’s weeks. Of the options following, students may alternate their choices from week to week. Samples of both are provided on Canvas.

The options are:

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

*Option 2* – write a 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 or paraphrasing the proverbs for children. Your artifact must require effort approximate 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 the semester you will submit (only) ten of your own contemporary proverbs drawn from the assigned portion of Proverbs for that week. Use of imagery, metaphor, and observational descriptions of life are encouraged. Your proverbs can summarize a section of your reading or an individual proverb. For example,

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

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

For Proverbs 26.17 – “Before you step in to a fight, be sure you can whoop everyone involved.”

The best weekly submissions will receive special recognition. Cleverness and creativity are encouraged.

At the end of the course an overall grade for the quality and consistency of your proverbs will be assigned.

### Lecture outlines

Lecture outlines will be provided for download in MS Word and PDF formats or in hard copy for those who prefer.

### Reading & lecture reflections

Following each of the weekend sessions a set of review questions will be assigned. Only lectures notes, your Bible, and the assigned readings may be used to answer these questions. Please use the formatted document for each set so that the questions are included along with your answers.

## Final project

Students will complete a 3,000-4,000 word (6-8 pages single-spaced) research project whose subject and format will be developed in conversation with the professor. Potential topics will be discussed during the first in-person weekend. Formats may include a simple exegesis paper on a passage or a topic, a children's curriculum, a sermon series, etc., but must demonstrate substantive exegetical and theological research. A project 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 in-person 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.

## Written Assignments

Because communication is fundamental to learning as well as ministry, and because good writing is a reliable indicator conscientiousness, the evaluation of all written assignments will include assessment of clarity, grammar, and spelling.

## 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.

The reason for this policy is that the ministry of the Word is a calling in which the Lord's servant takes into himself the counsels of God and, through character and wisdom, speaks out of the abundance of his heart. "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Ps. 119.11). Integrity is the integration of the whole person, including one's speech, not the projection of a public persona that is inconsistent with the person's inner life. Artificial intelligence is a powerful capability and very beneficial for many things, but not for the minister's study, preparation, and exposition.

If you have any questions or reservations about specific aspects of this, please contact me. 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: Spring 2026

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b> <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>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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
<b>Scripture</b>	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.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	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.
<b>Sanctification</b>	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
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	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.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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.
<b>Preach</b>	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.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	

<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	<b>Strong</b>	Skillfulness in teaching wisdom to others to include home and church.
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	<b>Moderate</b>	Since Proverbs is grounded in creational wisdom, it is relevant to public theology in a pluralistic world.