

## **The Book of Revelation for Life and Ministry**

### **Meeting Information**

Monday, June 8, 1:00-4:30

T/W/Th, June 9, 10, 11, 9:00-4:30

Friday, June 12, 9:00-12:00

### **Contact Information**

Dr. Kevin DeYoung (kdeyoung@christcovenant.org)

My assistant at Christ Covenant and for this class is Caleb Johnson  
(calebjohnson@christcovenant.org)

### **Course Description**

This course will explore the theology of Revelation and its relevance for life and ministry in the twenty-first century. In addition to tackling perennial topics like the millennium, the 144,000, and the meaning of 666, we will see what Revelation teaches us about faithfulness in the “negative world,” about discerning unique spiritual needs in our own church context and what the story of the world is really about. The class will consist of systematic teaching through the entire book of Revelation, with an eye toward application for pastoral ministry and our cultural moment.

### **Course Requirements**

In addition to attending the class faithfully and being a joyful and active participant in discussion, there are four requirements.

1. Quizzes (20%) – There will be two quizzes during the week. Each quiz will be worth ten points and will cover lecture material given in class.
2. Final Memorization Exam (10%) – A final memorization exam will be given on the last day class. Students will memorize Revelation 4 OR Revelation 5 and will present the chapter from memory, either in writing or orally (depending on the size of the class).
3. Required Reading (30%) – Students are expected to read the assigned material—no skimming and no audio recordings. Submit a reading report indicating what percentage of the assigned pages you read. The reading report is due **July 25**.
4. Reflection Paper (10%) – Write a brief (450-550 words) response paper on either the Oberman book OR the Pressley book, reflecting on lessons we can learn from Luther or from the early church for life in a world “with devils filled.”
5. Final Paper (30%) – Research Paper topic: Choose a major theme from Revelation and explore how it can help us make sense of life ministry in our age. The thesis should be related to life and ministry. Proving your thesis will require some combination of exegesis,

theological exploration, and historical digging. Your approach may be weighted in one direction more than the other, but all three should have some bearing on establishing your thesis. Since this is a pastoral theology course, I'm less interested in seeing that you can cite a requisite number of academic sources, and more interested in your ability to communicate clearly, drawing on the materials you need to write in a way that is edifying, accessibly, and persuasive. The paper should be 2,500–3,000 words and is due **July 25**.

### **Notes on Papers**

1. In addition to grading on content, papers will be marked down for grammatical mistakes, sloppy writing, syntactical errors, improper formatting, and failure to communicate your argument clearly and cogently.
2. Both papers should be in 12pt., Times New Roman font, full justified, 1-inch margins on all sides, 1.5 spacing, page numbers at the bottom, a title at the top of the first page, with your name, class, and date on the right top of the first page. Provide subheadings as needed. I will not receive papers over the word limit. Include the word count at the end of your paper. Use footnotes according to one of the main style guides (I prefer *The Chicago Manual of Style*). Scripture texts and confessional texts (i.e., Westminster Standards) can be cited parenthetically. The most important thing is to be consistent with your citation style. Your paper should include a bibliography. The bibliography does not contribute to your word count, but the footnotes do.
3. The use of AI is not permitted in any aspect of researching, writing, editing, or formatting your paper.

### **Required Reading**

Hemer, Colin J. *The Letters to the Seven Church of Asia in their Local Setting*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. (338 pages, only 220 pages of text before the endnotes)

Oberman, Heiko A. *Luther: Man Between God and Devil*. New York: Image Books, 1992. (read only pages 3-12, 209-330 [138 pages total])

Presley, Stephen O. *Cultural Sanctification: Engaging the World like the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2024. (220 pages)

Spilsbury, Paul. *The Throne, the Lamb, and the Dragon: A Reader's Guide to the Book of Revelation*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2002. (155 pages)

Trueman, Carl. *The Desecration of Man: How the Rejection of God Degrades our Humanity*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2026. (256 pages)

### **Other Class Rules**

Computers and tablets are not to be used in class. Unless there is an emergency, the use of cell phones is not allowed either. Even with the godliest, most focused student, screens are almost always a distraction. Besides, recent articles have suggested that students learn better when taking notes by hand.

### Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: The Book of Revelation for Life and Ministry  
 Professor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung  
 Campus: Charlotte  
 Date: Summer 2026

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strong</b></li> <li>• <b>Moderate</b></li> <li>• <b>Minimal</b></li> <li>• <b>None</b></li> </ul>	
<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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Reflection papers and final paper will force students to work through these issues.
<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	Significant study in the scriptural paradigm for shepherding from the Book of Revelation.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed tradition mined for resources for today's pastoral ministry.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Emphasis on the pastor's soul throughout the course.
<b>Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Strong look at how Revelation meets the context in our day.
<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	We will talk about engaging with our people and the broader culture.
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	Lectures include discussions on mission of the church, developing skill as pastor, interacting with our culture, and various facets of local church ministry.