

Reformed Theological Seminary
Fall 2026 PT5225 – Missions – 2 hrs.
Thursday – 13:30-16:30
8/24/2026 - 12/4/2026



Professor: Rev. Jamie Peipon
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Course TA: TBD

RTS Catalog Course Description

This course examines issues in the world mission enterprise in light of today's challenges, opportunities, and obligations. The call to mission service is examined, the theological mandate for missions is clarified, the historical advance of the Church through missions is reviewed, and strategies for effective contemporary missions are considered.

Course Objectives

- To understand the scriptural mandate for missions and to trace a biblical theology of missions through the Bible.
- To understand that missions is an integral part of the doctrine found in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms.
- To understand the historical advance of the Church through missions and to become familiar with key missionary figures.
- To understand the practical elements of calling to missions and missionary service from the perspectives of the church and the missionary.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for this course is the standard grading scale listed in the RTS Catalog.

Plagiarism

Please review the seminary's policy on plagiarism. Plagiarized work will subject the student to failure in the course and possible disciplinary action.

In-Class Computer Use

Computers, tablets, cell phones, and recording devices are not permitted in this course and should be put away during class time.

Textbooks and Readings

The Bible

Alexander, James Waddel. "Considerations on Foreign Missions." Accessed April 20, 2026.
<https://www.missionary.com/articles/considerations-on-foreign-missions>. (PDF on Canvas)

- Bavinck, Herman. "The Catholicity of Christianity and the Church." Translated by John Bolt. *Calvin Theological Journal* 27 (1992): 220–51. (PDF on Canvas)
- Brainerd, David, and Jonathan Edwards. *The Diary & Journal of David Brainerd*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2023.
- Carey, William. *An Enquiry*. Missionary Legacy Edition. Missionary, 2025.
- Schell, Justin A. *The Mission of God and the Witness of the Church*. Short Studies in Biblical Theology Series. Wheaton: Crossway, 2024.
- Smyth, Thomas. *The Mission of Parenting: Raising Children Who Love the Mission of God*. Madison: Log College Press, 2019.
- Thornwell, James Henley. *The Cross-Shaped Missionary*. Taylors: Log College Press, 2022.
- Westminster Assembly. *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms: With Proof Texts*. Horsham: Great Commission Publications, 1992.
- Woods, Leonard, Samuel Worcester, and Samuel Spring. *A Sermon Delivered at the Tabernacle in Salem, Feb. 6, 1812, on Occasion of the Ordination of the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Newell, A.M., Adoniram Judson, A.M., Samuel Nott, A.M., Gordon Hall, A.M., and Luther Rice, A.B., Missionaries to the Heathen in Asia*. 1812; Boston: S. T. Armstrong, 1813. (PDF on Canvas)

Assignments

Reading Quizzes (25%) – Reading quizzes will be administered on Canvas and are due before 1:30 pm on Thursdays according to the schedule on this syllabus. Late quizzes will not be accepted. All quizzes must be taken with a TA proctor. No aids of any sort are permitted. The quizzes are multiple choice, are designed to be relatively easy if you have read the assignment attentively, and should only take about five minutes to complete. The first question will always ask for the name of your proctor, and the second will always ask if you have completed the assigned reading for the week. If you have not completed the assigned reading, the entire quiz will receive a grade of 0.

Midterm Exam (15%) – The midterm exam will be administered in the classroom on October 15th. Details on format will be covered in the classroom.

Final Exam (20%) – The final exam will be administered in the classroom during finals week. Details on format will be covered in the classroom.

Brainerd Assignment (15%) – Write a 2200-2500-word manuscript of a Sunday school lesson on the biography of David Brainerd. This should include an overview of Brainerd's life and work (35% of grade), and at least three thoughtful applications for the Christian life (45% of grade). The writing style should be appropriate for an adult Sunday school class (10% of grade). Word count must be included on the last page of the paper.

Papers outside the word count range will not be accepted. The entire document should be double-spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides, 12-point, Georgia font. 10-point font footnotes for citations using Chicago or Turabian (10% of grade). Assignment due before 1:30 pm on October 8th. Late papers will not be accepted. For non-MDiv students, please speak with the TA about an appropriate substitute for this assignment.

Sermon Assignment (25%) – Write a 3200-3500-word manuscript of a mission-themed sermon on an Old Testament text. The sermon should be based on a memorable and easily identifiable homiletical outline (15%). Each point in the outline should include appropriate exposition (15%), illustration (15%), and application (15%) that works together to fit the theme of missions (20%). You must use at least three commentaries and no less than five total sources (10%). Word count must be included on the last page of the paper. Papers outside the word count range will not be accepted. The entire document should be double-spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides, 12-point, Georgia font. 10-point font footnotes for citations using Chicago or Turabian (10% of grade). Assignment due before 1:30 pm on December 3rd. Late papers will not be accepted. For non-MDiv students, please speak with the TA about an appropriate substitute for this assignment.

Approximate Course Schedule

This is a two-hour class that will meet nine times for three hours. Towards the end of the semester, students should keep the remaining unscheduled Thursdays free in case a session needs to be rescheduled. In the event that a class meeting is rescheduled, assignment due dates will remain unchanged.

27 Aug

Course Introductions
Syllabus Overview

03 Sep

Biblical Foundation for Missions

- The Great Commission
- Biblical theology of *all nations*

Quiz on: *An Enquiry*, pp. 1-62

Sep 10

Biblical Foundation for Missions

- Biblical theology of *all nations*

Quiz on: *The Mission of God*, pp. 1-108

17 Sep

The Theology of Missions

- Westminster History
- Holy Scripture
- Trinity

Quiz on: *Brainerd*, pp. 3-120 (Preface through Diary Part V)

24 Sep

No Class – CMTW

Quiz on: *Brainerd*, pp. 120-256 (Diary Parts VI through VIII)

01 Oct

The Theology of Missions

- God's Eternal Decree
- Creation
- The Fall and Sin
- God's Covenant with Man
- Christ the Mediator

Quiz on: *Brainerd*, pp. 258-426 (Journal: Preface through Part II, and Appendices I-III)

08 Oct Reading Week – Classes Will Not Meet

Due: Brainerd Assignment

15 Oct

Mid-term Exam

22 Oct

The Theology of Missions

- The Benefits of Salvation
 - Justification
 - Adoption
 - Sanctification

Quiz on: *The Catholicity of Christianity and the Church* (entire document)

29 Oct

The Theology of Missions

- Christian Obedience
 - The Moral Law
 - Worship
 - Sacraments
 - The Lord's Prayer

Quiz on: *Sermon Delivered* (entire document)

05 Nov

Practical Questions on Missions

Quiz on: *The Mission of Parenting*

12 Nov

Practical Questions on Missions

Quiz on: *The Cross-Shaped Missionary*

19 Nov

No class unless rescheduled

Quiz on: *Considerations on Foreign Missions*

26 Nov

No Class – Thanksgiving

No assignments due.

03 Dec

No class unless rescheduled

Due: Sermon Assignment

Further Reading on Missions

- Alexander, James Waddel. "Considerations on Foreign Missions."
<https://www.missionary.com/articles/considerations-on-foreign-missions>.
- Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Anderson, Courtney. *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1987.
- Bavinck, Herman. "The Catholicity of Christianity and the Church." Translated by John Bolt. *Calvin Theological Journal* 27 (1992): 220–51.
- Bavinck, J. H. *An Introduction to the Science of Missions*. Philipsburg: P & R Publishing, 1960.
- Beale, G. K. *The Temple and the Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 17. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 2004.
- Beeke, Joel R. *Puritan Evangelism: A Biblical Approach*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2007.
- Beirn, Steve, and George W. Murray. *Well Sent: Reimagining the Church's Missionary-Sending Process*. Washington: CLC Publications, 2015.
- Blackburn, W. Ross. *The God Who Makes Himself Known: The Missionary Heart of the Book of Exodus*. 1st ed. With D. A. Carson. New Studies in Biblical Theology Series, v. 28. Westmont: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Brainerd, David, and Jonathan Edwards. *The Diary & Journal of David Brainerd*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2023.
- Calhoun, David B. *Swift and Beautiful*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2020.
- Carey, William. *An Enquiry*. Missionary Legacy Edition. Missionary, 2025.
- Challies, Tim, and Tim Keese. *From the Rising of the Sun: A Journey of Worship Around the World*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2025.
- Chapman, Alister. *Godly Ambition: John Stott and the Evangelical Movement*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Cryer, Neville B., John Thornbury, Richard T. France, R. Strang Miller, and John D. Legg. *Five Pioneer Missionaries*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2024.
- Crystal, David. *William Tyndale and the English Language*. Oxford: Bodleian Library Publishing, 2026.
- DeVries, Brian A. *You Will Be My Witnesses: Theology for God's Church Serving in God's Mission*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2024.

- DeYoung, Kevin, and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.
- Dubose, Hampden Coit. *Memoirs of Rev. John Leighton Wilson*. Taylors: Log College Press, 2024.
- Duff, Alexander. “The Chief End of the Church / MISSIONARY.” September 29, 2025. <https://www.missionary.com/articles/the-chief-end-of-the-church>.
- Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2006.
- Fairchild, Ashbel Green. *Memoirs of Mrs. Louisa A. Lowrie*. Taylors: Log College Press, 2024.
- Ferguson, Sinclair. *Devoted to God’s Church*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2020.
- Frazier, David L. *Mission Smart: 15 Critical Questions To Ask Before Launching Overseas*. Memphis: Equipping Servants International, 2014.
- Haykin, Michael A. G., and C. Jeffrey Robinson. *To the Ends of the Earth: Calvin’s Missional Vision and Legacy*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.
- Horton, Michael S. “Was the Reformation Missions-Minded?” *Modern Reformation* 4, no. 3 (June 1995).
- James, Sharon. *My Heart in His Hands: Ann Judson of Burma*. Leyland: Evangelical Press, 1998.
- Keesee, Timothy. *A Company of Heroes: Portraits from the Gospel’s Global Advance*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2019.
- Keller, Timothy. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., and T. Desmond Alexander. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. 2nd Edition. New Studies in Biblical Theology 11. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2020.
- Larsen, Samuel H. “Global Kingdom Vision and the Westminster Confession of Faith.” In *The Hope Fulfilled: Essays in Honor of O. Palmer Robertson*, 317–24. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2008.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood G., and Marvin K. Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: A Model for Effective Personal Relationships*. 3rd Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
- McGoldrick, James E. *Presbyterian and Reformed Churches: A Global History*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2012.
- McLeod, Donald. *Compel Them to Come In: Calvinism and the Free Offer of the Gospel*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2020.

- McNabb, Bob. *Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World: Why Some Disciple-Makers Reproduce When Others Fail*. Multiplication Press, 2013.
- Murray, Iain H. *The Puritan Hope: A Study in Revival and the Interpretation of Prophecy*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1998.
- Paton, John G. *John G. Paton: The Autobiography of the Pioneer Missionary to the New Hebrides*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2024.
- Piggin, Stuart, and John Roxborough. *The St. Andrews Seven: The Finest Flowering of Missionary Zeal in Scottish History*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1985.
- Piper, John. *Andrew Fuller: Holy Faith, Worthy Gospel, World Mission*. With Michael A. G. Haykin. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016.
- . *Let the Nations Be Glad!* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2023.
- Reeves, Michael. *Overflow: How the Joy of the Trinity Inspires Our Mission*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2021.
- Rhodes, Matt. *No Shortcut to Success: A Manifesto for Modern Missions*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2022.
- Rooy, Sidney. *The Theology of Missions in the Puritan Tradition*. Laurel: Audubon Press, 2006.
- Ross, John Stuart. *Time for Favour: The Scottish Mission to the Jewish People: 1838–1852: Scottish Evangelism among the Jewish People: 1838–1852*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2024.
- Roxborough, John. *Thomas Chalmers: Enthusiast for Mission: The Christian Good of Scotland and the Rise of the Missionary Movement*. Rutherford Studies in Historical Theology. Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1999.
- Santos, Valdeci S. “A Missiological Analysis of the Westminster Confession of Faith - Chapter 14.” In *The Westminster Confession into the 21st Century*, 3:327–53. Ross-shire: Christian Focus Publications, 2009.
- Schell, Justin A. *The Mission of God and the Witness of the Church*. 1st ed. Short Studies in Biblical Theology Series. Wheaton: Crossway, 2024.
- Scrivener, Glen, and Justin Schell. *Come and See: A History and Theology of Mission*. Wales: Union Publishing, 2022.
- Smyth, Thomas. *The Mission of Parenting: Raising Children Who Love the Mission of God*. Madison: Log College Press, 2019.
- Teems, David. *Tyndale: The Man Who Gave God an English Voice*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Incorporated, 2012.

- “The Westminster Divines and Foreign Missions.” *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society (1943-1961)* 21, no. 2/3 (September 1943): 148–59.
- Thornwell, James Henley. *The Cross-Shaped Missionary*. Taylors: Log College Press, 2022.
- Tice, Rico. *Honest Evangelism*. United Kingdom: The Good Book Company, 2015.
- Tomlinson, Mack M. *The Indomitable Brainerds: The Gospel Legacy of David and John Brainerd’s Mission to the Indians*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2023.
- Tucker, Ruth. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Vegas, Chad, and Alex Kocman. *Missions by the Book: How Theology and Missions Walk Together*. Cape Coral: Founders Press, 2021.
- Wells, Paul. *A Covenantal Vision for Global Mission*. With Peter A. Lillback and Henk Stoker. Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 2020.
- Westminster Assembly. *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms: With Proof Texts*. Horsham: Great Commission Publications, 1992.
- Wilson, John Leighton. *Selected Writings of John Leighton Wilson*. Taylors: Log College Press, 2024.
- Woods, Leonard, Samuel Worcester, and Samuel Spring. *A Sermon Delivered at the Tabernacle in Salem, Feb. 6, 1812, on Occasion of the Ordination of the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Newell, A.M., Adoniram Judson, A.M., Samuel Nott, A.M., Gordon Hall, A.M., and Luther Rice, A.B., Missionaries to the Heathen in Asia. Under the Direction of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*. 1812; Boston: S. T. Armstrong, 1813.