DOCTRINE OF GRACE

Instructor: Jack Cottrell
Course Assignments – Fall 2014

Three credit hours

A. RATIONALE.

This course is designed to sharpen the student's understanding of the nature of salvation. Specifically it asks the question, "What does it mean to be saved by grace?"

This is not a study of theologians' views of grace or of the history of the doctrine. The goal of the course rather is to explore the Biblical teaching about grace and how it relates to subjects such as law, works, the cross, faith, baptism, justification, and assurance.

The course as a whole will emphasize the theme that the heart of grace is justification by the blood of Christ through faith, a proper understanding of which is the key to assurance of salvation. Since this is in effect the fundamental element of the Christian gospel, a proper grasp of these concepts is necessary for a satisfying personal faith and for an adequate presentation of the gospel in evangelistic or witnessing situations. Thus this course is foundational in terms of our mission to train Christian workers for all aspects of service in the church.

B. OBJECTIVES. Upon completion of this course the student should --

1. Understand and be able to explain to others the Bible's teaching about law and grace.
2. Have a clear understanding of and a stronger appreciation of what it means to be personally saved by grace.
3. Have a genuine personal assurance of salvation.
4. Be able to show how the Biblical doctrine of grace integrates with other Biblical doctrines, e.g., the nature of God, the nature of man, and the person and work of Christ.
5. Be able to teach the doctrines of grace to others especially in relation to Romans 1-8.

C. GENERAL INFORMATION.

1. Class Sessions. This course meets on Mondays, 12:30 to 3:10 p.m., from August 25 to Dec. 15. Each day the student should bring to class: (1) a Bible (NASB or ESV preferred but not required); and (2) the course outline, "TTH 560 Doctrine of Grace: Course Outline" (latest edition ONLY), which is available online only. Please do not eat meals during the class session. Stay-awake snacks are OK.

2. Absence Policy. The student is expected to attend every class session. If an absence is necessary, the student should make arrangements to record the class and listen to the recording. Three absences: extra work may be required. Four absences: may result in exclusion from the course.

3. Grade Determination. Review of Seamands --- 15%
   Second Review --- 15%
   Cottrell reading --- 15%
   Examination --- 25%
   Final assignment --- 30%

4. Deadlines. Each assignment is required to be submitted on or before the date due. Except for the exam and the final assignment, a one-week extension may be granted at the instructor's discretion.

5. The professor reserves the right to change or amend any part of this course plan as deemed necessary.

6. Contacting the instructor: Jack Cottrell, 2700 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45204. Phone: 513-244-8166 (office); 812-637-9628 (home). E-Mail: jack.cottrell@ccuniversity.edu (CCU office).

D. Reading Assignments.

1. All students will read David Seamands, Healing Grace: Finding Freedom from the Performance Trap (Light and Life Communications, 1999; any edition is OK), and write a standard book review.
2. All students will read ONE of the following books, and write a review of it:

3. All students will read the following material from Jack Cottrell, and report THAT it has been read:

E. SUGGESTED CONTENTS FOR BOOK REVIEWS. A book review should be about 1,750 to 2,000 words long, and should contain the following sections. (Put word count on title page.)

1. DESCRIPTION. First, what is the writer's overall purpose? What does he hope to accomplish with the book? What main point is he trying to make? Summarize in a general way the content and progress of his thought.

2. EVALUATION. Second, how well does the writer accomplish his purpose? Does he cover the subject adequately? Does he leave any loose ends, any questions unanswered? Does he treat all viewpoints fairly and take account of all the options? Are there logical or theological weaknesses or errors in the author's presentation? Are his conclusions really supported by the evidence presented? Are his presuppositions legitimate? Is his thinking biblical? Such questions as these must be answered only in terms of the author's intended purpose. (To answer such questions, you must read the book critically.)

3. APPLICATION. Third, what is the value or usefulness of the book? Who would profit most from reading it? How can you use the author's ideas in your own ministry?

F. SCHEDULED ASSIGNMENTS.

Aug. 25 -- First class session. Begin reading the assigned pages from the Commentary on Romans.

Sept. 1 -- Labor Day – no class.
Sept. 8 -- Come to class.
Sept. 15 -- Read Cottrell, *Set Free!* Submit a report THAT it has been read.
Sept. 22 -- Come to class.
Sept. 29 -- Come to class.
Oct. 6 -- Submit a review of Seamands, *Healing Grace*.
Oct. 13 -- Come to class.
Oct. 20 -- Come to class.
Oct. 27 -- Submit a review of ONE of the seven books in section D.2. above.
Nov. 3 -- Come to class.
Nov. 10 -- Read Cottrell, *God Most High*; submit reading report. A take-home exam will be distributed.
Nov. 17 -- Submit completed exam at beginning of class.

Nov. 24 -- Thanksgiving recess; no class.

Dec. 1 -- Come to class.

Dec. 8 -- In lieu of a final exam, submit the completed final assignment: an essay entitled "Grace, Life and Ministry: What I Learned in This Course, and How I Plan to Apply It." Length: about 2000 words; put the word count on the title page. You do not have to follow strict formal style for this essay. It will not be accepted after the beginning of the class period on this date. It will be graded and returned on Dec. 15. Do NOT enclose your essay in a clear plastic cover.

Dec. 15 -- Last class session. Read Cottrell, *Commentary on Romans*. Submit a report THAT it has been read.

G. THEME SONG.

"I am not under law; I'm under grace!
It was grace that rescued me; it was grace that set me free!
I have sought--I have found--a hiding place;
I am not under law; I am under grace!"