RTS

ORLANDO



COURSE SYLLABUS

NT6290/01 EPHESIANS (Hybrid)

Fred Sanders

Winter 2027

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: Fred Sanders

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COURSE DATES

ONLINE DATES: Nov 30-Feb 12

IN CLASS DATES: January 11-15

COURSE COMPLETION DATE: Feb 12

COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:

A study of Ephesians with special attention to its doctrinal content, with selected readings in the history of interpretation. Class discussion focuses on trinitarian soteriology by engaging primary and secondary readings. 2 credit hours.

PURPOSE:

To equip you to study the book of Ephesians in biblical, historical, and systematic perspective.

GOALS:

In this course on Ephesians, students will grow in their ability to:

1. master the text of Ephesians via immersive re-reading (in English).
2. articulate the structure and flow of Ephesians as a coherent work, with special focus on its trinitarian soteriology.
3. relate Ephesians to its Old Testament background.
4. trace major Christian doctrines to their places in Ephesians.
5. identify significant interpreters of Ephesians and develop a sense for the unity and diversity of the history of interpretation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. READING

The student is required to read carefully the following texts. Reading is due by Jan 9.

Frank Thielman, *Ephesians: A Paragraph-by-Paragraph Exegetical Evangelical Bible Commentary* - BECNT (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament), 2010.
ISBN-10: 0670088560
ISBN-13: 978-0670088560

PDFs provided from older authors:
Available from this Google Drive folder

2. Reading Briefs

Students will prepare a reading brief for each reading assignment (for a total of 21 briefs). The purpose of the brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument of that chapter, as well as to state one's own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the chapter (so long as page numbers are referenced). They are meant to help prompt you to read more actively, to begin processing what you've read, to start communicating your thoughts, and to resource you for class discussions. Briefs should be no more than 350 words.

They will be submitted as one file upload (each week's file will include several briefs, either 4 or 5 per week) on the discussion board each week.

3. Final Project

Central Passage Paper: 2500-word cumulative essay identifying one passage of Ephesians as strategically important for the message of the whole letter, and interpreting it in light of the entire letter, as informed by the history of interpretation.
Assessment: Graded on cogency of argument, demonstration of mastery of text of Ephesians, interaction with several authors including from course readings.

Due Feb 12

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on the briefs (50%) and final paper (50%). Grades may be adjusted based on participation in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Online Schedule

Week of Nov 30: The Full Blessing: The Father (1:1-6)

1. Thielman on 1:1-6. Pages 1-55
2. Goodwin on 1:3 (3 sermons) 41pp
3. Flavel on 1:6 10p

Week of Dec 7: Full Blessing: The Son & Spirit (1:7-14)

4. Thielman on 1:7-14. Pages 56-86
5. Goodwin on 1:7-9, 117-147 (2 sermons) 31pp
6. Zanchi on 1:7-14 50pp
7. Ferguson on 1:7-14 10pp

Week of Dec 14: Illumination (1:15-23)& Co-Resurrection (2:1-10)

8. Thielman 87-147
9. Goodwin on 1:17 14pp
10. Adams on 1:18 13pp
11. Flavel on 2:1 19pp
12. Goodwin on 2:6 15pp

Week of Dec 21: Included in Temple (2:11-22)& Mystery (3:1-13)

13. Thielman 148-223

Week of Dec 28: Mystery continued

14. Chrysostom on 3:1-13 19pp
15. Aquinas on 3:1-13 12pp
16. Calvin on 3:1-13 12pp

Week of Jan 4: Strengthened (3:14-21) & Gifts of Risen Christ (4:1-16)

17. Thielman 224-290
18. Warfield on 3:14 and 19 22pp
19. Preston on 3:16 32pp
20. Manton on Eph 5:1 11pp
21. Adams on Eph 5:2 33pp

Hybrid Week Schedule Class meets Jan 11-15, 6-9pm.

Mon 11: Intro, The Full Blessing

Tue 12: The Full Blessing cont'd: Accepted in Son & Sealed with Spirit

Weds 13: Illumination (1:15-22), Co-Resurrection (2:1-10)

Thurs 14 Included in Temple (2:11-22), Mystery (3:1-13)

Fri 15 Strengthened (3:14-21), Gifts of Risen Christ (4:1-16)

Final Paper Due: Friday, Feb 12

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYSTEM

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: NT6290
Professor: Sanders
Campus: Orlando
Date: Winter 2027

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes *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.* **As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*		**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	Final project involves analyzing a range of resources and articulating their connections in a written paper.
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.)	Moderate	Immersion in Ephesians to grasp its holistic character; close study of key passages.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Careful study of theology of Ephesians in dialogue with many Reformed commentators.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	None	N/A
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Careful study of the place of Ephesians in shaping a whole worldview.
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.)	Strong	Broad study of Ephesians, the sunniest NT statement of key Reformed themes.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	N/A

Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	N/A
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.	Minimal	N/A
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Constant connection of Ephesians to contemporary church life.

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