



**FLOURISH**  
FUELING A MOVEMENT

**GORDON CONWELL**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

## TH502 – Theology Survey II

Course Developer and Instructor: Rev. Mark Patterson, Ph.D.

Spring 2021 (February 9th – May 17th)

### Required Web Class Meetings:

Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> (7-8 PM ET / 4-5 PM PT)

Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> (7-8 PM ET / 4-5 PM PT)

Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> (7-8 PM ET / 4-5 PM PT)

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> (7-8 PM ET / 4-5 PM PT)

Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> (7-8 PM ET / 4-5 PM PT)

*Doctrine and life are really two sides of one Christianity;  
and they are equally indispensable, because Christianity is living truth.  
– P. T. Forsyth*

## Contacts

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mark R. Patterson

- Email: [mark@cpcventura](mailto:mark@cpcventura) (office; best) or [mark.patterson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark.patterson@sbcglobal.net) (home)
- Phone: (805) 648-2737, ext. 225 (best to schedule call time via email)

Flourish: [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org)

## Course Description

This course is an introduction to Christian theology. It will cover five modules: 1) The person of Christ which will explore Scripture's witness, how the two natures, divine and human find union in the one man Jesus and how this shapes redemption. 2) This second module looks at the person and work of the Holy Spirit in manifesting the work of Christ in our lives and the church. 3) The third module will look at human sin and depravity and the need of salvation and then explore the concepts of redemption, reconciliation, and atonement. 4) The fourth module looks at the nature of the church as the redeemed people of God and explores its Life,

order, and mission. 5) The fifth and final module looks toward future things and the return of Christ but also the fact that these “heavenly realities” have already begun.

## Course Objectives

This course, like its predecessor Theology Survey I, is designed to give students a basic and growing competence in the area of theology through careful consideration of the Bible’s teaching on core Christian doctrines, the church’s formulation and clarification of those doctrines in history, the expression of those doctrines in the varied contexts of contemporary society, and practical implications of Christian doctrine in life and ministry. In keeping with the institutional learning objective stated above, I intend that upon completing this course, you will:

- Surveyed the biblical teaching on the doctrines covered in the course.
- Understand terms, ideas, and issues important to theological discussion.
- Analyze various theological positions critically and develop your own positions on the doctrines studied.
- Articulate and value the implications of the doctrines studied for your own spiritual life, Christian character, and work of ministry.

## Course Modality

This course is offered online at [flourishmovement.org](http://flourishmovement.org). This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be “present” for web meetings. These include four all-class web meetings on the dates scheduled above by the Instructor, four small group session comprised of 4-6 students which will be formed by the Flourish office, and finally, a “one-on-one” meeting with the instructor. More information can be found within the course site.

Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

## Course Schedule

The course is organized into eleven content weeks called “Lessons,” one holiday week, and two additional weeks focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday. Assignments for each lesson due on Monday at end of the lesson week.

Week	Dates	Lesson Title
<b>Module One—Person of Christ: The Doctrine of Christology</b>		
1	Feb. 9-15	Christology: The Word Made Flesh
2	Feb. 16-22	Christology: Who is This Man—Christ the Mediator
3	Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	Christology: The Hypostatic Union-Two Natures, One Person
4	Mar. 2-8	Christology: The Person of Christ and Work of Redemption
<b>Module Two—God’s Abiding Presence: The Doctrine of Pneumatology</b>		
5	Mar. 9-15	God’s Abiding Presence: The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit
<b>Module Three: Salvation and the Doctrine of Soteriology</b>		
6	Mar. 16-22	Human Depravity and the Need of Salvation
7	Mar. 23-29	Triune God of Salvation: Reconciliation and Redemption
<b>Module Four: A Transformed People and the Doctrine of Ecclesiology</b>		
8	Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	<b>Holy Week – No Coursework Due</b>
9	Apr. 6-12	Ecclesiology: Living Stones, A Transformed People
10	Apr. 13-19	Kingdom of God & the Life, Order, and Mission of the Church
<b>Module Five: Future Hope and the Doctrine of Eschatology</b>		
11	Apr. 20-26	Come Lord Jesus! Future Hope and Present Realities
<b>Wrapping Up: Final Zoom Meetings and Assignment Completion Period</b>		
12	Apr. 27 – May 3	Final Connections: All Class Meeting and Personal Meetings
13-14	May 4-17	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

## Course Requirements

Successful completion of the course requires the completion of all assignments. A summary of these is provided here with greater detail given in what follows:

- Weekly online course lectures
- Weekly readings, as listed. Reading report due at course end. Keep journal as you read.
- Four all class Zoom online meetings
- Five small group online discussion sessions
- A one-on-one Zoom online meeting with the instructor in week eleven.
- Theology Glossary: Summarize weekly entries; weekly list with all due at course end
- Writing Project One, 500 words answering: What is the Gospel? Due: 16 March
- Writing Project Two, 500 words answering: How/Why does the Gospel matter today? Due: end of course
- Three written papers, 8-10 pages each

### I. Readings

Students are required to obtain and read several books for this course. Books can be obtained through the [Gordon-Conwell Charlotte Bookstore](#) or any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site. Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

#### Required Books

Students should purchase/obtain the following books and resources:

- Horton, Michael. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Zondervan Academic, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0310286042
- Liston, Gregory J. *The Anointed Church: Toward a Third Person Ecclesiology*. Fortress Press. ISBN013: 978-1451497069
- McFarland, Ian A. *The Word Made Flesh: A Theology of the Incarnation*. Westminster/John Knox Press. ISBN-13: 978-0664262976
- McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 6th edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1118869574

- Tennent, Timothy C. *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology*. Zondervan, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0310275114

### Recommended Books

The following books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

- Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. InterVarsity Press, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-0830851317
- Zissner, William, *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. Reprint Edition. Harper Perennial, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0060891541

PLEASE NOTE that in all assignments, the five books above will be cited simply by author's/editor's last name (Elwell, Horton, Liston, McFarland, McGrath, and Tennent).

## II. [Lectures](#)

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. Each lesson has three to four separate videos, each approximately 20 minutes long. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

## III. [Activities and Assignments](#)

Students will complete various activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. These include small group discussion sessions (lessons 2, 5, 7, 9, and 10), all class discussion sessions (lessons 1, 4, 8, and 11), one-on-one discussion time with instructor (lesson 11), and various writing projects. Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments can be found within the course site.

## IV. [Small Groups](#)

Students taking the course for credit (whether taking for CLP credit alone or those taking it for both CLP and Gordon-Conwell credit) will be placed in groups of 4-6 students for discussion and interaction. These group conversations will occur in lessons 2, 5, 7, 9, and 10. These groups will be assigned in the first week of class and

group members will find a mutually agreeable time to meet together. Discussion prompts and starting questions will be given for each of these sessions. Each student should use studies in previous weeks to prepare for meaningful participation and interaction within the group discussions. Each student will submit a brief (no more than one page) summary of each group session. These are to be more “personal” reflecting your considerations, interesting concepts discussed, how it has helped (or confused) your thinking on what you have studied.

## V. [Web-Meetings with Course Instructor](#)

Students will meet four times as a whole class with the Course Instructor to discuss course content and student insights. Dates and times are specified at the top of this syllabus. Information on how to connect will be available in the course site.

In addition to these “all class” zoom meetings there will be a “one-on-one” meeting via the Zoom platform with the instructor. This is an opportunity to review and discuss areas studied, answer questions, and provide guidance prior to the final projects and end of term. These sessions will be during lesson 11 with agreeable dates and times being set between students and instructor later.

## VI. [Integrative Doctrinal Papers](#)

Students will prepare three integrative doctrinal papers. These papers should be 8-10 pages in length and focus on the following areas:

- Paper 1 Lesson 4: The Person of Christ
- Paper 2 Lesson 6: The Holy Spirit and/or Work of Christ
- Paper 3 Final Paper: Explore/Combine subjects covered (one might write on the Holy Spirit and the Church or The Church as Local Mission Agency or the Person of Christ and the Work of the Spirit...be creative in combining areas and concepts covered).

Full descriptions of these papers can be found in the course site. In each paper you should use the following guidelines:

- Begin with a clear introductory paragraph expressing the area(s) of doctrine you are covering, why these are important or worthy of this exploration, and what you intend the paper to cover.
- Present an appropriate organizational scheme for the issues covered under the broad doctrine that is the subject of that module. How should a specific doctrine or area of doctrine be organized/ordered? How might it be

organized/ordered with other doctrines within larger theology? For example, you might discuss the doctrine of soteriology (salvation). How does salvation fit in the larger picture (creation, fall, sin, etc.)? How does the area of your focus fit within the larger theological picture? If you focus on reconciliation, you might compare and contrast this concept with justification, atonement, redemption, etc. Fit your focus within the larger concepts we have studied.

- For each issue/doctrine, interact with the following:
  - Relevant biblical teaching: provide and interact with key/important biblical passages that speak to the area/doctrine(s) being addressed.
  - Important statements from the history of the Church (early creeds, Reformation confessions, ECO Essential Tenets (or other denominational doctrinal statements), or other historical materials described in the reading for the module). The best papers cite and connect multiple sources but most important for this course will be those from required reading.
  - Contemporary issues described in the required reading for the module. Why is this issue important in our current culture? Is it controversial? Why or how? What does this doctrine teach us about how we do ministry? How might you change how you preach, lead worship or youth group or participate in missions because of this doctrine?
  - For each issue/doctrine, state your own belief clearly. Explain how your belief on the doctrine as a whole affects your own ministry and/or ministry area. Each paper should end with your own perspective and application to ministry in your context.

*Nota Bene:* papers turned in late without prior approval of instructor will require grade being lowered or determined unacceptable. Please insure all assignments are completed and turned in by due date.

## VII. Other Writing Projects

Through the course there are several shorter writing assignments. Some, while being due at the end of the term, are meant to be worked on during the whole of the term (Theological Glossary). Others are shorter, usually more personal, writing projects spaced through the term. These writing projects include:



- ***Theological Glossary:*** Each week you are to look up terms provided and write a 2-4 sentence summary. This is meant to be useful personally and will not be critically evaluated. The goal is for you to appropriate a short, clear, and accurate description of various concepts, historical events, and church doctrines. While words will be assigned and “due” each week the glossary is not to be turned in before term end.
- ***Small Group Discussion Summaries:*** These are meant to be brief descriptions of areas discussed in your small group meetings and what stood out, challenged, confused, etc. your thinking. No more than one page.
- ***What is the Gospel?*** This is a 500-word personal essay on the question “What is the Gospel?” Imagine a family member, friend, or member of your church asking this question...what would you write to them. Due Week 7, March 30.
- ***Why Does the Gospel Matter?*** Following upon the above paper write a personal 500-word paper answering this question. Again, imagine someone asking this. What would you write back? Due at end of term.
- ***End of course Report:*** This attests to your watching all videos, completed all reading assignments (reading log) and fulfilled all course requirements. *See course reports below.*

## VIII. Tests/Discussion Forums/Other Assignments

- There are no tests or exams in this course
- Discussion forums are described under IV and V above (Small Groups and Web Meetings with Course Instructor)

## IX. Course Reports

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing and class video session attendance.

## Assignment Formatting and Submission

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname\_AssignmentName\_MMDDYY



example: JSmith\_ResearchPaper\_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

## Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

### Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Integrative Papers	60% (20% per paper)
Theological Glossary	10%
Paper: What is the Gospel?	10%
Paper: Why Gospel Matters	10%
Small Group Reports	10% (total for all five)
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course.
Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course.
Five Small group Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
Four Class Web Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
One-on-One with Instructor	Must attend to pass course.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

## Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for the pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact [charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu).

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

## Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

Last updated: December 11, 2020

If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be March 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- February 19<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 100% refund
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 80% refund
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 50% refund
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) with no refund

*Once May 14<sup>th</sup> passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an “incomplete” for the course.*

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.