



Reformed

BAPTIST SEMINARY

A CHURCH-BASED MINISTERIAL ACADEMY

5020 Old Spartanburg Road
Taylors, South Carolina 29687
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Course Syllabus

Title: PT 621 Pastoral Theology

Description: A systematic and practical study regarding the nature and methodologies of pastoral ministry in the church. Includes an analysis of the pastor's role as leader, administrator, shepherd, counselor, and trainer, as well as his relationship to his fellow-elders, deacons, and other church staff.

Primary Instructor: **Bob Selph** served as the pastor of Miller Valley Baptist Church in Prescott, AZ from 1978 to 1995, and has been serving as the pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Taylors, SC for eight years. Bob also served for nine years as Missions Coordinator for the Reformed Baptist Missionary Service (RBMS) and the Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America (ARBCA). He was also involved in the Southern Baptist Founders Movement. Bob is a graduate of Fort Lewis College (BA) and the author of *Southern Baptists and the Doctrine of Election*. Bob and his wife, Cathi, have three children and eight grandchildren.

Visiting Lecturers: **Tom Ascol** has been in pastoral ministry since 1978, the last 25 years serving as Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, FL. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University (BS) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD). He is the Executive Director of Founders Ministries and Editor of *The Founders Journal*. Tom and his wife, Donna, have six children.

Gary Hendrix has been an elder at Grace Reformed Baptist Church since 1970, when he was called to serve as the church's pastor. Gary has a Bachelor of Theology (ThB) from Piedmont Bible College. Gary and his wife, Sherry, have three children.

Donny Martin has been in the ministry for more than 25 years. He served as a church planting missionary in Spain. He is currently an elder in Grace Baptist Church in Hartsville, TN. where he has served for the past fifteen years. He and his wife Jane have seven children. Donny is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and the Evangelical Institute of Greenville, South Carolina. He is presently completing a Master's Degree in Biblical Counseling from the Master's College in California.

Mark L. Ward, Jr. is the Secondary Bible Curriculum Author at BJU Press, where he is also part of the Biblical Worldview Team. Currently he is writing an eighth-grade textbook which will be a redemptive-historical tour through the Old Testament. In 2011 he completed his dissertation ("Paul's Positive Religious Affections") for a degree in New Testament Interpretation at Bob Jones Seminary. He is a long-time member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Greenville, SC, and is the leader of its weekly Neighborhood Bible Class outreach ministry. He has a wife and two small children, and he blogs at Βλογάπη.

Credit: 2 credits

Requirements: Student must satisfactorily complete the following course requirements:

(1) **Lectures** Student must listen to all **20 audio/video lectures** by Pastors Selph, Ascol, Hendrix, and Martin, as well as the **two Q&A Panel Discussions** and the **Interview of a Pastor's Wife**. Lectures are available on RBS Virtual Campus or the RBS online store.

(2) Reading

The following reading is **required**:

Paul's Letters to Timothy (1 Timothy; 2 Timothy) and his Letter to Titus.

Tom Ascol, editor *Dear Timothy: Letters on Pastoral Ministry* (Founders Press, 2006).
[Available through Founders Press]

C. H. Spurgeon, *All Round Ministry* (Reprint, The Banner of Truth, 1960).

Online PDF: <http://www.armorofgodbooks.com/armorofgod/?p=208>

Robert Gonzales, "Giving Proper Due to the People in the Pew, Part 1: A Biblical Defense of Lay-Ministry," *The Founders Journal* 79 (Winter 2010): 6-21.

Online PDF: <http://www.founders.org/journal/>

Robert Gonzales, "Giving Proper Due to the People in the Pew, Part 2: A Biblical Defense of Lay-Evangelism," *The Founders Journal* 83 (Winter 2011): 11-27.

Online PDF: <http://www.founders.org/journal/>

Horatius Bonar, *Words to Winners of Souls* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1995). Online PDF: http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Evangelism/Classic-Essays--Articles/

Note: The student may be allowed to substitute other reading for the requirements listed above, but he must obtain approval from the course instructor before doing so.

The following reading is **recommended**:

The Westminster Conf. Papers, *The Office and Work of the Minister* (Tentmaker, 1986).

Charles Brown, *The Ministry* (The Banner of Truth, 2006).

Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry* (The Banner of Truth, 1976).

Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor* (The Banner of Truth, 1989).

John Piper, *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* (Broadman, 2002).

_____. and D.A. Carson, *The Pastor as a Scholar and the Scholar as a Pastor* (Crossway, 2011).

John MacArthur, *Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry* (Word, 1995).

Ichabod Spencer, *A Pastor's Sketches -Vol. 1 & 2* (Solid Ground, 2002).

Tim Chester and Steve Timmis, *Total Church* (Crossway, 2008).

Colin Marshall and Tony Payne, *The Trellis and the Vine* (Matthias Media, 2009).

Gareth Crossley, *Growing Leaders in the Church* (Evangelical Press, 2008).

Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker* (Baker, 2004).

Curtis C. Thomas, *Practical Wisdom for Pastors* (Crossway, 2001).

C. John Miller, *Excellence in Leadership* (Zondervan, 1986).

C. John Miller, *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church* (Zondervan, 1986).

Mark Dever, *The Deliberate Church* (Crossway, 2005)

Rob Ventura and Jeremy Walker, *A Portrait of Paul* (Reformation Heritage, 2010)

(3) Book Reviews

The student should write book reviews of 2 books from the recommended reading list. The reviews should be 4 to 6 pages single-spaced using 12-point font. The book reviews should be submitted together with the final exam and the interviews. If the student has any questions, he should contact the instructor at pastorselph@gmail.com

(4) Interviews

A student should conduct interviews with 3 different pastors who are currently serving in the pastoral ministry. The interview is to consist of 7 questions the student would like to ask regarding the pastoral ministry and 7 additional questions the 3 pastors would say the student should ask about pastoral ministry. The questions, together with the pastor's answers, should be submitted with the reviews and the exam.

(4) Exam

A final comprehensive exam over the lecture material must be completed. A study guide will be provided.

Grading:

Lectures - 20%
Reviews - 25%
Interviews – 25%
Final Exam - 30%

Questions:

General questions about the seminary or course may be directed to the seminary dean, Bob Gonzales (dean@rbseminary.org). Specific questions about the course requirements and grading may be directed to Pastor Selph (pastorselph@gmail.com).