

ST 535 BAPTIST SYMBOLICS
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ST535 Baptist Symbolics 4 Credit Hours. This course is designed to be a detailed examination of the London Baptist Confession of 1677/89 with the language explained, supported and defended so as to understand what the early Baptists asserted. The purpose is to understand the Confession in its historical setting and its relevance to the present. Historical comparisons will be made to the Westminster and Savoy Confessions. Other Baptist Confessions will be considered as they relate to this document.

Required Textbooks (Starred * volumes are required reading)

Dickson, David. *Truth's Victory over Error: A Commentary on the Westminster Confession of Faith* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth, 2007 reprint).

Fesko, John V. *The Theology of the Westminster Standards: Historical Context & Theological Insights* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2014).*

Muller, Richard. *Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985).

Renihan, James. *Edification and Beauty* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2008).*

_____. *True Confessions* (Owensboro: RBAP, 2004).

Van Asselt, Willem J. *Introduction to Reformed Scholasticism* (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage, 2011).*

Highly Recommended:

Hall, David, ed. *The Practice of Confessional Subscription* (Lanham: University Press of America, 1995). ISBN# 0819199079.

Skilton, John, ed. *Scripture and Confession* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 1973).

Waldron, Samuel. *A Modern Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith* (Darlington: Evangelical Press, 1989).

Additional Required Reading:

B.B. Warfield, "The Westminster Doctrine of Holy Scripture" in *The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield*, Vol. 6, *The Westminster Assembly and its Work* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981 reprint of 1931 OUP edition), 155-257.

Tom J. Nettles and L. Russ Bush, *Baptists and the Bible* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), Chapters 2 and 3, pages 47-72.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance. Excessive absences may require grade adjustment.

Class participation: It is expected that all students will participate in class discussions.

Examinations: There will be one comprehensive final exam.

Reading: As noted above. Students must submit a reading report to the professor on an agreed date.

Class Paper: All students will complete a class paper as described below.

Grading will be according to Westminster Seminary standards.

Schedule and Assignments (Schedule TBA):

Class Paper: For-credit students will write a paper on one of two topics: (1) Justification by Faith in the Baptist Confessions. Special attention should be given to the rise of the doctrine of Eternal Justification among *High Calvinists* in the 17th and 18th centuries; (2) Eschatology in the 2nd *London Confession*. Special attention should be given to the prevailing views of eschatology in the 17th century. The student is encouraged to consider the potential influence of the *Fifth Monarchy* movement on Baptist eschatology.

Course Outline

Introduction: The Importance of a Confession of Faith

Unit 1: Historical Matters—Confessing the Faith in 1644 and 1689

Unit 2: Confessional Subscription

Unit 3: Overview and Exposition of 1LCF 1644/46

Unit 4: Exposition of 2LCF 1677/89 Chapter by Chapter