

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# ST302: Christology

Course Lecturer: C. Fred Dickason, Jr., Th.D.

Former Professor of Theology at Moody Bible Institute

### About This Course

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This course was originally created through the Institute of Theological Studies in association with the Evangelical Seminary Deans' Council. There are nearly 100 evangelical seminaries of various denominations represented within the council and many continue to use the ITS courses to supplement their curriculum. The lecturers were selected primarily by the Deans' Council as highly recognized scholars in their particular fields of study.

### Course Description

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Since Jesus' ascension, Christians have asked questions about Him. What was His nature? What role did He play in creation? For whom did He die? Students move through an in-depth study of Christ in an attempt to understand His person, nature, teachings, and work. The study of Christ brings learners face-to-face with the most important event in history as individuals unpack the Bible's teachings regarding Jesus Christ. Learners will be stimulated intellectually and spiritually as they visit the decisions reached by the early church councils and explore the questions raised since then.

### Course Objectives

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Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to do the following:

- Define and explain *christology*.
- Understand the decisions about Jesus reached by the early church councils.
- Defend the orthodox truths about Jesus' person, nature, teachings, and work.
- Answer scripturally questions regarding Christ.
- Appreciate the intellectual and spiritual importance of christology.

### Accessibility

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If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

## Course Lecturer

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Dr. C. Fred Dickason is the Former Professor of Theology at the Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Dickason served for decades as professor and for 29 years as Chairman of the Theology Department (1968–1995). Beloved by his students for his quick wit and deep insights into the Scriptures, Dr. Dickason was considered one of the finest teachers in higher academia. In 1972, the students at Moody voted to name the school's arch in Dickason's honor, and in 1976 he received the Faculty Citation Award from the alumni association for his outstanding contributions to Christianity. Nationally, his teaching gifts were recognized in 1974 when he was named an Outstanding Educator of America. He is widely regarded as one of the world's leading experts on angelology and demonology, and he is regularly cited for his knowledge of the spiritual realm. He has been an active member of the Evangelical Theological Society for decades. His works are used by various counselors, and he personally helps minister to those that have been involved in the occult.

### Education:

- Iowa State College, B.S.
- Dallas Theological Seminary, Th.M. and Th.D.

## Online Professor

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If you are taking this course for credit, CUGN will assign one of its faculty members as the online professor for this course. This professor will contact you upon enrollment in the course and will guide your study. Your online professor will be available to you by email and, at set times, by chat room or other real-time technology. Your online professor will do the following in order to stimulate student involvement and facilitate effective learning:

- Evaluate and assign grades to all coursework.
- Provide assistance with technological problems that may occur.
- Answer questions that may arise.
- Issue your final grades.

## Course Texts

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### Required:

Walvoord, John F. *Jesus Christ Our Lord*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1969.

### Recommended, but not required:

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Rev. and enlarged. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1941.

Berkouwer, G. C. *The Work of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1965.

Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Boettner, Loraine. *The Person of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1943.
- Buswell, J. Oliver, Jr. *A Systematic Theology of Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1962, 1963.
- Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Systematic Theology*. 8 vols. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1948.
- Fairbairn, Patrick. *The Typology of Scripture*. Philadelphia: Daniels & Smith, 1852.
- Feinberg, Charles Lee. "The Hypostatic Union." *Bibliotheca Sacra*. XCII (July-Sept. 1935). pp. 412-26. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1935.
- Gutherie, Donald. *A Shorter Life of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970.
- Harrison, Everett F. *A Short Life of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968.
- Heick, Otto W. *A History of Christian Thought*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965.
- Henry, Carl F. H., ed. *Jesus of Nazareth: Saviour and Lord*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1966.
- Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. New York: Charles Scribner & Sons, 1877.
- Machen, J. Grescham. *The Virgin Birth of Christ*. New York: Harper, 1930.
- Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. 1st ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1955.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Cross in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1965.
- Murray, Andrew. *The Power of the Blood of Jesus*. London: Marshall, Morgan, & Scott, 1936.
- Orr, James. *The Resurrection of Jesus*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1908.
- Pentecost, J. Dwight. *Things Which Become Sound Doctrine*. Westwood, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1965.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Things to Come*. Findlay, OH: Dunham Publishing Co., 1958.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *Biblical Theology of the New Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1959.
- Saphir, Adolph. *Christ Crucified*. 5th ed. London: James Nisbet, 1889.
- Smeaton, George. *The Apostles' Doctrine of the Atonement*. Edinburgh: T & T. Clark, 1870.
- Walvoord, John F. *The Millennial Kingdom*. Findlay, OH: Dunham Publishing Co., 1959.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Rapture Question*. Findlay, OH: Dunham Publishing Co., 1957.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1966.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus Christ Our Lord*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1969.

Warfield, Benjamin Breckenridge. *Christology and Criticism*. New York: Oxford University, 1929.

To order textbook(s), you may use the CUGN online store available on our website at [cugn.org](http://cugn.org). Shipping is available to international students, but please place your order early enough to allow adequate time for delivery. When available, you may also consider downloading the textbook(s) to an eReader.

## Academic Honesty

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At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

**Quizzes and Exams:** Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

**Plagiarism:** If a student’s work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar’s Office at [registrar@cugn.org](mailto:registrar@cugn.org) or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

## Course Requirements

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- 1. Time:** The student is required to spend a minimum of 120 hours in this course. All course requirements must be completed within 6 months of enrolling in the course.
- 2. Recorded Lectures:** The student is required to listen to the twenty-four audio-recorded lectures by Dr. Dickason.
- 3. Study Guide and Other Materials:** The student is to study the programmed materials, and complete the Lecture Outline (found in the Study Guide) in its entirety.

- 4. Reading:** The student must complete the required reading for each lecture, as supplied in the Course Outline provided in this syllabus. Students may supplement the required reading by referring to additional material from the recommended reading list given above.

**A note about outlines:** The student will be provided two outlines—the Course Outline and the Lecture Outline. The Course Outline is found at the end of this syllabus and provides the student with the required reading for each section of the course, as well as a brief outline for the entire course. The Lecture Outline, which is provided to the student in the Study Guide, contains a more comprehensive outline, designed to be a guide to self-study and includes questions for the student to answer.

- 5. Additional Reading:** The student is required to read at least 500 pages of additional material, taken from the recommended reading list (see Course Texts above). The student must submit his/her list of additional readings to the professor/proctor of the course, listing title, author, publisher, date of publication, and number of pages read to make up the 500 or more pages.

## 6. Spiritual Formation Project

**RATIONALE:** Ministry preparation and the Christian life require more than academic exercises. Learners also need personal, spiritual formation, which involves theological reflection and critical thinking on their current practices and assumptions. This process occurs as learners engage in self-reflection and interaction in a community of learning. With this in mind, CUGN includes in all courses a capstone project addressing these issues and facilitating interaction beyond the formal learning environment (ATS schools, note Standards 3.2.1.3; 4.1.1; 10.3.3.3).

Write a **five-to-six page reflective essay** and **interview a mentor**, discussing the spiritual impact of this course on your life. Identify your mentor early in the course, and submit the essay to your grader when you take the final exam. This last project should not be a summary of course content, but an application of course principles. Complete the following:

**A. Personal Reflection and Evaluation:** Reflect on the course – To integrate your academic studies with your walk of faith, reflect on the content of the course and evaluate your life in light of what you learned.

- i. Follow these steps in your reflection:

Step 1: What one theme, principle, or concept in the course is the most significant to you personally? Why is it significant?

Step 2: What portion(s) of the course brought this theme/principle/concept to light?

Step 3: Think about your past. Why is it vital now for you to deal with and apply this theme/principle/concept?

Step 4: How should this affect your thoughts and actions, and what specific steps should you take to concretely apply what you have learned?

- ii. Write your answers to the above questions in full paragraph form. (Recommended length for this reflection: approximately three pages)

iii. Give a copy of this reflection to your mentor (see #2).

**B. Community Reflection and Interaction:** Interview a mentor – Since the Holy Spirit uses the input of others to guide and form His people, interview a mentor according to the following guidelines:

- i. Who should you interview? (1-3 are required; 4-6 are recommended)
  1. Someone with whom you have a reasonably close relationship.
  2. Someone who is a mature Christian ministry leader (i.e. a pastor).
  3. Someone who is not your grader or a family member.
  4. Someone who values the spiritual formation process.
  5. Someone who is familiar with and values the subject of the course.
  6. Someone who has experience using the content of the course in ministry.

**NOTE:** Identify your mentor early in the course, and give him/her the page entitled “Guidelines for Mentors.”

- ii. Focus of the interview – Your interview should focus on the issues and questions you raise in your essay. For example:
  - What feedback can your mentor give in response to your essay?
  - In light of the course content, are the conclusions you made appropriate? Why or why not?
  - What additional advice, deeper insights or broader applications might he/she suggest from his/her own life and ministry?

**NOTE:** Conduct this interview either in person (preferred) or over the phone. Do not use electronic communication (i.e. email, instant messenger, etc). Suggested length: 45 minutes.

**C. Synthesis and Application:** Draw your final conclusions – Having reflected on the course and the discussion with your mentor, synthesize what you have learned in these three sections:

- i. Section 1: Begin your essay with the personal reflection from #1 above. This should be exactly what you gave your mentor for the interview.
- ii. Section 2: Comment on your interview, explaining what you discussed and the insights you gained from your mentor. Include the following:
  - What were the mentor’s comments regarding your essay?
  - What advice did he/she give?
  - How did his/her comments expand or correct your application of the course?
  - Include the person’s name, occupation, and the length of the interview.



iii. Section 3: Conclude with a synthesis of what you have learned. Answer the following:

- If your mentor corrected any thoughts in your “Personal Reflection and Evaluation”, how do you feel about these corrections? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Synthesizing your thoughts from section one and your mentor’s insight in section two, what final conclusions have you reached? How is this different from section one?
- In light of the interview and further reflection, what additional, specific changes need to occur in your life and what concrete steps will you take to implement them?

**NOTE TO STUDENTS:** Your effort in this assignment will determine its benefit. If by the end of this course you have not yet reflected critically on your life in light of what you have studied, allow this assignment to guide you in that process. The instructor for this course will not score your essay based on the amount of spiritual fruit you describe; so do not exaggerate (or trivialize) what you have learned. The primary grading criteria is that you have thoughtfully considered the principles of the course and realistically sought to apply them to your life. If you have done this and met the minimal requirements (as noted above), you will earn the full points for this assignment.

Note on confidentiality: Perhaps the Holy Spirit is dealing with you in some very personal areas of your life. Because of this, your grader will keep your essay entirely confidential and either return or discard it.

Objective: to stimulate reflection and interaction on course principles in order to enhance personal spiritual formation.

**6. Examinations:** The student will complete two examinations during this course.

The student is required to sit for one mid-term examination at the end of Lecture 12. The examination will be comprised of short answer/essay questions. (90 minute time limit)

The student is required to sit for one comprehensive final examination at the end of the course. This examination will also be comprised of short answer/essay questions. The student is expected to supplement the lecture material with additional insights gained from the collateral readings.

## Course Grading

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Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Additional Reading (500 pages - See #5 above)	15% of Course Grade
Spiritual Formation Project	20% of Course Grade
Mid-Term Exam	30% of Course Grade
Final Exam	35% of Course Grade
Total	100%

Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course.

## List of Lessons

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- Lesson 1: **Introduction to Christology**
- Lesson 2: **Christ's Eternal and Preincarnate State - Part I**
- Lesson 3: **Christ's Eternal and Preincarnate State - Part II**
- Lesson 4: **Christ's Eternal and Preincarnate State - Part III**
- Lesson 5: **Christ's Eternal and Preincarnate State - Part IV**
- Lesson 6: **Christ's Eternal and Preincarnate State - Part V**
- Lesson 7: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part I**
- Lesson 8: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part II**
- Lesson 9: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part III**
- Lesson 10: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part IV**
- Lesson 11: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part V**
- Lesson 12: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part VI**
- Lesson 13: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part VII**
- Lesson 14: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part VIII**
- Lesson 15: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part IX**
- Lesson 16: **Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry - Part X**
- Lesson 17: **Christ's Suffering and Death**
- Lesson 18: **Christ's Resurrection - Part I**
- Lesson 19: **Christ's Resurrection - Part II**
- Lesson 20: **Christ's Ascension and Present Session - Part I**
- Lesson 21: **Christ's Ascension and Present Session - Part II**
- Lesson 22: **Christ's Return and Reign on Earth - Part I**



Lesson 23: **Christ's Return and Reign on Earth - Part II**

Lesson 24: **Christ in the Eternal State**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Interview  
Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Guidelines for Mentors

(Students, give this sheet to your mentor for the Spiritual Formation Project.)

Thank you for your involvement in this student's CUGN coursework. We believe the Christian life is more than an academic exercise, so we encourage students to critically reflect on their life in light of what they learn and then apply those insights to the daily life of faith.

Therefore, students taking CUGN courses are required to complete a final assignment called the "Spiritual Formation Project." This assignment involves two parts: an essay and an interview:

**The ESSAY:** After completing their coursework, students reflect on the content of the course, evaluate their lives, and discuss the one theme, principle or concept that is most significant to them and why. Students are to identify specific ways this theme/principle/concept should apply to their lives and what action steps they plan to take in order to make these changes a reality.

**The INTERVIEW:** After writing this reflection, students give a copy to their mentor and meet with him/her to discuss their thoughts and get feedback. The goal of this interview is to facilitate the student's growth through interaction with a mature believer.

### NOTES ON THE INTERVIEW:

- You do not need to be familiar with the course to participate in this interview. You will primarily respond to the thoughts of the student. (However, general knowledge of the subject matter of the course and/or experience applying it to ministry is valuable.)
- Prior to meeting with the student, read his/her "Personal Reflection and Evaluation" and prepare to discuss the following:
  1. What feedback can you give the student in response to his/her essay?
  2. Are the student's conclusions from the course appropriate? Why or why not?
  3. What additional advice, deeper insights or broader applications would you suggest from your own life and ministry?
- Meet with the student either in person (preferred) or over the phone. Do not use electronic communication (i.e. email, instant messenger, etc.).
- Suggested length of the interview: 45 minutes

Thanks again for participating in this project! You have a real opportunity to guide this student in the application process and to help him/her connect academics to life – *a valuable process for all who wish to grow in Christ.*

**NOTE: If the student's school makes any changes to this assignment, their requirements should replace those described here.**

# Course Outline

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## I. Introduction

- A. Importance of this doctrine
- B. Interrelationship to other areas of doctrine

## II. Christ the Eternal and Preincarnate Son of God

**Required Reading:** Walvoord, pp. 7-95

- A. His Deity and Eternality
  - Introduction
  - Supports for Christ's deity and eternity
    - 1. Doctrine of the Trinity
    - 2. Direct statements of Scripture
    - 3. Heavenly derivation
    - 4. Theophanies
    - 5. Titles of Christ
    - 6. Attributes of Christ
    - 7. Works of Christ
- B. His Preincarnate Appearances
- C. His Types
- D. His Major Prophecies

## III. Christ's Earthly Life and Ministry

**Required Reading:** Walvoord, pp. 123-153

- A. His Incarnation
  - 1. The means - the virgin birth
  - 2. The results - the kenosis, the hypostatic union
  - 3. The purpose - related to His prophetic, priestly, kingly offices
- B. His Early Life
  - 1. Infancy
  - 2. Childhood
  - 3. Youth
- C. His Ministry
  - 1. His baptism
  - 2. His temptations
  - 3. His teachings

## IV. Christ's Suffering and Death

**Required Reading:** Walvoord, pp. 153-190

- A. His Suffering in Life

B. His Suffering in Death

1. Its essence
2. Its cause
3. Its significance
4. Its accomplishments
5. Its application

**V. Christ's Resurrection**

**Required Reading:** Walvoord, pp. 191-218

A. Its Certainty

1. Anticipated
2. Accomplished
3. Attested

B. Its Cause

C. Its Character

1. Similar features
2. Dissimilar features
3. Scriptural illustrations

D. Its Consequences

1. His person
2. His death
3. His message
4. His present ministry
5. His return
6. His word (Bible)
7. Our resurrection

E. Centrality - (What place does it occupy in the gospel message?)

1. Evidence of unique Saviour
2. Expounded in apostolic preaching
3. Essence of new life
4. Expectation of new destiny

**VI. Christ's Ascension and Present Session**

**Required Reading:** Walvoord, pp. 219-257

A. Ascension

1. Reality
2. Related questions

3. Ramifications

B. Present Ministries of the God-Man

1. Lord of all creation
2. Great High Priest
3. Head of church
4. Prospective King

**VII. Christ's Return and Reign on Earth**

**Required Reading:** Walvoord, pp. 258-282

Introduction

1. Centrality
2. Certainty

A. Rapture

1. Definition
2. Description
3. Distinction
4. Difficulties in Timing the Rapture
5. Practical Results of Looking for an Imminent Rapture

B. Return

1. Character
2. Consequences

C. Reign

1. Prediction
2. Nature
3. Results

**VIII. Christ in the Eternal State**

**Required Reading:** Walvoord, pp. 282-290

A. Final Accomplishments

1. Final victory
2. Final judgment of men - Great White Throne
3. Final judgment of world

B. Final Submission to Father

C. Final Manifestation

1. In new heavens and new earth
2. In new Jerusalem
3. In new mercies