

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Theology of Jonathan Edwards

Course Lecturer: John H. Gerstner, PhD, DD
Former Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Course Description

He has been called one the most brilliant men ever born on American soil. In this course, learners will examine the theological insights of Jonathan Edwards. Taking a topical approach, the course covers Edwards' teachings on all the major points of systematic theology, giving particular emphasis to his unique theological contributions. Topics such as the place of reason, the decrees of God, the nature of justification, and the extent of sanctification are presented and analyzed with the goal that students apply new insights to their own lives and ministry.

Course Objectives

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

- Understand the life and ministry of Jonathan Edwards.
- Gain insight into the primary debates among historians over the teachings of Edwards.
- Explore the details of Edwards' teaching on the major points of systematic theology.
- Appreciate Edwards' unique contribution to the Church.
- Embrace the beauty and glory of the God whom Edwards loved.

Course Lecturer



John H. Gerstner, PhD, DD (1914-1996)

Education:

- Postgraduate work at Temple University, Oxford University, and at universities in Barcelona, Spain and Zurich, Switzerland
- Westminster College, LHD
- Tarkio College, DD
- Harvard University, PhD
- Westminster Theological Seminary, MDiv and ThM
- Westminster College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Professor of Church History, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (1950-1980)
- Visiting and adjunct professor, Knox Theological Seminary (1990-1996)
- Visiting and adjunct professor, Reformed Theological Seminary (1989-1996)
- Regular lecturer at Geneva College (1975-1996)
- Visiting and adjunct professor, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (1966-1986)
- One of the truly great scholars in Evangelical Christianity—completed extensive research throughout his career and particularly as an honored fellow for Yale University (1983-1984, 1985-1987)
- Widely regarded as the foremost authority on the life and theology of Jonathan Edwards

Other Career Highlights:

- Ordained pastor in the United Presbyterian Church
- Professor-at-large for Ligonier Ministries (1980-1996)
- Theologian-in-Residence at Eastminster United Presbyterian Church in Wichita, Kansas (1980-1985)
- Assistant Pastor for Trinity Presbyterian Church in America in Johnstown, Pennsylvania
- Requested speaker at both conferences and seminars across the United States
- Pastored various churches in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania (1940-1949)
- Mentored Art Lindsley and Don Kistler

Publications:

- Hundreds of journal articles for periodicals such as *Church History* and *Christianity Today*
- Contributor to several dictionaries and encyclopedias
- Numerous books, including *Theology in Dialogue*, *Primitive Theology*, *Theology for Everyman*, and, his most enduring work, the three-volume set *The Rational Biblical Theology of Jonathan Edwards*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Hickman, Edward, ed. *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. I (1987), Vol. II (1986). Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust.

Murray, Iain. *Jonathan Edwards, A New Biography*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1987 (hardcover), 1996 (paperback).

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.