



AMBROSE SEMINARY

**Foundations for Ministry Certificate Program
A Theology of the Atonement
October 16-17, 2009
Instructor: Rev. Bernie A. Van De Walle, Ph.D.**

Contacting the Instructor

**Class Times: Friday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 17 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Office phone: (403) 410 2000 ext. 6906
Email Address: BVanDeWalle@Ambrose.edu**

Course Description

An introductory study of the theology of the Atonement; its basis in the person of God Himself, the purpose of humanity, the need of humanity, and its practical outworking in contemporary contexts. This course will explore how the theological message of atonement informs all areas of life including, but certainly not limited to, the ministry of the Church, the means of discipleship, the focus of Christian worship, and ethics.

Course Objectives

1. Successful students will become acquainted with the Christian doctrine of the atonement, its basis in Scripture, and its pivotal role within the larger body of Christian doctrine.
2. The successful student will be able to identify those portions of Christian Scripture that play a particularly influential role in the construction of a Christian doctrine of the atonement.
3. The successful student will be become acquainted with select secondary literature on the doctrine of the atonement, particularly from an Evangelical perspective.
4. The successful student will be able to think critically about and integrate the implications of a doctrine of the atonement for any of a number of settings and situations, for both the individual and the Church.

Course Requirements / Learning Activities

1. Audit

1.1. Attend the 10 hours of class instruction on October 16 & 17.

2. Credit for the “Foundations for Ministry Certificate”

2.1. Attend the 10 hours of class instruction on October 16 & 17.

2.2. In the 30 hours of course work beyond class attendance, students will prepare reading responses for 2 of the books found in the bibliography below. For each text chosen, the student will prepare a six-page response to the reading of each text. The response must be composed of the following.

2.2.1. **An Executive Summary:** The student will summarize the content of the assigned text in his/her own words and must avoid just indicating the topics. There should be NO personal commentary or attempt to evaluate the content of the materials at this stage. The student will solely summarize what each author has said. This section should include as many of the key concepts and ideas as possible and strive to be both comprehensive and intensive. It should be stylistically correct, coherent, and clear. The abstract should be no more than four (4) double-spaced pages in length.

2.2.2. **Emerging Questions:** The student will record his/her own questions that have emerged from the reading. These questions should reflect a thorough, profound, and thoughtful interaction with the text as a whole. This section should include not only the questions but an identification of the reason(s) why the student is asking. Grading in this section will consider both the quality of the questions and the apparent depth of interaction with the text. This section should be no more than two (2) double-spaced pages in length.

2.2.3. All work will be submitted electronically (in Microsoft Word format, in one file) to the instructor (BVanDeWalle@Ambrose.edu) by the due date of December 14.

Select Bibliography

1. Stott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.
2. Morris, Leon. *The Atonement: Its Meaning and Significance*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1983.
3. Aulen, Gustav. *Christus Victor: A Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Theory of the Atonement*. Reprint. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2003.
4. McKnight, Scott. *A Community Called Atonement*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.
5. (Other titles that the student would like to consider must be negotiated with the professor in advance.)