



BS 6008 ATONEMENT
WITH DISSERTATION THEORY OPTION

Dr. Will Ryan
Dr. Matt Mouzakis

Before the course begins: Order the texts

Students may complete this course at their own pace or within a cohort group. Please enter prayerfully into each course. During each class you need to display your understanding of the text and subject matter. Different people learn and construct differently and TKC is open to the multiplicity by which a student approaches and displays this knowledge base. Throughout each course we encourage students to make the most of each course taking into account their giftedness, situations, opportunities, and time available. Sometimes this may simply mean reading slower, highlighting the book as you go and fully taking it in. Other times it may be investing deeper. Either way, we want to stretch you. Please discuss your plan for the each class before you begin with the class instructor or your advisor. At some point during your time at TKC we encourage you to explore some or all of these facets of learning:

NOTE: THIS IS SPECIFICALLY AN ACADEMIC ORIENTED CLASS REQUIRING AN ACADEMIC THESIS AT THE END.

Textbooks:

A Community Called Atonement (Scot McKnight)

ISBN: 978-0687645541

ATONEMENT (Will Ryan and Matt Mouzakis) (not available on Amazon until 4-15-26)

ISBN: 979-8253170922

Crushing the Serpent (Will Hess)

ISBN: 979-8338607817

Summary

Over the centuries, the church developed a number of metaphors, such as penal substitution or the ransom theory, to speak about Christ's death on the cross and the theological concept of the atonement. Yet too often, says Scot McKnight, Christians have held to the supremacy of one metaphor over against the others, to their detriment. He argues instead that to plumb the rich theological depths of the atonement, we must consider all the metaphors of atonement and ask whether they each serve a larger purpose.

A Community Called Atonement is a constructive theology that not only values the church's atonement metaphors but also asserts that the atonement fundamentally shapes the life of the Christian and of the church. That is, Christ identifies with humans to call us into a community that reflects God's love (the church)--but that community then has the responsibility to offer God's love to others through missional practices of justice and fellowship, living out its life together as the story of God's reconciliation. Scot McKnight thus offers an accessible, thought-provoking theology of atonement that engages the concerns of those in the emerging church conversation and will be of interest to all those in the church and academy who are listening in.

WATCH

- Intro to Atonement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhTWKUIvnDQ>
- Sacrificial System: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=As41o3JP5aQ>
- The Exodus Motif: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4EGtXLWLaq>
- The Day of Atonement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFHOT-jdXh0>
- Isaiah 53: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbMYorr8noY>
- Atonement in the Gospels and Acts: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Xpmd_BIFPo
- Atonement in Romans: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leCuehJN8jY>
- Atonement in Hebrews: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkvA3S6LeQM>
- Jesus Died for Us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRSqtE13v5k>
- Legal Atonement Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JunsVI2eg7E>
- Legal Atonement Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bsBnYleBj4>
- Atonement History and the Early Church: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGpcD875CjY>
- Atonement Conclusion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TajRVjQx0Xs>

COURSE TIMELINE:

- STEP 1 Discuss with your advisor the scope of the class and your plans to exhibit your comprehension of the subject matter. Consider joining a cohort group if one is offered for this class.
- STEP 2 Write an journal style 3 page analysis of how you have come to understand atonement views
- STEP 3 Read **the Key texts**
- STEP 4 WATCH / LISTEN to the above links
- STEP 5 Consider reading the other books recommended
- STEP 6 Prepare a 10 minute presentation to the class on a very concise topic of atonement
- STEP 7 Submit a finished academic style thesis on something atonement related.

ALL STUDENTS: Submit a finished academic style thesis on something atonement-related. This should be written academically and be at least 8 pages single spaced with a minimum of 25 citations.

DOCTORAL RESEARCH STUDENTS DISSERTATION THEORY ASSIGNMENT:

- Doctor of Theology—ThD (Requires a Dissertation)
- Doctor of Christian Education—DCE (Requires a Dissertation)
- Doctor of Christian Counseling—DCC (Requires a Dissertation)

Choose your view of Atonement and defend it in 15 pages citing at least 100 sources and proposing at least one idea or argument as original as possible. The first page should separately represent your objectives and abstract for the following paper.

ACADEMIC BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUGGESTED CLASS READING

Atonement Theology — Core Academic Works

- Aulén, Gustaf. *Christus Victor*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.
- Green, Joel B., and Mark D. Baker. *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2000.
- McKnight, Scot. *A Community Called Atonement*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- McKnight, Scot. *The King Jesus Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.
- Wright, N. T. *The Day the Revolution Began*. New York: HarperOne, 2016.
-

Systematic & Constructive Theology

- McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th ed. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *The Drama of Doctrine*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005.
- Webster, John. *Holiness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
-

Critiques of Penal Substitution / Alternative Models

- Boyd, Gregory A. *The Crucifixion of the Warrior God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017.
- Boyd, Gregory A. *Cross Vision*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017.
- Crisp, Oliver D. *Participation and Atonement*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022.
- Zahnd, Brian. *Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God*. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook, 2017.
- Zahnd, Brian. *Beauty Will Save the World*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2012.
- Weaver, J. Denny. *The Nonviolent Atonement*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
-

Voices Representing Penal Substitution (for Dialogue & Fairness)

- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1960.
- Packer, J. I. "What Did the Cross Achieve?" In *In My Place Condemned He Stood*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2007.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.
- Stott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1986.
-

Second Temple Judaism & Background Literature

- deSilva, David A. *Sacrificial Economy*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2018.
- Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
-

Theological Anthropology & Participation

- Gorman, Michael J. *Inhabiting the Cruciform God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Lossky, Vladimir. *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1997.

WRITING GUIDELINES

Different academic fields place varying degrees of emphasis on different things. Because of this, different citation styles have evolved over time to meet the specific needs of the discipline. Mastering the appropriate citation style is an important part of joining a scholarly community. Currently, the Seminary recognizes five citation styles: **MLA, APA, Chicago, SBL**, with an emphasis on **Turabian which we will use as an example below**.

Common Elements

All citation styles have certain things in common. They exist to help your readers identify and find your sources. Regardless of style, you will need the following:

- Author's name
- Title of the text
- Publisher
- Publisher's location
- Date of publication

TKC academic papers principally follow Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 9th ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018). Please order this text at the beginning of your time with TKC.

ACADEMIC THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS:

- All pages should be set to the standard 8.5 x 11 inches.
- The document should be double-spaced in 8.5x11 format, and the footnotes should be single-spaced.
- The customary font for Turabian papers is Times New Roman
- Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions below, the font size should be 12 points. Hebrew and Greek fonts may need to be adjusted to match the size of the surrounding English font.
- Indent each paragraph one-half inch.
- Each paragraph must have at least two sentences. A two-sentence paragraph would be rare but may be used for some purposes such as introducing a section of a paper. In general, however, a paragraph should have at least three and preferably more sentences. The upper limit of a paragraph would be approximately one page. • Use the serial or Oxford comma, placed immediately before the coordinating conjunction in a series of three or more elements.
- Although digital citing is becoming more accepted, if possible do not cite a source according to Kindle location or other digital information. Locate and provide the print-version page number. If you are unable to locate the print version, see the guidelines in Turabian 9, § 17.1.10.
- If an online source is an identical reproduction of a print version (e.g., a journal with the original page numbers or a scan of a book on Google Books), do not include the URL. Include the URL only if the online source differs from the print version.
- In scholarly works it is most common to NOT capitalize pronouns referring to deity; however TKC leaves this up to the authors.

Sample Footnote Forms

¹ G. K. Beale, *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011), 20–21.

² Eugene H. Merrill, Mark F. Rooker, and Michael A. Grisanti, *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011), 234.

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Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

Merrill, Eugene H., Mark F. Rooker, and Michael A. Grisanti. *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011.