**SINGAPORE BIBLE COLLEGE  
Doctor of Ministry**

**BIBLICAL WORSHIP  
*Course Dates*:  
30 October – 3 November 2017**

***Syllabus***

1. **Course Instructor**

REV. DR. RON MAN (M.M., Th.M., D.Min.) trained as an orchestra conductor, later attended Dallas Theological Seminary, and has served as a pastor, missionary, and worship pastor. He is presently Pastor of Worship/Missionary in Residence at First Evangelical Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and also Director of *Worship Resources International*. He has taught on worship in 35 countries, maintains a website of free worship resources (*www.worr.org*), authors a monthly newsletter *Worship Notes* (wornotes.wordpress.com), and posts daily *Worship Quotables* (*worr.wordpress.com;*  #WorshipQuotables). He wrote *Proclamation and Praise: Hebrews 2:12 and the Christology of Worship* (Wipf & Stock, 2007).

 Contact Information

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**II. Course Rationale**

Worship is the subject of much discussion and debate in the church of Jesus Christ today. Therefore those preparing to serve the church need to have a thorough biblical understanding of the issues and principles of worship, in order to be able to give wise leadership in this area.

**III. Course Objectives**

A. Major *Cognitive Objectives* (relating to understanding of content)

1. Comprehend the gracious initiative of God in all of His relationships with mankind and in all of His acts on behalf of humanity.

2. Understand the key biblical texts and foundational biblical principles concerning worship.

3. Understand the breadth, depth and importance of worship themes throughout all of Scripture.

4. Understand the centrality of worship to all of life and ministry.

5. Understand the fundamental, transcultural nature of the biblical teachings as the final authority in controversies surrounding worship traditions and practices.

B. Major *Affective Objectives* (relating to values and attitudes)

1. Commitment to completing the cycle of Theology and Doxology.

2. Exhibits a grateful spirit in response to God’s gracious initiative in revelation and redemption.

3. Commitment to growing in appreciation for and practice of personal and corporate worship.

4. Commitment to a God-centered view of ministry (reaching more worshipers, and building better worshipers, for God).

5. Commitment to a positive trajectory for evangelism (saving *to*, not just *from*).

C. Major *Behavioral Objectives* (relating to competence in a task or skill)

1. Ability to comprehend and explain the big picture of worship throughout the biblical revelation.

2. Ability to identify and explain in context the primary Hebrew and Greek words for worship in the Scriptures.

3. Ability to explain the relationship of worship to the major divisions of systematic theology.

4. Wisdom and skill in discerning between biblical and cultural issues in worship practice, and ability to help denominations, churches or church leaders do the same.

5. Ability to construct and teach a course for leaders and/or laypeople on the biblical foundations of worship.

6. Ability to defuse generational conflicts and foster church unity in worship through careful biblical teaching.

7. Ability to plan and lead a thematic worship service.

8. Ability and motivation for a lifelong study of the riches and ramifications of biblical worship.

**IV. Course Format**

Introduction

Unit 1: The God Whom We Worship

Unit 2: The Centrality of Worship

Unit 3: Worship in the Old Testament

Unit 4: Worship in the New Testament

Unit 5: Worship in Church History

Unit 6: Worship in the Church

**V. Reading List**

**A. Required (c. 2621 pages)**

1. Books (2171 pages)

Basden, Paul, ed. *Exploring the Worship Spectrum*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. (257 pages)

Block, Daniel I. *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014. (360 pages)

Chan, Simon. *Liturgical Theology: The Church as Worshiping Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006. (166 pages)

Kauflin, Bob. *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008. (259 pages)

Leithart, Peter. *From Silence to Song: The Davidic Liturgical Revolution*. Moscow, ID: Canon, 2003. (138 pages)

Man, Ron. *Proclamation and Praise: Hebrews 2:12 and the Christology of Worship*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007. (87 pages)

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002. (317 pages)

Webber, Robert E. *Worship Is a Verb: Celebrating God’s Mighty Deeds of Salvation.* 2nd ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2006. (215 pages)

White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1993. (180 pages)

Woods, Robert and Brian Walrath. *The Message in the Music: Studying Contemporary Praise and Worship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2007. (192 pages)

2. Articles (c. 450 pages)

These articles can all be found online at [www.worr.org](http://www.worr.org)***.***

a. <http://www.worr.org/biblical-and-theological-studies/>

All *English* articles *except* “The Significance of Chiasm for New Testament Interpretation” (c. 65 pages)

b. <http://www.worr.org/shaping-corporate-worship/>

All *English* articles, *except* read only pages 8-46 of “Dallas Seminary Worship Education for Future Pastors” (c. 99 pages)

c. <http://www.worr.org/worship-culture/>

All *English* articles, *except* “Worship Bridges” (c. 10 pages)

d. <http://www.worr.org/global-studies/>

All *English* articles (c. 6 pages)

e. <http://www.worr.org/others-on-worship/>

Read articles by Alexander, Allen, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Calvin Institute, Chapell, Christensen, Detwiler, Frame, Glodo, Guthrie, Hawthorne, Hayworth, Hustad, Kidd, Lewis, Lucado, Mains, Noll, Piper (all), Poythress (both), Ruth, Smith, Spiegel, Tenth Presbyterian Church, Tozer, Wallace, Ward, White, White, Witvliet (all), Wright (both) (c. 220 pages)

f. <http://www.worr.org/articles-papers/>

Read articles by Alexander, Clowney, Harris, Lutheran World Federation, Piper, Witvliet; and read “Creative Arts, Missions, and Worship” by Man (c. 50 pages)

Reading reports on these materials are due on the first day of the module on 30 October 2017. Book reports should be 1-2 pages each, and article reports should be a short paragraph of 2-3 sentences each.

**B. Recommended**

Best, Harold. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.

Byars, Ronald F. *The Future of Protestant Worship: Beyond the Worship Wars*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Carson, Donald A., editor. *Worship: Adoration and* Action. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2002; previously published Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1993.

Carson, Donald A., editor. *Worship by the Book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Castleman, Robbie. *Story-Shaped Worship: Following Patterns from the Bible and History*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2013.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

Due, Noel. *Created for Worship: From Genesis to Revelation*. Scotland: Mentor Imprints, 2005.

Farhadian, Charles R. *Christian Worship Worldwide: Expanding Horizons, Deepening Practices*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007.

Gore, R. J., Jr., *Covenantal Worship:* *Reconsidering the Puritan Regulative Principle*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey USA: P & R Publishing, 2003.

Hicks, Zac. *The Worship Pastor: A Call to Ministry for Worship Leaders and Teams*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Kidd, Reggie. *With One Voice: Discovering Christ’s Song in Our Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005.

Krabill, James A., editor. *Worship and Mission for the Global Church: An Ethnodoxology Handbook*. Pasadena, California USA. William Carey Library, 2012)

Nicholls, William. *Jacob’s Ladder: The Meaning of Worship*. Richmond, Virginia USA: John Knox, 1958.

Parry, Robin. *Worshipping Trinity: Coming Back to the Heart of Worship.* Eugene, Oregon USA: Wipf & Stock, 2012; previously published London, England: Paternoster, 2005.

Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr., and Sue A. Rozeboom. *Discerning the Spirits: A Guide to Thinking About Christian Worship Today* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003.

Ross, Allen. *Recalling the Hope of Glory: Biblical Worship from the Garden to the New Creation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006.

Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.

Witvliet, John D. *Worship Seeking Understanding: Windows into Christian Practice.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

**VI. Post-Course Projects**

CHOOSE 3 OF THE FOLLOWING 4 STUDY TOPICS (about 10 pages should be written on each of the 3):

1. Read and evaluate the article [“What Is ‘Biblical’ Worship? Biblical Hermeneutics And Evangelical Theologies Of Worship”](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/143741/ETS%20Biblical%20Worship/San%20Diego%202007/What%20Is%20%22Biblical%22%20Worship%3F%20%5BSanDiego%202007%5D%20%28Michael%20A.%20Farley%29.pdf) by Michael A. Farley.
2. Identify and critique the three views presented by Farley. What are the strongest arguments for each? What are each view’s weaknesses?
3. Which view does Farley favor?
4. Which view do you favor? Why?
5. Study the exegetical, hermeneutical, theological and contextual arguments for determining the meaning of “worship in the spirit and truth” in John 4:20-26, especially the Holy Spirit/human spirit debate concerning “worship in spirit.” Present strengths and weaknesses of both sides, and express and defend your view.
6. Research the view that Paul is referencing Adam and Eve and their fall, rather than just the fall of mankind in general, in Romans 1:18-25. Who has advocated this view? How strong is/are the argument(s)? What are the implications for a biblical understanding of worship in salvation history?
7. Trace the temple theme through the creation narrative, the Mosaic Covenant, the Church, and the New Heavens and New Earth. (The works of Allen Ross, N. T. Wright and Gregory Beale may be very helpful in this regard.)

CHOOSE 2 OF THE FOLLOWING 3 PRACTICAL PROJECTS (about 5 pages should be written for each of the 2):

E. Worship Evaluation and Recommendations

Part 1: Briefly describe and evaluate the practice of worship within your own church, denomination, or country in light of the material covered in class and in the assigned reading. Include a list of different elements along with your evaluation of whether each is based more on a biblical absolute or a cultural norm. Be sure to mention things that are positive as well as things that are not, in your opinion (one page).  
  
Part 2: Make some recommendations as to how worship could become more biblical, more unifying, and more God-honoring in your church, denomination, or country (or in a church where you might serve some day).

F. Worship Teaching Series

Describe a program or strategy whereby you might teach the church leaders, the congregation, or a smaller group within the church about worship (sermon series, Sunday School classes, home groups, leadership committee, printed materials, etc.). Prepare an outline (2-3 pages) for a series on biblical worship that you could preach or teach in your church in one of these contexts. The outline should indicate what subjects would be covered, what key Scripture passages would be dealt with, and some practical assignments that would be given.

G. Service Design Practicum

Design a worship service that is thematic in nature. Choose songs, readings, etc., from within your tradition that help to develop that theme. Include a basic sermon outline (title and basic points) in your plan. Try to use a variety of styles, but blended into a unified whole; be creative and consider how other arts besides music may be used too.

Write out a written service plan with the theme clearly stated, and including song and Scripture texts. It may be necessary to include some explanations for creative elements that are difficult to represent on paper.

PLEASE NOTE: An alternative project plan, one that would enable the student to do research and writing directly related to his/her dissertation topic, may be proposed to the professor for approval.

SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS: Projects should be submitted in digital format by email to Ron Man at [ronman9@gmail.com](mailto:ronman9@gmail.com) no later than January 31, 2018. Grading should take no longer than 4 weeks.

**VII. Grading**

Grading will be broken down as follows:

Pre-course reading assignments and reports: 40%

Classroom participation: 20%

Post-course projects: 40%

The following 4.0-point system is used to complete grade point standing:

**Symbol % Equivalent Grade Point Value Qualitative Description**

A 94 to 100 4.0 Exceptional Work

A- 90 to 93 3.7

B+ 87 to 89 3.3

B 84 to 86 3.0 Good work

B- 80 to 83 2.7

C+ 77 to 79 2.3 Unacceptable work

C 74 to 76 2.0

C- 70 to 73 1.7

D+ 67 to 69 1.3

D 64 to 66 1.0

D- 60 to 63 0.7

F Below 60 0.0

The minimum cumulative Grade Point Average for DMin Studies is 3.0 with a minimum grade of “B-” to pass an individual module. Students are expected to take another module if they obtain a “C+” grade or below.

**VIII. Extensions:**

Students should not negotiate with the professor for extensions for delayed work. All requests for assignment extensions must be made in advance to the DMin Director in an email stating clear reasons with attachment of proof and duration of the extension. The Director will seek final consent from the Professor. The allowable period of extension should not exceed five weeks after the assignment deadline. Requests will not be entertained on or after the deadline date. Busyness will also not be considered a reason for extension.

The guideline for late papers or reading assignments imposes a penalty of one-third grade or 3% deduction per week:

Before or on deadline 0

One week after deadline -3% (e.g., a 90% becomes 87%)

Two weeks after deadline -6%

Three weeks after deadline -9%

Four weeks after deadline -12%

Five weeks after deadline -15%

Six or more weeks after deadline -100% (no credit for assignment)

**IX. Writing Standards**

The *SBC Writing Standards 2017* document is the standard for all assignments, based on Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers: Of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., eds. Wayne C. Booth et al. (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013). Students should secure their own copy of both of these resources. Assignments must be submitted in Microsoft Word format.

**X. Attendance**

Attendance of all classes is mandatory. Students must seek official approval from the DMin Director to be absent from class before the module commences. Any student absent more than 4 hours will be considered to have audited the module at full fee.

**XI. Correspondence**

All inquiries should be directed to both:

Ms. Cheng Ting Ting

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