

TH990/EC990 Seminar in Missional and Ecumenical Theology: Karl Barth as a  
Missional Theologian  
Professor: Darrell L. Guder

Mondays – 2:30 - 5:20 p.m. – Dean’s Office

Course Description: This seminar will investigate the theme of mission in Karl Barth’s theology, especially in the *Church Dogmatics*. The primary focus will be upon the actual treatment of the theme in the various contexts of the *Dogmatics*, with particular attention both to the translation problematic as well as to the ecclesial context within which Barth was working. In particular, the relationship between the church’s witness, the calling of the Christian person to be a witness, and Barth’s re-casting of the doctrine of election will be explored. The students will focus upon a close-reading of the text in order to generate an understanding and interpretation of Barth’s importance for contemporary missional theology.

Course Format: As a seminar with a small group of students, the primary method will be discussed based upon reading and the preparation of texts for analysis. The students will select a theme for a research essay to be completed by the end of the final examination period.

Bibliography and Resources:

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, vol. IV, *The Doctrine of Reconciliation*, Part Three, Second Half, Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1962. Paragraphs 771 and 72.

Various essays made available on Blackboard.

A digital word study resource from the Center for Barth Studies on “Mission/Sendung” in German, and “mission” in English.

Proposed Syllabus\*

{“This syllabus is “proposed” because the nature of this seminar is exploratory and will be shaped by the process and the interactions of the participants; it is, therefore, subject to change as the project unfolds.}

9/25/06

Organizational Meeting (2:30 – 3:30 p.m.)

- Research Program
- Resources

Reading for next week:

Busch, *The Great Passion*

Hartenstein, “What Mission Can Learn From the Theology of Karl Barth” (translation by Guder)

Barth, “Mission and Theology in the Contemporary Situation”

Eberhard Busch, “Karl Barth’s Understanding of the Church as Witness”

10/2/06

**Meet in the Center for Barth Studies (Luce Library)**

Discussion Themes:

Orientation to the resources and structure of the Center for Barth Studies.

Locating Barth's understanding of mission within the large framework of his theology

Reading for next week:

Barth's discussion of "Evangelisation" and "Mission" among the "Ministries of the Community, *CD.IV.3.2*, pp. 872-878; *KD*, pp. 999-1007

- 10/9/06 (2:30-4:30 [Board Meeting])
- Discussion theme: Barth's understanding of Mission and Evangelization as ministries.
- Preparation for next week: Analysis of the usage of "mission"/"missions"/"sending" in *CD*, I.1, I.2
- 10/16/06 Discussion Theme: Results of the word studies.
- Preparation for next week: Analysis of the usage of "mission"/"missions"/"sending" in *CD*, II.1, II.2
- 10/23/06 Discussion Theme: Results of the word studies
- Preparation for next week: Analysis of the usage of "mission"/"missions"/"sending" in *CD*, III.1-III.4.
- 10/30/06 Reading Week
- 11/6/06 Discussion theme: Results of the word studies.
- Preparation for next week: Analysis of the usage of "mission"/"missions"/"sending" in *CD*, IV.1, IV.2, IV.3.1
- 11/13/06 Discussion theme: Results of the word studies
- Preparation for next week: continuation of the last assignment.
- 11/20/06 AAR/SBL
- 11/27/06 Discussion theme: Results of the word studies
- Preparation for next week Analysis of the usage of "mission"/"missions"/"sending" in *CD*, IV.3.2., par. 71.
- 12/4/06 Discussion theme: Results of the word studies
- Preparation for next week: Analysis of the usage of "mission"/"missions"/"sending" in *CD*, IV.3.2., par. 72.
- 12/11/06 Discussion theme: Results of the word studies
- 12/18/06 Discussion theme: Findings of the seminar.