

## THE THEOLOGY AND ETHICS OF PAUL TILLICH

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ST1728P. Paul Tillich is regarded as one of the greatest theologians of the 20th century and a leading advocate of an existential interpretation of Christian theology. His work grew out of the crisis of protest against Hitler in Germany that forced him to emigrate to the United States where he developed his approach of correlating the questions of human existence with the enduring categories of Christian faith. This course examines his views regarding life and the corresponding reality of God, the New Being in Christ, life in the Spirit, and the meaning of history and the Kingdom of God.

### Goals

1. To examine the basic method and structure of Tillich's theological thinking.
2. To consider Tillich's way of making the Christian message relevant to the questions of human existence today.
3. To become familiar with Tillich's distinctive philosophical terminology for presenting the biblical faith.
4. To assess the effectiveness of Tillich's approach among other theological methods.
5. To explore Tillich's thesis that theology and ethics cannot be separated.
6. To see how Tillich applied his systematic theology to ethical issues and preaching to a diverse religious and secular audience.
7. To practice and test Tillich's theological approach on an issue chosen by each student.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND ABBREVIATIONS FOR THEM

Tillich, Paul, *THE SHAKING OF THE FOUNDATIONS*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1948, 1952, etc. (Book is out of print, but used copies are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, & BTS reserve.) **TSOTF**

Tillich, Paul, *THE NEW BEING*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1955, 2005.  
(Also on BTS reserve). **TNB**

Tillich, Paul, *THE ETERNAL NOW*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1963, etc.  
(Also on BTS reserve) **TEN**

Tillich, Paul, *DYNAMICS OF FAITH*, Harper and Sons, 1957, etc. (Also on BTS Reserve). **DOF**

Of the three volumes of Tillich's systematic theology, ONE volume of Tillich's 3 volume systematics. See syllabus below for basic contents of each volume. Ordering will have to

be arranged with the bookstore by selecting your volume immediately and notifying [Bookstore@bts.edu](mailto:Bookstore@bts.edu).  
 Paul Tillich, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, VOLUME I, University of Chicago Press, 1951. or later reprints (introduces method, and doctrine of God) **ST#I** or  
 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, VOLUME II, University of Chicago Press, 1957 or later reprints (presents doctrine of Jesus as the Christ), **ST#II** or  
 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, VOLUME III, University of Chicago Press, 1963 or later reprints (presents doctrine of Christian life, the Church, and the Kingdom of God). **ST#III**

## **SYLLABUS**

**(Students should emphasize for class preparation the readings for Session I and scan the longer readings for Session II. All required books are on reserve in the library)**

Introduction: From Protest to Reformation, Paul Tillich's Approach to Theology

1. Sept. 9. Session I "The Theologian," **TSOF**  
 Session II "Introduction," **ST #I**

Part I. From Act to Existence, Participation to Knowing

2. Sept. 16. Session I "The Shaking of the Foundations," "We Live in Two Orders,"  
**TSOF**  
 Session II "Part I. Reason and the Quest for Revelation," **ST #I**  
 "Part II. The Reality of Revelation, **ST #I**

Part II. Being and God

3. Sept. 23 Session I "The Experience of the Holy," "The Escape from God," **TSOF**  
 Session II " Part I, Being and the Question of God," **ST #I**
4. Sept. 30 Session I "Meditation: The Mystery of Time," "The Depth of Existence,":  
**TSOF**  
 Session II "Part II, The Reality of God," **ST #I**  
 ! Hand out Review Guide for Quiz I

\*5. Oct. 7 Short Quiz I

Part III. Jesus as the Christ

- Session I "You Are Accepted," **TSOF**, "The New Being," **TNB**
- Session II "Introduction and Part III, Existence and the Christ, **ST #II**,  
 pp. 3-44.

Oct. 14 No class. Reading week, research on final paper project.

6. Oct. 21 Session I "To Whom Much is Forgiven," "Faith and Uncertainty," **TNB**  
 Session II "Existence and the Christ," **ST#II**, pp. 44-96.
7. Oct. 28 Session I "Nature, Also, Mourns For A Lost Good," **TSOF**, "Principalities

and Powers," **THE NEW BEING**"

Session II "The Reality of the Christ," **ST#II**, pp. 97-138.

\*\*\*\* Turn in 1-2 page topic proposal for final paper and list which time would be best for conference with the instructor, before class, after class, or if necessary another day you are at the seminary.

8. Nov. 4 Session I "Has the Messiah Come?," "Love Is Stronger Than Death,"  
"Universal Salvation," **TNB**  
Session II "The Reality of the Christ," **ST#II**, pp. 138-180.  
! Hand out Review Guide for Quiz II

\*9. Nov. 11 Short Quiz II

Part IV. Life and the Spirit

Session I "What Faith Is," **DOF**

"Loneliness and Solitude," "Spiritual Presence," **TEN**

Session II "Life, Its Ambiguities, And The Quest For Unambiguous Life"

**ST#III**, 3-86.

10. Nov. 18 Session I "What Faith Is Not," **DOF**

"Our Ultimate Concern," **TNB**, "Man and Earth," **TEN**

Session II Complete "Life, Its Ambiguities and "The Spiritual Presence"

**ST#III**, 86-161.

11. Nov. 25 Session I "Symbols of Faith," **DOF**

"The Divine Name," "Salvation," **TEN**

Session II "The Divine Spirit And The Ambiguities of Religion," **ST#III**,

162-245.

12. Dec. 2 Session I "Types of Faith," **DOF**

"God's Pursuit of Man," "Heal The Sick; Cast Out Demons,"

**TEN**

Session II "Spiritual Presence And The Ambiguities Of Culture...Morality

„,Life in General," **ST#III**, 245-294.

13. Dec. 9.

Part V. History And The Kingdom of God.

Session I "The Truth of Faith," **DOF**

"What Is Truth?," "Do Not Be Conformed," **TEN**

Session II "History And The Quest For The Kingdom Of God," **ST#III**,

297-361.

! Hand out Review Guide for Quiz III

- \*14. Dec. 16 Short Quiz III

The Kingdom Of God Within And As The End Of History

Session I "The Life of Faith," **DOF**

"Be Strong," "In Thinking Be Mature," TEN  
 Session II "The Kingdom of God Within And As The End Of History,"  
 ST#III, 362-423.

## STUDENT WORK AND EVALUATION

Preface. Below is a statement of the study that we are about to begin. It has been said that doing theology is the heart and mind of the church at prayer. Discussing ontology, categories of anxiety, and many other complex issues may at first seem beyond prayer. Yet our intention is to be open to the knowledge and service of God. With this in mind, classes will open with prayer or meditation led by the instructor or members of the class who wish to share in this preparation for each class meeting.

1. Grading and evaluation follows the standards of the Student Handbook of BTS.
2. Class Participation. 30% of grade. Regular attendance, involvement, and participation in class process. This course is designed for student participation in several ways. One is sharing in class regularly some of your Feedback Report and responding to other reports and class discussion described in #3 below. The readings for the first session of the day are meant to provide a way of meeting Tillich and talking to each other about what he says. Therefore, the readings for the first session of the day are mainly from Tillich's sermons and easily read. In the last 6 sessions, we will also read for the first session of the day Tillich's systematic discussion of the nature of faith also meant for a general audience. The point is that the first session of each class is a forum for student discussion, a time for raising questions, clarifying, and getting into Tillich's proclamation of Christian faith. Anything can be brought up in this session!

The second session is less free wheeling and follows through Tillich's 3 volume systematic theology from beginning to end. As instructor, I will guide the class over Tillich's most complete statement of the Christian faith. As the first session of the day raises questions and exposes problems through student participation in discussing Tillich's thought, the second session should be more helpful to understanding Tillich's systematic answers to the questions about Christian faith.

3. Weekly Feedback Report. 30% of grade. This Feedback Report is a brief account in a typed page or less on your current experience of reading and studying Paul Tillich's theology and ethics. It can be on anything relevant from what is striking or troublesome to what is the meaning of the Christian faith as we study Tillich's thought. It could be connecting current events and issues such as the war in Iraq, the global climate, the battle for the Bible, or issues of personal belief. Or it could be requests for help on understanding terms, concepts, and problems in studying Tillich and Christian theology. The main purpose is to learn to organize your theological thinking so you can know yourself and share it with others.

4. Three short in class quizzes. 10% of grade. Each quiz is based on key terms, concepts, persons, or issues from the readings and class discussion listed on a review sheet given out at the class before the quiz. It is objective, 10 questions each time.
  
5. Final paper. 30%. Tillich's program as a theologian is one that correlates Christian faith with the issues and questions of human existence. Using this approach as a starting point, take a topic or issue and work out a message that applies and tests Tillich's theology. For example: Does God exist? What does "Jesus saves" mean? How can we believe in eternal life when the universe may be dying? Of course, a problem or question of your own is the best choice. All paper topics have to be approved by individual conference with the instructor. Final paper evaluation follows the standards for written work in the BTS Student Handbook.