

**Grace Communion Seminary
Glendora, California**

T.F. Torrance: Christian Theology & Natural Science

Rev. John McKenna, Ph.D.
Spring, 2009

4 Units

Course Description:

This course introduces the work of Thomas F. Torrance, the great Edinburgh theologian. We will study his theology in the Light of the covenanted relationship between God, Man, and the World the actual nature of the relationship that exists between Christian Theology and Natural Science. We look at his contribution to the Church's understanding and announcement of the Kingdom of God in our time.

Course Objectives:

1. To explore the Biblical and Dogmatic theology with which Professor Torrance sought to champion a ground upon which the Church is called to stand to Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in the history of God's Creation.
2. To understand, as the Church, in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Word of God as the Revelation of the Trinity the Great I-AM, as the Lord and God of His People among the nations in the history of the Creation.
3. We seek to grasp the impact of this Revelation upon us in our time.
4. We will argue that the Word of God as this One Redeemer-Creator is the source of all Truth, the Truth of God and His Revelation, the Truth of Mankind and our destiny with Him, and the Truth of the nature of the Universe as His Creation.

Course Requirements:

We will read the Preface & Introduction and Chapters 1-8 of Torrance's *Space, Time, and Resurrection*. We will interpret this argument in the light of our modern scientific culture. I will write my assessment of each of the assignments to you. You will be required to write a short response to them. This will lay the groundwork for writing an essay (10 pages) on the relationship between the

Incarnation and the Creation. You will also provide a reading report on the total amount of reading you did during the course assignments.

Grading:

Your nine short responses to the contents of *Space, Time, and Resurrection* will comprise 40 % of your grade. The 10-page essay will count for 40% and 20% for your participation in our interactions with me, at our distance learning Internet site and via e-mail. It is important to understand that these interactions replace the lectures that might be included in a course generated in a building somewhere. My syllabus materials are background materials, to serve as a supplement to the contents of the book we will be studying directly.

Required Reading:

- E. Colyer, *How To Read T.F. Torrance* (InterVarsity Press, 2001)
- **J.E. McKenna, *The Great AMEN of the Great I-AM* (Wipf & Stock, 2008) and articles published at the website of Worldwide Church of God and at www.quodlibet.net
- ***T.F. Torrance, *Space, Time, & Resurrection* (T&T Clark, 1976/1998)
- * * -----, *The Ground and Grammar of Theology* (University of Virginia Press; Belfast Christian Journals, Ltd., 1980)
- ** -----, *The Trinitarian Faith* (T&T Clark, 1988)
- * -----, *Divine and Contingent Order* (Oxford, 1986).
- *-----, *The Christian Frame of Mind* (Helmets & Howard, 1989)
- *-----, *Theological and Natural Science* (Wipf & Stock, 2002)

- *** first priority.
- ** secondary priority.
- * tertiary priority.

Supplemental reading:

- R.T. Walker, editor, *Incarnation: The Person and Life of Christ* (IVP, 2008)