

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
FAITH AND THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES  
DM-H112 Salvation, Health, and Community  
May 16-20, 2016  
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Ours is an enterprise in constructive theology, an effort to bring together from across the Christian churches Eastern and Western, ancient and modern, the resources to think about the relationships between salvation and healing, health and spirit, the intensely individual experience of bodily suffering and the well-being and wholeness of human societies. We seek the theological resources and the language to speak words of comfort and inspiration and call to our churches and our people, to recall them and ourselves to the work of healing and bearing with the suffering of broken bodies and broken communities.

### **Reading Assignments:**

#### **Canonical Sources:**

Isaiah. Re-read the book with special attention to its representation of the character of the salvation God offers. Who is saved? From what? What is the nature of God's work in salvation?

#### **Historical Sources**

John Wesley's Sermons:

“Heaviness Through Manifold Temptations”

“The Wilderness State”

(available online: <http://gbgm-umc.org/UMHISTORY/wesley/sermons>)

What account of the human condition and its solution does Wesley seem to be operating with? What is the nature of salvation as he depicts it?

Maddox, Randy. *Responsible Grace*. (Abingdon, Nashville, TN, 1994)

Assigned are pp. 48-147; the remainder is recommended for those who have no prior general knowledge of Wesley's thought.

#### **Comparative Treatments:**

Harakas, Stanley. *Health and Medicine in the Eastern Orthodox Traditions*, (Crossroad, 1990) Assigned are pages pp. 25-55 which will be posted on Blackboard.

Holifield, E. Brooks. *Health and Medicine in the Methodist Tradition*, (Crossroad, 1986)

Assigned are pp. 3-84.

#### **Contemporary Sources:**

Brueggemann, Walter. *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation*

(Augsburg Fortress, 1989)

Assigned are Introduction, Ch. 1. .

Brueggemann, Walter. *Living Toward a Vision: Biblical Reflections on Shalom* (United Church Press, New York, 1982)

Assigned is ch 16: "Health Care as Healing and Caring"

Hauerwas, Stanley. "Salvation and Health: Why Medicine Needs the Church"

Verhey, Allen. Pp 100-154 in *Remembering Jesus* (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI, 2002)

### **Required Books:**

Maddox, Randy. *Responsible Grace* (Abingdon, Nashville, 1994)

Pre-writing assignment:

In 2-3 pages, answer the following question: What is salvation? In particular, make sure you say **what is it that you think principally threatens human beings, from which they need to be saved by God**. Is this need something that persons in general are aware of and could name for themselves? Or is it hidden, denied, or misunderstood by many or most people? If your task as a preacher is to proclaim and offer the good news of salvation, how would you announce it in a way that would be understandable and compelling in your own ministry context?