

JONATHAN L. BEST, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Practical Theology, St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida, 2016

Dissertation: *A Postmodern Theology of Ritual Action?*

An Exploration of Foot Washing Among the Original Free Will Baptist Community

Master of Divinity, Campbell University, Buies Creek, North Carolina, 2011

Bachelor of Science in History, University of Mount Olive, Mount Olive, North Carolina, 2006

EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, St. Thomas University, 2013-Present

Assistant Director of Outreach and Public Services, St. Thomas University Library, 2017-Present

Liaison for the School of Theology and Ministry, St. Thomas University Library, 2016-Present

Instruction and Outreach Librarian, St. Thomas University Library, 2016-2017

Serials Coordinator, St. Thomas University Library, 2011-2016

Adjunct Instructor, University of Mount Olive, 2011-2013

Reference Assistant, Wiggins Memorial Library, Campbell University, 2008-2011

COURSES TAUGHT

STM 500 Theological Research and Writing: A class designed to empower theology students to successfully communicate their ideas and research through theological writing for their classes and their congregations by teaching the major genres of theological writing, correct styles of documentation, methods to improve their writing, researching, editing, and revising processes, and theological research. (Fall 2017)

REL 2295 Bible: Story and Salvation: An introduction to the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. Informed by contemporary and traditional approaches, this course examines the various Biblical genres for their theological, spiritual, historical, and literary significance. (Spring 2017)

STM 150 Introduction to Religious Studies: An exploration of religion and the human person as a believer. This course explores the concept of faith and its role in religious expression and development. Special emphasis is given to the necessity of religion in our local communities and world. In addition, this course includes a world religions component. Arguments are given for religion's role in developing emotionally, socially and spiritually in order to be fully human. Particular emphasis is given to Christian theological development and its impact on the individual and community. (Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017)

REL 220 Survey of the Old Testament: Overview of the formation and the literature of the Old Testament. Focusing on several of the major themes in the Old Testament, this course examines the Pentateuch, the historical books, wisdom literature, psalmody, and prophetic literature,

setting these writings in their historical and social contexts, with an awareness of their continuing significance for shaping lives today. (Fall 2014, Fall 2015)

STM 371C Faith and Doubt: This course focuses on faith development theory, critiques and challenges to the universality of faith development theory, how commitment interacts with faith, and how commitment is foundational in one's relationship to God and others. Particular emphasis is given to the relationship between science and religious faith. (Spring 2015)

REL 111 Introduction to the Old Testament – Online: A course designed to give a general overview on the history, development, and theology of the Hebrew Scriptures. (Fall 2011, Spring 2013), University of Mount Olive

REL 112 Introduction to the New Testament: A course designed to give a general overview on the history, development, and theology of the New Testament. (Summer 2011), University of Mount Olive

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Review of *Living in Truth, Beauty, and Goodness: Values and Virtues*, by Jeffery Wattles. *Choice* 54, no.7 (March 2017).

Review of *Groundless Gods: The Theological Prospects of Post-Metaphysical Thought*. Edited by Hartmut von Sass. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 24, no. 1 (January 2017): 111-113.

Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016. Contributed articles on "Cooke, Terence," "Crapsey, Algernon Sidney," "Doane, George Washington," "Divine, Father," "Fry, Franklin Clark," "Hayes, Patrick Joseph," "Homrighausen, Elmer George," "Marsh, James," "Page, Kirby," "Pidgeon, George C.," "Plessis, Joseph-Octave," "Albert A. Sturges," "Anthony Thomas Graybill," "Gordon S. Seagrave," "Hervey DeWitt Griswold," "John Richard Slattery," "Leroy Lansing Janes," "Robert Wilson Hume."—Served as an editorial consultant.

Review of *Gift and the Unity of Being*, by Antonio López. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 23, no. 3 (August 2016): 338-340.

Review of *Paul Tillich and Pentecostal Theology: Spiritual Presence and Spiritual Power*, edited by Nimi Wariboko and Amos Yong. *Choice* 53, no.11 (July 2016): 1628.

Review of *Word, Words and World: How a Wittgensteinian Perspective on Metaphor-Making Reveals the Theo-logic of Reality*, by Sue Patterson. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 23, no.1 (January 2016): 67-70.

Review of *Black Practical Theology*, edited by Dale P. Andrews and Robert London Smith Jr. *Choice* 53, no. 9 (May 2016): 1340-1341.

Review of *Catholic and Mormon: A Theological Conversation*, by Stephen H. Webb and Alonzo L. Gaskill. *Choice* 53, no. 6 (February 2016): 895.

Review of *Catholicism: The Story of Catholic Christianity*, by Gerald O'Collins and Mario Farrugia. *Choice* 53, no.1 (September 2015): 87.

Review of *Theology on Trial: Kierkegaard and Tillich on the Status of Theology*, by John Losee. *Choice* 52, no. 12 (August 2015): 2033.

Review of *Heaven Can Wait*, by Diana Walsh Pasulka. *Choice* 52 no. 10 (June 2015): 1675.

Review of *The Jesuits: A History From Ignatius to the Present*, by John W. O'Malley. *Choice* 52, no. 9 (May 2015): 1518-1519.

Encyclopedia of Christian Education. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2015. Contributed articles on "Sacramental Theology," "Anabaptist," and "Anabaptist (Curriculum Outcomes)." April 2015.

Review of *A Living Tradition: On the Intersection of Liturgical History and Pastoral Practice*, edited by David Pitt, Stefanos Alexopoulos, and Christian McConnell. *Practical Matters* 8 (2015): <http://practicalmattersjournal.org/2015/03/01/a-living-tradition-review>.

Review of *God or Godless? One Atheist. One Christian. Twenty Controversial Questions*, by John W. Loftus and Randal Rauser. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 22, no. 2 (March 2015): 173-175.

Review of *The Crisis of Confidence in the Catholic Church*, by Raymond G. Helmick, SJ. *Choice* 52, no. 7 (March 2015): 1164.

Review of *Baudrillard and Theology*, by James Walters. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 22, no.1 (January 2015): 102-104.

Review of *Sex, Violence, & Justice: Contraception and the Catholic Church*, by Aline H. Kalbian. *Choice* 52, no. 4 (December 2014): 624-625.

Review of *Ricoeur and the Negation of Happiness*, by Alison Scott-Baumann, *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 21, no. 3 (July 2014): 388-391.

Review of *The Development of Moral Theology*, by Charles E. Curran. *Choice* 51, no. 10 (June 2014): 1819.

Review of *Ritualization and Human Interiority*, by Clemens Cavallin. *Reviews in Religion and*

Theology 21, no. 2 (March 2014): 195-197.

Review of *Ricoeur and Theology*, by Dan R. Stiver. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 21, no. 1 (January 2014): 128-131.

Review of *From Gabriel to Lucifer*, by Valery Rees, *Choice* 51, no. 2 (October 2013): 282.

Review of *Semiotics of Religion: Signs of the Sacred in History*, by Robert A. Yelle. *Choice* 50, no. 11 (July 2013): 1998.

Review of *Why Priests? A Failed Tradition*, by Garry Wills. *Choice* 50, no. 11 (July 2013): 2035.

Review of *Sexual Ethics: A Theological Introduction*, by Todd A. Salzman and Michael G. Lawler. *Choice* 50, no. 9 (May 2013): 1644.

Review of *Theological Reflection for Human Flourishing: Pastoral Practice and Public Theology*, by Helen Cameron et al. *Practical Matters* 6 (Spring 2013), <http://www.practicalmattersjournal.org/issue/6/reviews/theological-reflection-for-human-flourishing-pastoral-practice-and-public-theology>.

Review of *Four Views on Christian Spirituality*, edited by Bruce Demarest. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 20, no. 2 (March 2013): 201-204.

Review of *Things: Religion and the Question of Materiality*, edited by Dick Houtman and Birgit Meyer. *Choice* 50, no. 6 (February 2013): 1072.

Review of *The Fountain: A Secular Theology*, by Don Cupitt. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 19, no. 4 (September 2012): 432-434.

Review of *Divine Transcendence and the Culture of Change*, by David H. Hopper. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 19, no. 4 (September 2012): 473-475.

Review of *Christianity in Evolution: An Exploration*, by Jack Mahoney. *Choice* 50, no. 1 (September 2012): 101.

Review of *Changing Signs of Truth: A Christian Introduction to the Semiotics of Communications*, by Crystal Downing. *American Theological Inquiry* 5, no. 2 (July 2012): 95-97.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Why a Theology of Foot Washing is Necessary,” *The Free Will Baptist* 133, no. 8 (August 2015): 4-7.

“An Exploration of Foot Washing Within the Original Free Will Baptist Community,” *The Free Will Baptist* 132, no. 9 (September 2014): 4-7.

SCHOLARLY PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“Conversations in the Library: Using Popular Culture, Film, and Television in a Roman Catholic University”

Presented to the Annual Convention of the College Theology Society, Salve Regina University, RI, June 3, 2017.

“Telling the Baptist Story: The Need for Qualitative Methods and Practical Theology”

Presented to the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion Conference, Belmont University, Nashville, TN, May 24, 2017.

“Foot washing as a Liturgical Movement: Perspectives from the Original Free Will Baptists”

Presented to the Annual Convention of the College Theology Society (National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion section), Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO, June 2-5, 2016.

“Navigating Practical Theology in a Post-Modern World”

Keynote address to the Iannone Conference III: Postmodernism and Constructivism in Practical Theology, St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, FL, December 5, 2015.

“Deconstruction and Ritual Action: Learning to Listen”

Presented to the Iannone Conference II: Method in Practical Theology, St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, FL, May 2, 2015.

“Ritual Action as Language: The Hermeneutics of Discourse and Event”

Presented to the Iannone Conference: An Animating Vision of Practical Theology, St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, FL, December 13, 2014 (served as co-host and organizer of the event).

“An Exploration of Foot Washing Within the Original Free Will Baptist Community”

Presented to the 2014 Annual Conference of the Baptist History and Heritage Society and the Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions, Sioux Falls Seminary, Sioux Fall, SD, June 5, 2014.

“Digital Social Space? Interpreting Digital Action and Behavior for Today’s Churches”

Presented to the 32nd Biennial Meeting of the Association of Practical Theology, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN, March 30, 2014.

“Towards a Digital Habitus: Christianity in the Digital Age”

Presented to the Annual Conference of the Humanities and Technology Association, St. Thomas University, Miami, FL, November 8, 2013.

“Is it a Sacrament? Practical Theological Study of the Original Free Will Baptist Ordinance of Foot Washing”

Presented to the American Academy of Religion, Southeast Regional Meeting (SESCOR), Greenville, SC, March 16, 2013.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Being Religious in a Post-Truth World”

Tedx: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fort Lauderdale, April 4, 2017.

“Star Wars: Religion, Spirituality, Messiahs”

Conversations in the Library: Popular Culture Lecture Series, St. Thomas University, forthcoming March 9, 2017.

“Chicago Manual of Style Workshop: Common Issues and Problems for Dissertation and Thesis Writers”

Presentation to doctoral and graduate students, St. Thomas University, October 25, 2016.

“The Walking Dead: Can Ethics and Religion Survive the Zombie Apocalypse?”

Conversations in the Library: Popular Culture Lecture Series, St. Thomas University, October 13, 2016.

“Game of Thrones: Perspectives, Theology, and Ethics”

Conversations in the Library: Popular Culture Lecture Series, St. Thomas University Library, September 29, 2016.

“Introduction to Doctoral Education and Research”

Presentation to first and second year Ph.D. students of St. Thomas University, August 19, 2016

“Introduction to Academic Scholarship: Book Reviews, Paper Presentations, and the Curriculum Vitae”

Presentation to the Ph.D. cohort of St. Thomas University, March 6, 2013.

Panelist Respondent to “Genesis and Gilgamesh: Reading the Book of Genesis in the Light of Ancient Near Eastern Literature” by Dr. Tremper Longman III

Contemporary Biblical Scholars Series lecture, St. Thomas University, October 25, 2013.

“Understanding Religious Symbols”

Special lecture to STM 737 Sacrament and Symbol, St. Thomas University, February 2, 2013.

“Symbol and Myth”

Special lecture to STM 150 Introduction to Religious Studies, St. Thomas University,
October 22, 2012.

“How to Write and Publish an Academic Book Review”

Scholarly Writers Circle, St. Thomas University, September 19, 2012; October 16, 2013

AREAS OF SCHOLARLY SPECIALIZATION

Practical Theology • Hermeneutics • Ritual • Postmodern Religious Theory • Semiotics •
Practice Theory • Public Theology • Theologies of the Secular

AREAS OF TEACHING INTEREST

Religion/Theology • Philosophy • History • Humanities • Writing • Information Literacy

MINISTRY STATUS

Ordained Minister – The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Mount Olive, NC, 2009-
Present

AWARDS AND HONORS

2016, Inducted into Kappa Gamma Pi, St. Thomas University
2015, Holland Paper Award, St. Thomas University School of Theology and Ministry
2013, Inducted into Theta Alpha Kappa, Theological Honor Society
2012-2015, North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, Shepherd’s Fund Scholarship
2011-2012, St. Thomas University Practical Theology Scholarship
2007-2011, Keese Grant
2007-2011, Campbell Divinity School, Fetterman Scholarship
2007-2011, Campbell Divinity School, Clark Scholarship
2002-2006, University of Mount Olive, Honors Scholarship
2002-2006, University of Mount Olive, Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant
2006, University of Mount Olive, History Student of the Year
2003-2006, University of Mount Olive, Dean’s List, 6 Semesters

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Practical Theology (since 2012)
American Academy of Religion (since 2013)
American Theological Library Association (since 2016)
College Theology Society (since 2016)
Editorial Freelancers Association (since 2017)