

# THOMPSON, CLAUDE HOLMES, 1908-1971.

## Claude H. Thompson papers, 1949-1971

Emory University  
Pitts Theology Library  
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All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Thompson, Claude Holmes, 1908-1971.
<b>Title:</b>	Claude H. Thompson papers, 1949-1971
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection No. 162
<b>Extent:</b>	6 cubic feet (15 boxes)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Contains correspondence, writings, biographical material, lectures and course material, and Sunday school lessons taught by Thompson.
<b>Language:</b>	Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Pitts Theology Library in advance to access this collection.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Claude H. Thompson Papers, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

### Processing

Processed by Jackie Ammerman, 1990; Aimee Morgan, 2005; Brandon Wason, July 2016.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Claude Thompson was born September 21, 1908 in Bethlehem, Maryland. Raised in a devout Methodist family, he attended public schools in Bethlehem and went to Asbury College where he received his undergraduate degree. Having accepted the call to the ministry, Thompson continued his education at Drew University where he received both his B.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

Professor Thompson served for fifteen years as a parish minister. He returned to the academic world in 1946 when he studied at Oxford University and at Edinburgh in 1947. He returned to Asbury and taught Systematic Theology in the Seminary from 1947 to 1950. Professor Thompson joined the faculty of the Candler School of Theology in January 1951, where he taught Systematic Theology until his death October 16, 1971.

Claude Holmes Thompson was married to Miss Sue Lovelace in 1932. They are the parents of three daughters.

### Scope and Content Note

The papers consist of material primarily from the period 1951 - 1971, the time in which Professor Thompson was a member of the faculty of the Candler School of Theology. A few sermons and clippings have been preserved from the time of his pastoral ministry. The materials are arranged in eight series. The first series, BIOGRAPHICAL, contains Thompson's spiritual autobiography as well as his curriculum vitae. In addition, clippings and publications surrounding his death are contained in this series.

The second series, CORRESPONDENCE, is arranged in two sub-series, incoming and outgoing. The correspondence is primarily from the late 1950s and early 1960s. The letters received are arranged alphabetically by author while letters sent by Thompson are arranged chronologically.

Professor Thompson became a vocal proponent of the civil rights movement. From a theological and biblical perspective, articulated a foundation for relating to all people with justice, regardless of race. The third series, RACE RELATIONS, contains material which reflect specifically his involvement in race relations.

The fourth series, SERMONS AND ADDRESSES, contain those materials which are sermonic in nature or were apparently delivered as a public address. These bulk in between 1953 and 1971.

The fifth series, UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS, contains a number of manuscripts on which professor Thompson worked which have never been published. Included in this series is a photocopy of Professor Thompson's dissertation as well as two book length manuscripts. Numerous article length manuscripts are also included.

The sixth series, LECTURES AND COURSE MATERIAL, contains the lecture notes from the courses offered by Professor Thompson at Candler School of Theology. The material in this series is arranged by Course number. Most of his lecture notes have page numbers, indicating the order of the material. In some cases, however, insertions were made and pages renumbered.

The seventh series, SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS, contains a series of Sunday School lessons which were written for publication. These are arranged by date. In addition, there are notes from two Bible courses (John and Acts) which were taught by Professor Thompson.

The final series contains the published articles of Professor Thompson. These are arranged by date of publication.

## **Description of Series**

[Series I: Biographical, 1971-1973, undated](#)

[Series II: Correspondence, 1954-1971](#)

[Series III: Race Relations, undated](#)

[Series IV: Sermons and Addresses, 1938-1971, undated](#)

[Series V: Unpublished Manuscripts, 1949-1971, undated](#)

[Series VI: Lectures and Course Material, 1955-1970, undated](#)

[Series VII: Sunday School Lessons and Bible Courses, 1962, undated](#)

[Series VIII: Published Articles, 1935-1971, undated](#)

**Series I**  
**Biographical, 1971-1973, undated**  
**Box 1**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains Thompson's spiritual autobiography and curriculum vitae, as well as clippings and publications surrounding his death.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Spiritual Autobiography
1	2	Curriculum Vitae

**Memorials**

1	3	"Claude Holmes Thompson, 1908-1971: In Appreciation, In Memoriam" <i>Junction</i> , Vol 7, No. 1, December 1971.
1	4	Obituaries - Clippings
1	5	The Claude H. Thompson Award. Honors Day Programs, 1971-1973
1	6	Clippings

**Series II**  
**Correspondence, 1954-1971**  
**Boxes 1, 13**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains correspondence primarily from the late 1950s and early 1960s.

**Letters received**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	7	Ellis, Frank W., Executive Secretary, State of Mississippi Commission of Budget and Accounting
1	7	King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1960, 1964
1	7	Mays, Benjamin E., President, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, 1956
1	7	Moore, Arthur J., Bishop of the Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
13	1	Cannon, William R., 1954-1971

**Letters sent**

1	8	Bishop Arthur J. Moore, 1954, 1957
1	8	Bishop J. O. Smith, 1960
1	8	Dr. George A. Turner, 1965

**Series III**  
**Race Relations, undated**  
**Box 1**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains material which reflect Claude Holmes Thompson's involvement in race relations.

**Writings**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	9	"The Biblical Basis for Human Relations"
1	10	"Just How Serious is Segregation?"
1	11	"A New Look at Sainthood"
1	12	"Personal Impressions of the Segregation Issue"
1	13	"Segregation/Race Relations"
1	14	Clippings

**Series IV**  
**Sermons and Addresses, 1938-1971, undated**  
**Boxes 2-5, 13**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains those materials which are sermonic in nature or were apparently delivered as a public address.

**Manuscripts**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	15	"The Worst Sin of 1938," [1938]
1	16	"On Christian Doctrine," 1953
1	17	"Toward a Christian World Community," 1954 February 22
1	18	"The Christian Faith and the Industrial Age," 1958 October 30
1	19	"The Sacrament of Death," 1959 June
1	20	"Impressions of the Dialogue," 1963 May 9
1	21	"From Diagnosis to Delivery," 1963
1	22	"Catholic Protestant Dialogue," 1964
1	23	"The Hosts of Evil Round Us," 1967 March 29
1	24	"When the Cross becomes Personal," 1968 March 23
1	25	"Unity! At Candler?" 1969 May 27
1	26	"Evangelical Christianity: Methodism's Foundation in the past: its challenge for the present," 1969 October 11
1	27	"Social Reform: An evangelical imperative," 1970 August 29
1	28	"Communicating Wesleyan Theology Through Educative Channels," 1971 April 29
1	29	"The Anatomy of Aimlessness," undated
1	30	"Baptists, Congregationalism, Presbyterians," undated
1	31	"Dilemmas of one Evangelical Methodist," undated
1	32	"Eternal Life: What can be known?" undated
1	33	"The Evangelical imperative," undated
1	34	"Evangelism for Revolution," undated
1	35	"God's mission in God's world," undated
1	36	"Happening -- A False key to Christian faith," undated
1	37	"Idolatries -- Old and New," undated
1	38	"Is the Church Outmoded?" undated
1	39	"Methodism in Crisis," undated
1	40	"Redemptive Group Movements," undated
1	41	"Renewed: But do we really want it?" undated
1	42	"Sent forth: But what if it really happened," undated
1	43	"We believe in Christian Sanctification," undated



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|---|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | 44 | Outlines, undated            |
| 1 | 45 | Programs, 1957-1964, undated |

**Outlines (arranged by scripture text)**

- |    |    |                 |
|----|----|-----------------|
| 2  | 1  | Genesis         |
| 2  | 2  | Exodus          |
| 2  | 3  | Deuteronomy     |
| 2  | 4  | Joshua          |
| 2  | 5  | 1 Samuel        |
| 2  | 6  | Kings           |
| 2  | 7  | Chronicles      |
| 2  | 8  | Esther          |
| 2  | 9  | Job             |
| 13 | 2  | Job             |
| 2  | 10 | Psalms          |
| 13 | 3  | Psalms          |
| 2  | 11 | Ecclesiastes    |
| 2  | 13 | Isaiah          |
| 13 | 4  | Isaiah          |
| 2  | 14 | Amos            |
| 2  | 15 | Daniel          |
| 2  | 16 | Matthew         |
| 2  | 17 | Mark            |
| 2  | 18 | Luke            |
| 3  | 1  | John            |
| 13 | 5  | John            |
| 3  | 2  | Acts            |
| 3  | 3  | Romans          |
| 13 | 6  | Romans          |
| 3  | 4  | Corinthians     |
| 3  | 5  | 2 Corinthians   |
| 3  | 6  | Galatians       |
| 3  | 7  | Ephesians       |
| 13 | 7  | Ephesians       |
| 3  | 8  | 1 Thessalonians |
| 3  | 9  | Philippians     |
| 3  | 10 | Timothy         |
| 13 | 8  | Timothy         |
| 3  | 11 | Philemon        |
| 3  | 12 | Hebrews         |

13	9	Hebrews
3	13	1 John
3	14	1 & 2 Peter
3	15	James
3	16	Revelation
13	10	Revelation

### Outlines (arranged by title)

4	1	"America's Sacred Cow"
4	2	"America's Trojan Horse"
4	3	"Ashram" Harry Richardson 10/3/64
4	4	"Atomic Bomb"
4	5	"Bible Study, Albert Collage"
4	6	"Biographies"
4	7	"Bound by God's Far Purpose"
4	8	"Samuel Brengle: An American Saint"
4	9	"Can I Qualify"
4	10	"Can we believe everything in the Bible?"
4	11	"Christian Beliefs"
4	12	"Christian Community"
4	13	"Christianity and Health"
4	14	"Controversies in Christendom"
4	15	"Conflicts in Methodism Conclusion of Reference to social Gospel"
4	16	"Conversion"
13	11	"The Danger of Prayer"
4	17	"Developing a Personal Faith"
4	18	"Devotional Classics"
4	19	Manuscript: Diagnosing our Dangers
4	20	"What is Happening Now? [Diagnosis]"
4	21	"...Disciplined Christian Life"
4	22	"Disciplines of Dedicated Living"
4	23	"S.S. Lessons on Christian Doctrine"
4	24	"The Ecumenical Movement (D.H. ss 2/55)"
4	25	"Ecumenism"
4	26	"The Eleventh Girl Scout Law"
4	27	"Emphasis on Christian Experience"
4	28	"Evangelism"
4	29	"Evangelism"
4	30	"Foundations of Christian Teaching in Methodist Churches"
4	31	"Futility in Personal Living"

4	32	"God's Power within Us, Among Us, Through Us"
4	34	"[God's Will and My will]"
4	35	"[The Gospel according to Peanuts]"
4	36	"Gratitude...on what Level?"
5	1	Holiness Series
5	2	"If I Take it Seriously"
5	3	"Jesus as Lord: Past, Present, Future"
5	4	"John's Gospel"
13	12	"Life and Mission of the Church"
5	5	"Man and his Sin"
5	6	"Morality"
5	7	"Need for Realistic Thinking as Regards Brotherly Love"
5	8	"Not alone we Conquer"
5	9	"On Finding it difficult to Believe in God"
5	10	"Open Heart"
5	11	"Our Memorial Communion"
5	12	"People Lonely and Helpless"
5	13	"Prayer"
5	14	"Reverence of the Gospel"
5	15	"Rediscovery of the Xn Tradition"
5	16	"Renewal Through Commitment"
5	17	"The Christian Meaning of the Resurrection"
5	18	"[Revolution]"
5	19	"Some Elements in the New Biblical Theology"
5	20	"Stewardship"
5	21	"Studies in the book of Action [Acts]"
5	22	"Christian Faith and Human Suffering"
5	23	"Current Theology"
5	24	"Theology of the Kerygma"
5	25	"Two Brief Questions"
5	26	"What did Jesus think?"
5	27	"What does it mean to be saved?"
5	28	"What happened at Pentecost"
5	29	"What is a Christian?"
5	30	"What's Heaven for?"
5	31	"What is the Bible?"
5	32	"What is the message of the New Testament?"
5	33	"What is the Pattern today of Human need?"
13	13	"The Word"

5	34	"The Word of the Lord"
5	35	"The Word with Power-Suzanne de Dietrich"
5	36	Untitled
5	37	[Untitled] (expected action for followers of Jesus)
13	14-16	Miscellaneous, undated
13	17	Addresses, undated

**Series V**  
**Unpublished Manuscripts, 1949-1971, undated**  
**Boxes 6-9**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains unpublished manuscripts of Claude Holmes Thompson.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
6	1-7	Dissertation: "The Witness of American Methodism to the Historical Doctrine of Christian Perfection" [pages 1-700], 1949
7	1-2	Dissertation: "The Witness of American Methodism to the Historical Doctrine of Christian Perfection" [pages 701-Bibliography], 1949
7	2a	Untitled [draft], 1958
7	3	Untitled [notes], 1958
7	4	Untitled [manuscript], 1958
7	4	"Methodist Studies" [draft], 1962
7	4	"Methodist Studies" [manuscript], 1962
8	1	"The relevance of theological discourse" [draft], [1971]
8	2	"The relevance of theological discourse" [manuscript], [1971]
8	3-7	Notes for book on Understanding the Bible
8	8	Poetry, undated
9	1	[Suffering], undated
9	2	"The case for evil examined," undated
9	3	"Our debt to others," undated
9	4	"The relevance of Wesley's idea of sanctity," undated
9	5	"A study in Wesley's idea of sanctity," undated
9	6	"Toward a Theologia Perennis," undated
9	7	Articles, undated

**Series VI**  
**Lectures and Course Material, 1955-1970, undated**  
**Boxes 9-11, 14**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains lecture notes from the courses offered by Professor Thompson at Candler School of Theology.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
9	8	ST301 -- Systematic Theology I, 1969-1970
9	9	ST303 -- Systematic Theology II, 1970
9	10	ST311 -- The Problem of Authority, undated
9	11	T315 -- Current Views of God (also numbered ST419), Fall 1970
9	12	T316 -- The Christian Doctrine of Man, Fall 1970
10	1	ST321 -- Incarnation and Atonement, undated
10	2	ST321 -- Incarnation and Atonement (continued)
10	3	ST334 -- The Idea of Christian Perfection, 1966-1967
10	4	ST341 -- Contemporary Christian Literature, undated [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folder 1]
10	5	ST343 -- Controversial Issues in Contemporary Theology, undated [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folder 2]
10	6	ST345 -- Christian Faith and Personal Problems, Spring 1970
11	1	HT350 -- Theology of John Wesley, Winter 1968-1969 [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folder 3]
11	2	HT350 -- Theology of John Wesley, Winter 1968-1969 [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folder 4]
11	3	HT351 -- Theologians of Methodism, Fall 1969-1970 [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folder 5]
11	4	ST354 -- Theology and Evangelism, Fall 1970 [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folder 6]
11	5-6	ST373 -- Contemporary British Theology, Summer 1967 [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folders 7-8]
11	7	ST425 -- The Doctrine of God, undated [duplicate copy stored in Box 15, folder 9]
14	3	Short Course 122, New Testament Content and Values, undated
14	4	Short Course, Biblical Theology Today, 1963
14	5	Short Course, Contemporary Religious Thought, 1955
11	8	Short Course, Contemporary Religious Thought, 1955
14	6	Short Course, The Epistle to the Ephesians, undated
14	7	Short Course, Life and Teaching of Jesus, undated
14	8	Short Course, The Meaning of Suffering, undated
14	9	Short Course, Philippians, undated

**Series VII**  
**Sunday School Lessons and Bible Courses, 1962, undated**  
**Boxes 12-14**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains a series of Sunday School lessons written for publication.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
12	1	["The life and work of Jesus,"] undated
12	2	March 4 -- "Exploring the Bible Text"
12	3	March 4 -- "This is God's World"
12	4	March 11 -- "Man is a Responsible Being"
12	5	March 18 -- "Man has gone astray"
12	6	March 25 -- "God cares"
12	7	April 1 -- "God speaks through Christ"
12	8	April 8 -- "Christ suffered for us"
12	9	April 15 -- "Jesus Christ is King"
12	10	April 22 -- "Christ conquered sin and death"
12	11	April 29 -- "Man responds by faith"
12	12	May 6 -- "Christ makes men new"
12	13	May 13 -- "Christ makes men brothers"
12	14	May 20 -- "God's grace sustains us"
12	15	May 27 -- "Christ is our hope"
12	16	Fellowship Class, Grace Methodist Church, 1962
12	17	St. Lukes, 1962
12	18	"Answers to Cults I"
12	19	"Answers to Cults II"
12	20	"Answers to Cults III"
12	21	"Answers to Cults IV"
12	22	"A three fold remedy, D.H. Class
12	23	["The Gospel of John"]
12	24	"Paul, The Man and His Work"
12	25	"The life and mission of the church"
12	26	"On reading the Bible"
12	27	Myers Park Methodist Church, 1969
13	18	"Can We Believe Everything in the Bible?" undated
13	19	"Luke's Portrait of Christ," undated
13	20	"Old Testament Prophets," undated
13	21	Romans, undated
13	22	"The Use of the Bible with Adults," undated

13	23	Druid Hills Fellowship Class, undated
13	24	Miscellaneous
14	1-2	Miscellaneous



**Series VIII**  
**Published Articles, 1935-1971, undated**  
**Box 12**

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains the published articles of Professor Thompson, arranged by date of publication.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
12	28	1935-1936; 1949
12	29	1952-59
12	30	1960
12	31	1962
12	32	1964
12	33	1965
12	34	1966
12	35	1967
12	36	1969
12	37	1970
12	38	1971
12	39	undated

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