

SPRING TERM 2008
COURSE SYLLABUS
Department: Biblical Studies
Course Title: Theology of Paul
Course Number: NT 650
Credit Hours: 3

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a study of the major themes of St. Paul's writings as a framework for understanding his ministry and thought. Secondary literature will provide the big picture, and the study of particular passages in Paul's writings will add depth.

In this course we sit at the feet of the one known in the ancient Church simply as "the Apostle." This will be a fun course because we get to step back and get the big picture of Paul's thought, gaining a framework for understanding all the different parts. But we also have a chance to get into the details of some of the important passages in Paul and glimpse something of the profundity of his writing. The topics we will study are among the most profound that exist. As we understand more deeply the Gospel revealed by God through Paul, we have the opportunity to open our lives to be changed by God. We will see something of the fascinating beauty of God and His Word. May God grant us eyes to see and ears to hear!

II. CURRENT TEXTS

Essential:

Gorman, Michael J., *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001). ISBN: 0-8028-4795-1.

Ladd, George Eldon, *A Theology of the New Testament*, rev. ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993). ISBN: 0-8028-0680-5.

Desirable:

Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds., *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993). ISBN: 0-8308-1778-6.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Objectives:

1. A deeper personal encounter with God through the Scriptures.
2. Knowledge of the major themes in St. Paul's thought.
3. Increased understanding of several important passages in Paul's writings.
4. Introductory knowledge of some of the major trends in modern study of Paul's thought.

B. General Approach:

The main texts for this course are the letters of Paul. Our time in class will consist of a combination of lecture and discussion.

After surveying major aspects of Paul's life, ministry and thought with the help of Ladd, we will engage Gorman's stimulating study of the Cross as the unifying factor in Paul's thought.

I will supplement these assignments occasionally with further articles, esp. some from "The Paul Page," regarding the New Perspective on Paul (<http://www.thepaulpage.com/>). Note also that the articles in the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* are a wonderful resource for you to explore as you have time. They will be especially useful for your paper.

C. Course Requirements:

1. **Class attendance and participation.** We will engage the passages assigned week by week through both exegesis and biblical theology. In studying the passages in preparation for class discussion you should pay attention to (1) the context of the given passage in its letter, (2) the flow of thought in the passage, and (3) how the passage contributes to biblical theology in general and Pauline theology in particular.

Please note: If you must miss class you should contact a member of the class to collect any handouts and to record the class session, if so desired.

2. **Read Paul's letters** (Romans through 2 Timothy) and Acts 8–28 at least once during the term. Send me an email by midnight, 14 May, indicating that you have completed this reading.
3. **Short essays** are due at the beginning of each class in hardcopy, starting the second class session. Study questions will be available on Blackboard which will guide your writing each week of two brief essays (around 250-500 words each) on the material assigned in the secondary literature. These essays should be single-spaced and set up as described in my "Comprehensive

Guidelines for Writings Papers,” posted on Blackboard. Late work will be lowered at least one full grade (10%). This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade.

4. **A paper**, 6-8 pages single spaced, following my “Comprehensive Guidelines for Writings Papers,” posted on Blackboard. This paper may be either an exegetical study of a passage in Paul (roughly 6-12 verses), or the study of a theme in Paul. This paper is worth 50% of your final grade. It is due in digital form by midnight, 14 May, sent as a doc file to rwhitacre@tesm.edu. Note that seniors’ work is due by midnight, 8 May. Please label the file: YourLastName-paper-NT650-Spring2008, so, e.g., Whitacre-paper-NT650-Spring2008.doc.

For theme papers choose one of the following topics:

Adoption	Death	Individualism
Adoration	Docility	Indwelling
Angels	Education	Joy
Apostolate	Election	Judgment
Ascension	Eschatology	Justice
Asceticism	Eternal Life	Justification
Athletic imagery	Eucharist	Knowledge
Atonement	Example	Law
Authority	Faith	Leaders
Baptism	Family	Liberty
Bishops	Father (God as)	Life
Blood of Christ	Fear	Light
Blood of Christians	Fidelity	Liturgy
Body of Christ	Flesh	Love
Body of Christians	Friendship	Marriage
Building up	Fruitfulness	Mercy
Calling	Fulfillment	Merit
Charity	Glorification	Ministry
Christ (specify)	Glory	Mystery
Church (specify)	Grace	New Creation
Community	Headship	Obedience
Confidence	Heresy	Parousia
Conformity	Holiness	Parents
Consecration	Holy Spirit (specify)	Passion of Christ
Conscience	Hope	Patience
Consolation	Humility	Peace
Cosmos	Image	Perfection
Cross	Imitation	Perseverance
Crucifixion	Incarnation	Power (of God, Christ)

Prayer	Service	Universe
Praise	Sin	Virginity
Preaching	Sinner	Virtues
Presence of God	Sonship	Vocation
Purity	Spirit (specify)	Weakness
Redemption	Stability	Will of God
Resurrection	Suffering	Wisdom
Righteousness	Teaching	Women
Sacraments	Temple	Word of God
Sacrifice	Temptations	Works
Saints	Thanksgiving	Worship
Salvation	Time(s)	Wrath of God
Sanctification	Trinity	
Scandal	Unity of the Church	

D. Course Evaluation:

Final grades may be raised or lowered on the basis of class attendance, participation, and/or tardiness of work.

Your written work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Clarity and charity of thought and expression
2. Accuracy of information
3. Breadth and depth of discussion

I will use letter grades or their equivalent to mean the following:

B (80-89): The thought and expression are clear and the information is accurate. The discussion is broad and deep enough to indicate a solid understanding of the issue. By broad I mean that sufficient aspects of the topic are covered and by depth I mean that enough supporting and illustrating material is offered to flesh out the basic thought.

C (70-79): The material shows an adequate grasp of the topic, but at points the discussion is unclear, inaccurate, narrow or shallow.

D (60-69): The material shows something close to an adequate grasp of the topic, but is notably defective according to one or more of the criteria.

F (below 60): The material does not indicate that the student has an adequate grasp of the topic, or it is severely defective according to the criteria.

A (90-100): The material is exceptional. Usually this means that it is not only clear and accurate but also develops the topic in breadth and depth beyond what is necessary for a good understanding of it. Such material is often, though not always, marked also by creativity, exceptional insight, and/or relatively extensive research.

The school's grade scale is as follows:

A 95-100	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D below 70
A- 90-94	B 86-83	C 76-73	F below 60
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

January 31

Ladd, chs. 28-29
Rom. 1.3-4

February 7

Ladd, chs. 30-31
Gal. 2.1-14

February 14

Ladd, chs. 32-33
Gal. 3.15-4.11

February 21

Ladd, chs. 34-35
Rom. 1.18-32

February 28

Ladd, chs. 36-37
Mark M. Mattison, "A Summary of
the New Perspective on Paul" at
<http://www.thepaulpage.com/Summary.html>
Phil. 2.1-18

March 6

Ladd, chs. 38-39
Col. 1.15-20

March 13

Gorman, chs. 1-2
1 Cor. 15.20-58

March 20

Easter Break

March 27

Gorman, chs. 3-4
Rom. 3.21-31

April 3

Gorman, chs. 5-6
1 Cor. 12

April 10

Reading Week

April 17

Gorman, chs. 7-8
2 Cor. 5.11-21

April 24

Gorman, chs. 9-10
Rom. 12

May 1

Gorman, chs. 11-12
Eph. 4.1-16

May 8

Gorman, chs. 13-14
2 Tim. 2.14-26

Senior work due.

May 14

Paper and reading note due.

Note: I may not receive any work after midnight on May 16th unless an Incomplete form has been filed with the Registrar.