

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Valley Forge Christian College Branch Campus
Phoenixville, PA
February 9-13, 2004

BNTB 533 STUDIES IN THE LETTERS OF PAUL
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE WRITINGS OF PAUL
(3 Credits)

James D. Hernando, Ph.D.

Fall 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A doctrinal and expositional study of key passages that relate to spiritual leadership from the letters of Paul. Special emphasis will be given to the Corinthian correspondence. This investigation will explore how Paul would define spiritual leadership as to its origin, nature and function in the church. Additional attention will be given to Paul's own model and example of leadership as it relates to the training of disciples, treatment of subordinates and dealing with conflict and opposition in the church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

Cognitive:

1. Identify and list key passages from the Pauline writings that deal with the topic of spiritual leadership.
2. Define key terms and concepts that relate the above topic from a Pauline perspective.
3. Explain how Paul's view of spiritual leadership dovetails with the teachings of Jesus and compares or contrasts with a secular view of leadership.
4. Identify the chief components of "true spiritual leadership" and support your position from the writings of Paul.
5. Identify and list problems and situations in the church that could be helped by a clearer understanding and implementation of Paul's teachings on spiritual leadership

Skills:

1. Think critically about spiritual leadership as it is practiced in the church, providing biblical assessment from the Pauline writings.
2. Provide a contemporized and contextualized interpretation of the New Testament writings of Paul.
3. Construct an exegetical outline (in English) of a New Testament passage and summarize its teachings.
4. Extract timeless transcultural principles from the exegetically derived teachings of the

New Testament.

Attitudes:

1. Appreciate more deeply the complexity of the social dynamics of spiritual leadership.
2. Articulate the importance of understanding the concrete historical and social setting (*Sitz im Leben*) of Paul's letters for their interpretation and relevant exposition.
3. Explain the importance of the church to continually evaluate its practices in light of biblical exegesis and theology.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible - (NASB or NIV preferred)

Clarke, Andrew D. *Serve the Community of the Church: Christians as Leaders and Ministers*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2000.

Hawthorne, G. F. and Ralph Martin, ed.s. Dictionary of Paul and His Letters. Downer's Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

METHODOLOGY

This course will seek to meet its objectives through class lectures and discussion, independent reading, research and writing.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. The Nature of Leadership - Foundational Perspectives
 - B. Leadership in the Kingdom of God - Jesus
 - C. Leadership and the Body of Christ - Paul
- II. Paul, and His Apostleship
 - A. A Stewardship of the Grace of God
 - B. Apostolic Calling and Authority
- III. The Challenge of Paul's Apostleship
 - A. Dealing with Problem Churches
 - B. Treatment of Subordinates
 - C. Pauline Discipleship
- IV. The Challenge to Paul's Apostleship
 - A. Interpersonal Conflicts

- B. Dealing With Fronts of Opposition
- C. Keeping Kingdom Goals While in Conflict

- V. The Example of Pauline Apostleship
 - A. Enduring Principles
 - B. Enduring Priorities

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-session:

1. Required Reading:
 - a. The student is expected to have read the text book by Andrew Clark in its entirety.
 - b. In addition, the student is to read the assigned articles in the IVP *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (See Handout)
 - c. Read all the letters of Paul in the NASV OR NIV versions of the Bible. See written assignment below.
2. Written Assignments:
 - a. Write a 3-5 page essay on the value and relevancy of Clarke's book for the training of leaders in the Church.
 - b. Chronicle your readings of the Pauline letters. Write down you observations regarding the following:
 1. Paul's understanding of authority in leadership.
 2. The responsibilities of a spiritual leader
 3. Paul's character as a leader: attitudes and traits
 4. Paul's self-understanding as a leader (apostle of Christ)
 5. How Paul dealt with problems in the church as a leader
 6. How Paul dealt with others, both subordinates and those regarded as equals.

Module Sessions:

1. Students are expected to attend all classes in their entirety during the week of the module.
2. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion and reflect knowledge and insights gained from pre-session readings and assignments

Post-session:

1. Each student will prepare an 10-15 page paper, "What the Apostle Paul Wish the Church Knew About _____ ?"
 - a. The blank is to be filled in by you. It must articulate an area of concern related to the topic of spiritual leadership. E.g., What the Apostle Paul Wish the Church Knew About "Conflict Resolution," or "The Priorities of Leadership," or "The Use and Abuse of Spiritual Authority" etc.

- b. The topic should be one that is sufficiently focused so as to be adequately covered in 10-15 pages.
- c. The paper should reflect the content of class lectures, but can certainly go beyond them, including collateral readings and your independent research.

2. Final Exam - (essay - See enclosure)

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Grade Weights:

Pre-session Reading	15%
Pre-session Chronicle from Paul’s Letters	5%
Pre-session evaluation of Clarke’s book	10%
Class Participation	20%
Application Paper	20%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

2. The total number of possible points to be earned for the course is 1000. Point totals at the end of the course are tabulated and a grading curve plotted relative to the collective grade profile of the class.

NOTE: *Written projects and papers that are turned in late without an approved extension will be penalized one letter grade.*

All coursework must be submitted by May 13, 2004.

NOTE: Work received after the session due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

Submit all assignments to:

**AGTS Faculty Secretary
ATTN: Dr. James Hernando
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802**

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barnett, Paul. *The Message of 2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

- Barrett, C. K. *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.
- Bennett, David W. *Metaphors of Ministry: Biblical Images for Leaders and Followers*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993
- Bruce, F. F. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1977.
- _____. *Paul & His Converts: How Paul Nurtured the Churches He Planted*. Downers Grove, Illinois : InterVarsity Press, 1985.
- Clarke, Andrew D. *Serve the Community of the Church: Christians as Leaders and Ministers*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2000.
- Dibelius, Martin. *Paul*. Edited by Werner Georg Kummel. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1953, 1975 rep. ed.
- Ellis, E. Earle. *Pauline Theology: Ministry and Society*. New York: University Press of America, 1997.
- Fee, Gordon. *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.
- Green, Michael. *To Corinth With Love : Paul's Message to the Troubled Church at Corinth and Its Relevance to Christians Today*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1988.
- Greenleaf, Robert K. *Seeker and Servant: Reflections on Religious Leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1996.
- Hernando, James D. 2 Corinthians. In the Full Life Bible Commentary to the New Testament. Edited by F. L. Arrington and Roger Stronstad.
- Longenecker, Richard N. *Paul, Apostle of Liberty*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1964.
- Marshall, Peter. *Enmity in Corinth: Social Conventions in Paul's Relations with the Corinthians*. Tübingen : J.C.B. Mohr, 1987.
- Renwick, David Alistair. *Paul, the Temple, and the Presence of God*. 1988.
- Richards, Lawrence O. *A Theology of Church Leadership*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.
- Ridderbos, Hermann. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Translated by John Richard DeWitt. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1966. 1997 rep. ed.

Robinson, J. A. T. *The Body: A Study in Pauline Theology*. London: SCM Press LTD., 1952

Sanders, J. Oswald. *Spiritual Leadership*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1967.

Shoemaker, H. Stephen. *Strength in Weakness*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1989.

Schatzmann, Siegfried. *A Pauline Theology of Charismata*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.

Witherington, Ben. *Conflict and Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: W. B. Eerdmans, 1994.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D. October, 2003.

BNTB 533 Spiritual Leadership in the Writings of Paul

*Supplemental Readings in the IVP
Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*

Please read the following articles:

APOSTLE
AUTHORITY
BARNABAS
CHURCH ORDER AND GOVERNMENT
CORINTHIANS, LETTERS TO THE
COWORKERS, PAUL AND HIS
GALATIANS, LETTER TO THE (Content section)
HERMENEUTICS/INTERPRETING PAUL
IMITATION OF PAUL/OF CHRIST
JUDAIZERS
KINGDOM OF GOD/ CHRIST
OPPONENTS OF PAUL
PETER
PREACHING FROM PAUL TODAY
SERVANT/SERVICE

**BNTB 533 Studies in the Letters of Paul:
Spiritual Leadership and in the Writings of Paul**

**Final Essay Exam
Basic Content Required**

1. Imagine Timothy writes Paul a letter and it includes the following. *“Paul, I’m writing you because I am stressed out from the demands made upon me by the churches of Asia. They are all looking to me as their spiritual leader. They confront me with questions and problems of every variety, some of which I have never encountered before. I am not even sure what it means to be a spiritual leader. What am I supposed to be? What is my role to the churches of Asia?”*

Write back to Timothy as if you were Paul, making sure your answer includes the origin, nature and task of a spiritual leader. Write so as to reflect the content of the course and insights gleaned in class lecture AND collateral readings and study.

2. ***Part One:*** As a spiritual leader you will have to deal with subordinates. From Paul’s writings explain how they should be regarded, disciplined and treated.

Part Two: Explain why Paul objected to the Corinthians identifying themselves as disciples of Apollos, Cephas, Paul and Christ.

3. How important is discipline to Paul for the health and well-being of the church? List as many principles as you can that pertain to discipline, when and how it should be administered.
4. Define and explain what is meant by *imitatio Christi*. Describe the quality and character of a life that embodies it. Why is it important to Paul’s understanding of what it takes to be an apostle and spiritual leader in the Church?