

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Continuing Education course**  
**Valley Forge Christian College Branch Campus**  
**Phoenixville, PA 19460**  
**September 15 - December 1, 2003**

**BTHB 532 NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY**  
**(3 Credits)**

**Professor: Dwight Sheets**  
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**Ph. 610-917-1456 (wk) 610-385-1960 (hm)**

**Fall 2003**  
**Class Time: Monday 6:00-9:30 pm**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

BTH 532 New Testament Theology will consist of the study of the theology of the New Testament. The class will begin with a study of the scope of the discipline itself: its history, task and presuppositions. We will then focus on the theological setting, tendency and individuality of each of the contributors to the New Testament. The first one third of the class will examine the Gospel accounts and the individual contribution of each evangelist. The remaining two thirds of the time will concentrate on the contribution of the apostle Paul, the General Epistles, and the book of Revelation. We will focus much of our attention on discovering the aspect of both the unity and diversity of New Testament theology as it is found in a comparison of the theology of each of the New Testament writers.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

*By the end of this course you should:*

- Understand the discipline of New Testament theology and the history of its study.
- Know the major currents of thought and approaches to New Testament theology.
- Understand better the theological dynamic of emerging early Christianity and the contemplation of early Christians between Judaism and Hellenism.
- Understand the setting and theological tendencies of each of the New Testament contributors.
- Be able to see points of both contrast and continuity among the New Testament writings.
- Be better prepared to use the New Testament in teaching, witnessing, and preaching.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Revised Edition. Ed. D. A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1993.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The class requirements will consist of:

### **1. Reading.**

*Of the assigned readings:*

The entirety of the class text must be read. Reading must be done before the class session in which the topic will be discussed (see “Class Schedule”).

In addition to the reading of Ladd, 200 pages of collateral reading must be done in conjunction with your research paper. A reading report must be turned in listing the works read, along with the number of pages, and a short description of the content (very important!).

### **2 Two Exams.**

One Mid-Term and one Final examination will be given. The exams will be essay in form and the questions will come from lecture and the class text. They will cover any information discussed up to the time of the exam. The Final Exam is not comprehensive but will only cover material discussed after the Mid-Term Exam. Dates for the exams are listed in the “Class Schedule.”

### **3. One Research Paper.**

Each student will be required to write one paper on a topic within the scope of New Testament Theology. The paper must be written according to the standards set forth on page 5 & 6 of the syllabus. **Due date for the paper is Monday, November 24th.** Possible topics that could be chosen are:

- The Quest for the Historical Jesus
- The Kingdom of God in the Synoptic Gospels: Present or Future?
- Jesus and Paul: Discontinuity of Discontinuity.
- The Church and Israel in Paul’s Theology: Continuity or Discontinuity.
- Paul and the Law: Its continuing validity in the Christian life.
- The New Perspective on Paul, Right or Wrong?
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit in The Gospels? Luke? Paul?
- The Presence of Early Catholicism in the New Testament?
- Eschatology according to Paul? John the Seer?
- Any subject of interest dealing with New Testament Theology (by approval only)

### **4. Class Presentations**

On a revolving basis students will present to the class their overview and critique of their reading of Ladd. Each presentation should be between 20 to 30 minutes in length. Each student will be given the same number of presentations and each will be scheduled well in advance of the presentation date. A sample presentation will be given by the instructor as a possible model for other presentations. Grading for the presentation will be on the basis of comprehensiveness, clarity, and critical thinking (equally).

*All “Course Requirements” must be completed in order to pass.*

## COURSE GRADING

Weight of class requirements:

Reading	10%
Presentations	20%
Paper	20%
Two Exams	50%
Total	100%

Letter grade percentages:

A+	98-100 %
A	94-97 %
A-	90-93 %
B+	87-89 %
B	84-86 %
B-	80-83 %
C+	77-79 %
C	74-76 %
C-	70-73 %
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	60-63%
F	<i>below 60</i>

**Class Schedule**

Date	Discussion	Reading (L=Ladd)
<b>Sep.</b> 15	Introduction; History and Approaches; Unity and Diversity, John the Baptist	L:pp. viii-41 L: pp. 684-719
22	The Kingdom of God, Need, Salvation, God, Mystery, Church, Ethics	L: pp. 42-132
29	Messiah, Son of Man, Son of God Messianic Problem	L: pp. 133-180
<b>Oct.</b> 6	Messianic Mission/Eschatology Matthew Mark, Luke	L: pp. 181-245
13	The Fourth Gospel	L: pp. 249-344
20	The Primitive Church <b>Mid Term Examination (TBA outside of class)</b>	L: pp. 347-393
27	Paul: Introduction, Sources of Paul's Thought The Human Condition/The Person of Christ	L: pp. 397-463

Nov. 3 The Person of Christ; Pauline Psychology/New Life in Christ L: pp. 464-537

10 Paul and the Law; The Christian Life - Ethics L: pp. 538-575

17 The Church; Pauline Eschatology L: pp. 576-614

24 Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter and Jude  
(**Research Paper due**) L: pp. 617-656

Dec. 1 Johannine Epistles  
The Apocalypse L: pp. 657-683

**Final Exam (TBA outside of class)**

### **Format of Papers**

I suggest that you write from an outline and include both an introduction and conclusion paragraph. Do what works best for you taking into consideration the subject you are writing about, and the grading criteria listed below.

### **Criteria for Grading Papers**

The criteria for grading your papers will be along three closely related lines:

#### ***Form***

- **Length: 15-18 pages, typed, double spaced.**
- Documentation: Use footnotes or endnotes. If you don't know the proper form for these, learn! (see below). All direct quotes and non-original ideas should be noted. Include a Bibliography along with the notes.
- Avoid block quoting. Only block quote when you absolutely cannot say it better in your own words. In this paper block quoting should be rare.
- Proofread!!!! If you are using a computer, you have not adequately proofread if you have only read from the screen and used a spell-checker. Print the paper and then read it, better, have someone else read it.
- On your Title Page include: Title of paper, your name, title and term of class (BTH 532 New Testament Theology), name of instructor, and date you turn the paper in.

#### ***Content***

- Put your **own thought** into the paper, but **think critically** about your own doctrinal and philosophical presuppositions. Knowing that you have them (presuppositions), and how they effect your viewpoint, is the most important thing, not whether they are right or wrong.
- Have you been **thorough**? Is there evidence of sufficient reading? Have the "classic" works on the subject been consulted? How about the most recent scholarship? The size of this paper demands that you select only the best material. Begin by consulting the class bibliography.

Be sure the sources you use argue for what you have said and are not simply stating the same thing as you. Their argument may be groundless!

***Presentation***

- Does the outline give an **orderly development** of the subject? Don't write about the detailed matters of the subject until you have defined what the subject is. Remember, you do not need to include an outline in your paper, but you do need to write it from one.
- Is the paper **clear** in its presentation? Take special note of how your train of thought flows, simply listing facts is not enough, tell how the facts are related. This speaks volumes about your understanding of the subject. Include transition statements that link ideas together.
- Does the paper **read easily**? If sentences are long and cumbersome, break them up into shorter ones.
- The best way to write a good paper is by **starting early**!

## How to do Foot and End Notes

Footnotes are put at the bottom of the page while end notes at the end of the paper, but before the bibliography. Foot and end notes read like a sentence. First and last name of author, Name of Book, (City of Publication: Publisher, copyright date), p. #. Look for variations below

Superscript note reference in both text and note listing

- 1 Most of the previous biographical sketch was adapted from: David Allan Hubbard Unity and Diversity in New Testament Theology ed. Robert Guelich (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1978), p. xiii. See also the biographical sketch in New Testament Abstracts 8(1963-64), p. 275.
- 2 Gerhard Hasel, New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1978), p. 119.
- 3 Hubbard, p. xiii.
- 4 Hubbard, p. xi-xv.
- 5 George Eldon Ladd, "History and Theology in Biblical Exegesis," Interpretation 20(1, 66), p. 60.
- 6 *Ibid*, p. 61.
- 7 My purpose in the following lengthy discussion is not to simply elaborate a history of New Testament research or the "quest of the historical Jesus" *per se*, but to expose the various approaches to and attitudes towards the New Testament texts which influenced Dr. Ladd to develop his understanding of a salvation-history approach.

Single spaced

Name of journal article is in quotes.

Full footnote form on first listing of source, but second needs only the name and page #.

Underline or itaicize titles of books or journals

Successive listings from the same source need only *Ibid.* and page # if different from previous listing.

Use notes for information that is peripheral to the study at hand

## How to do in-text notes

In-text notes use information from the bibliography to let the reader know where the information being discussed has been derived or is further elaborated. In-text notes may be placed within or at the end of a sentence. The information should be put in parenthesis. Within the parentheses should be: The name of the author, the year of publishing, and page #s. If the author has published more than one book in the same year, then you must also give the name of the book.

## How to do a Bibliography

Bibliographic form is different than footnote form: second line indentation; Last name and first name. Title of Book. City of Publication: publisher, copyright date. Notice all variations and punctuation changes.

- Guelich, Robert ed. Unity and Diversity in New Testament Theology Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1978.
- Hasel, Gerhard. New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1978.
- Ladd, George Eldon . "The Search for Perspective." Interpretation 25 (1971), pp. 41-62.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The New Testament and Criticism Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1967.

Bibliographic listing of a book with several authors is by the editor.

Include page # of entire article.

Single-space note, double-space between each

Repeated articles and books by the same author may be represented by a line.

List in alphabetical order.

**For more information see:** Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Fifth edition revised and expanded by Bonnie Birtwistle Honigsblum (Chicago & London: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1987).

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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