

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary  
SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE BRANCH CAMPUS  
1000 Longfellow Boulevard  
Lakeland, Florida 33801  
Continuing Education Course  
May 20-24, 2002**

**BTHB 632/THEB 639 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SIGNS AND WONDERS**

**Paul N. van der Laan**

**Summer 2002**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An analysis of signs and wonders in the Scripture with reference to the various words which express these phenomena and the cultural context that shaped the particular world views of biblical authors and their opponents. Related issues of contemporary interest and relevance (e.g., their relationship to faith and spiritual warfare) will also be considered and the Scriptural evidence examined. The relevance to these particular phenomena to the Church and the world will be discussed.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As a result of this course the student should:

1. Have some biblical and experiential foundations for the ministry of signs and wonders;
2. Be encouraged to engage signs and wonders in personal and corporate life and ministry;
3. Be able to appropriately evaluate the various types of, and contemporary approaches to, signs & wonders;
4. Know how to discern, develop and apply this ministry in the context of the local church.
5. Be able to recognize and ensure the proper scriptural implementation of signs and wonder, in particular the gifts of power and healing in fellow-believers.
6. Know how to apply the theological implications of these doctrines in both a denominational and secular setting.
7. Know how to apply the information gained in the class for advanced studies in these theological disciplines in future college and/or seminary training.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Aker, Benny C. and Gary B. McGee, eds. *Signs & Wonders in Ministry Now*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1996.

Grudem, Wayne E. ed., *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Four Views*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES**

The basic method of instruction will be the lecture with occasional multimedia presentations.. The teacher will provoke discussion and test assumptions in relation to the theological concept of signs and miracles by questions and case studies. In addition to the lecture the students will present a 10-15 minute reflection (see course requirements) and will discuss. The power-point presentations and additional notes of the professor will be available for the students on the Internet on [blackboard.secollege.edu](http://blackboard.secollege.edu).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Pre-Session**

1. Read the required textbooks in their entirety.
2. Prepare a critical review of each textbook (2 to 3 pages each). Keep in view such things as 1) presuppositions of the authors, 2) adequacy of the content, especially in light of the area of study, i.e., other books/articles on the subject, 3) argumentation, 4) purpose and accomplishment of purpose, 5) application to current world. For more specific instruction read addendum 1 below.
3. Prepare a class presentation, which should include a personal reflection on the topic and a critical and scriptural evaluation of one particular case-study, which can be either a documented miracle or one the student has experienced in his own life or ministry.

### **B. Session**

1. Attend class.
2. Bring Bible (N.I.V.-Translation) to class.
3. Review as necessary from the textbooks; we will appeal to them as subject matter dictates.
4. Hand in on first class hand pre-session work.
5. Use library for class as needed and secure materials for post-session requirements.
6. Take an active part in the group-discussions

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7. Present a 10-15 minute personal reflection on the topic, in which each student should present a documented or experienced sign or miracle that has taken place and give a biblical critique on this event.
8. Complete a final exam at the closing of the course

### ***C. Post-Session***

Prepare an eighteen to twenty page research paper on some aspect of signs and wonders. If you wish, you may consult with the professor on a topic. Use sound hermeneutics and theological method (classroom methods may be used as a model). The paper should also relate to your interest and ministry, and apply to life.

Please follow Turabian, 6th edition for format of paper: title page, table of contents, footnotes, bibliography, division of paper, etc. The student should consult a good number of journal articles as well as good scholarly books. The material should be well documented; quotes should be avoided (only to be used if necessary for your argument; do not confuse quotes with footnotes/documentation). Be sure to use good style and organization. Avoid passive verbs; watch redundancy and wordiness. The required number of pages (noted above) includes only the body of the paper itself, not the title page or bibliography, etc.

For more specific instruction on the research paper please read addendum 2 below.

**DUE DATE:** All post-session work should be **postmarked** no later than August 16, 2002.

#### **Submit all work to:**

Dr. Paul N. van der Laan  
Southeastern College  
1000 Longfellow Boulevard  
Lakeland, FL 33801

**NOTE:** The student will be charged a \$15.00 change of grade fee for all late work (even if an extension has been granted by the professor). **Late work will be penalized at the discretion of the professor.**

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

1. Introduction
  - A. The various meanings of Signs and Wonders in the Bible
  - B. The spiritual gift: The working of miracles

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2. Signs and wonders
  - A. In the Old Testament
  - B. In the Intertestamental Period
3.
  - A. In the Greco-Roman world
  - B. In the New Testament
4. Signs and wonders in the History of the Church
5. Signs and Wonders in the Pentecostal and Charismatic Tradition
6. Contemporary Signs and Wonders
7. Signs and Wonders and the Kingdom of God
8. Signs and wonders, spiritual warfare, and power encounter
9. Signs and wonders, evangelism, conversion, and discipleship
10. Faith and signs and wonders
11. The gifts of healings
12. Signs and wonders and the gifts of the Spirit in the context of the local Church

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Evaluation Values Exam & Assignments:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Reading Assignments: Each Reflection Paper 10% - | 30% |
| 2. Class Presentation                               | 10% |
| 3. Final Exam (comprehensive)                       | 30% |
| 4. Research paper                                   | 30% |

### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PROFESSOR**

Paulus Nicolaas van der Laan joined the faculty of Southeastern College in August 2000, and serves as Associate Professor of Theology in the Religion Department. Dr. van der Laan is a native of the Netherlands and is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. His education includes a B.A. in Theology from Continental Theological Seminary in Brussels (1979) and a Ph. D. in Theology, with a major in Church History, from the University of Birmingham, U.K. (1988). Prior to teaching at SEC, Dr. van der Laan has served as a teacher at the Centrale Pinkster Bijbelschool, i.e. Dutch A/G Bible College, at Zeist, the Netherlands, (1980-1985),

General Secretary of the Dutch A/G (1985-1989), President of the Azusa Theological College at Lunteren, the Netherlands (1989-1993) and finally as Executive Producer of the Evangelical Broadcasting Organization, Hilversum, the Netherlands. He has written several books on Pentecostalism and Signs and Wonders. His wife Rina is originally from Belgium, and completed her Bible College degree in 1978. The Van der Laan's are the proud parents of a twenty-two year-old son (Timon) and a twenty-year-old daughter (Natasja). For the time being their children will remain for studies in the Netherlands.

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***Additional Web pages:***

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#### **Addendum 1: GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A BOOK CRITIQUE**

1. Use a cover sheet. This should include your author and title of the book on which you write your critique, your name, name and code of class (BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SIGNS AND WONDERS - BTHE 632/THEE 639), the name of the professor (Paul N. van der Laan Ph.D.), date submitted and the name of your college (Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Southeastern College Branch Campus).
2. Using your own words, summarize the main purpose of the book as you see it.
3. Explain how you thought the author adequately dealt with all the issues surrounding the main purpose of the book?
4. Explain how the majority of your questions have been answered concerning the topic. What are some of your unanswered questions about the topic?
5. What were your reactions to the author? Did he/she have an interesting style? Did he/she hold your attention? Explain.
6. Describe some of the areas in which the author stimulated your thinking.
7. Describe some of the emotions you felt as you read the book.
8. What affect did the book have on you? How has it affected your thoughts on the subject?
9. Give at least one or a couple of your favorite quotes from the book.

10. Rate the book on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being high and tell why.
10. Write double-spaced and in proper spelling and grammar
11. Have somebody proofread your critique before you submit it to your professor.

**Addendum 2: RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES**

1. Use a cover sheet See. Addendum 1.1 above.
2. Try to find an original topic that will give room for a personal contribution and complement the theological field of knowledge.
3. Put your last name and page number in the top right corner of each page beginning on page 1 (Example – Van der Laan 1).
4. The opening paragraph should be an attention gainer, which should draw the reader to the relevance of the subject. This can be a personal experience, a provoking question or statement, a contemporary issue , an interesting quotation etc..
5. In the next paragraph specify which topic you want to research and which theological question you intend to address. Try to break this down in three to five sub-questions and/or fields of research. This should be the sequence of your paper.
6. Each following paragraph should start with a repetition of your sub-question, followed by your research and ending with your personal conclusion or reflection.
7. The last paragraph should refer back to your leading question (see 5 above), give a summary of the results of your research and close with your personal conclusion.
8. One inch margins on all four sides of the sheet. Take care not to exceed the one inch margin at the bottom.
9. No contractions are allowed in a formal paper. Do not use don't, can't, I'm, etc.
10. Proofread closely for spelling errors. An average of two errors per page allowed with no penalty. That is a total of 16 errors for an 8 page paper (example - Judgment not judgment)
11. Make sure you use the correct word (I.E. “there” or “their”).
12. Proofread for use of wrong tenses (past and present tense in the same sentence, “is” and “was,” “said” and “says,”

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13. Proofread for mixing persons – sometimes using “you” and sometimes using “we.” Stick to one only one person.
14. Minimum of twenty sources. These can be books, periodicals, web-pages, interviews, tapes, and quotations television-programs. All quotations must be in proper MLA-format. There will be a one letter grade reduction for the incorrect number of sources.
15. In the body of the paper, use parenthetical citations rather than endnotes. Example - (Peters 346)
16. At the end of the paper a separate page should be included with a “BIBLIOGRAPHY”. In alphabetical order of the author put all the sources you have consulted, this must include at least all of your “Works Cited” .
17. The form to be used in your paper - example:

Erickson, Millard J. Introducing Christian Doctrine. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 2001, Second Edition.

(Name of author, last name first; {second author, last name last} then a period. Name of book underlined with a period. Name of city, State with a colon: Full name of publisher, comma, year of publication and a period.)

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Course syllabus prepared by Paul N. van der Laan, February 2002.