

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education
Springfield, Missouri
June 20-26, 2003

MHTE 529/PTHE 527/THEE 545 THEOLOGY OF MISSIONS
(2 or 3 Credits)

John York

Summer 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows the diachronic methodology of biblical theology to establish a foundation throughout Scripture for a theology of missions. This theology centers on God's mission (*Missio Dei*) to bless all nations. Attention is given to the importance of both the church response and individual response to *Missio Dei*. The power of the Holy Spirit outpoured upon the worldwide church is emphasized as God's means for accomplishing His mission.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Develop a summary statement of the mission of God as revealed diachronically throughout both Old and New Testaments.
2. Demonstrate the relationship of each successive grouping of biblical books to the mission of God.
3. Relate the New Testament missions textual themes to their Old Testament antecedents.
4. Construct a meaningful statement of church participation in *Missio Dei*.
5. Demonstrate a biblical position statement on God's mission incorporating the "four pillars": *Reaching, Planting, Training, Touching*.
6. State the relationship between one's own calling to ministry and the mission of God.
7. Present a biblical rationale for linking the progress of the worldwide expansion of the church with the end of the age.
8. Choose to approach missions with the objective of participation in fulfilling the mission of God.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Steyne, Philip M. *In Step With the God of the Nations*. Columbia, SC: Impact International, 1997 rev. ed.

York, John V. *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*. Springfield: Logion; 2000.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Dempster, Murray A., Byron D. Klaus, and Douglas Petersen, eds. *Called and Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective*. Peabody, MA: 1991.

Kaiser, Walter C. Jr. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.

Winter, Ralph. And Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. Rev. ed. Pasadena: William Carey, 1999.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. Historical development of the concept of biblical theology
 - B. The diachronic approach with its analogy of antecedent Scripture

- II. *Missio Dei* and the *Kingdom of God* as themes of biblical theology
 - A. In the Pentateuch: God announces His mission
 - B. In the Historical Books: God's Mission as Kingdom
 - C. In the Poetical Books (Wisdom Literature): The fear of the Lord as the mark of the Kingdom
 - D. In the Prophets: Covenant lawsuit and *Missio Dei*
 - E. In the Gospels: The mission of Christ and the transferred apostolate
 - F. In Acts: The mission of the church
 - G. In the Epistles: God's missionary people; completing the mission
 - H. In Revelation: Triumph of the Kingdom

- III. Choosing a life of commitment to *Missio Dei*
 - A. Discipling the nations: Reaching the unreached, church planting, training, and mobilizing the church to accomplish the mission of God
 - B. Responding to human need
 - C. Counting the cost: Living intentionally within a community of faith

METHODOLOGY

The course will be taught in block format. Students will complete assigned readings. Beginning with the second day, a brief written assignment will be presented each day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Two graduate credits)

1. Attendance is expected at all class sessions.
2. Three papers are to be submitted during the course. Those taking the course for graduate credit will present three assignments (750 words maximum length per assignment). The student should bear in mind that this paper is not a detailed research assignment. Rather, it is a written summary of major points covered in readings and class discussions. These papers should be prepared according to standard Turabian style.
3. Students will complete a post-course written assignment of 18-20 pages on the subject: *Completing the task: A response to the biblical theology of missions*. The paper will be divided into three sections: a synopsis of the biblical theology of missions, a church response to the biblical theology of missions, and a personal response to the biblical theology of missions. Further instructions on completing this assignment will be given in class. This paper will be due at AGTS by **December 31, 2003**.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, (Three credit option)

In addition to the requirements listed above, the student will complete the reading of *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations* by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 101 pages. A written evaluation will be presented using standard academic form.

1. Evaluate Kaiser's overall thesis that the Old Testament is a foundational document for God's mission to the nations. (Approximately 400 words)
2. Evaluate any two of Kaiser's major textual areas (bold headlines) answering the question: How does this text inform the New Testament concept of mission? (Approximately 600 words each)
3. Summarize the contribution of this volume to the *Biblical Theology of Missions*. Interact with [a minimum of 5] other sources (Approximately 400 words)
4. This paper will be due at AGTS by **December 31, 2003**.

GRADING

30% Written assignments
70% Final class assignment

Three credit option: The written assignment will be evaluated for content and form and factored into the grade at a weight of 20% of the final class assignment.

NOTE: Work received after the post-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 coursework to:

**AGTS Continuing Education
ATTN: Dr. John York
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802
agts-ext@agts.edu**

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus revised by John York May 2003.