

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BGR 625 Studies in the Letters of Paul: Galatians

James D. Hernando, Ph.D.
jhernando@agts.edu

Fall, 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course conducts an exegetical study of the Epistle to the Galatians. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the content and purpose of Galatians against the literary backdrop on an apologetic letter genre. Consequently, an attempt will be made to understand Paul's letter against the background and thinking of his opponents reflected in his writing. Particular emphasis will be given to Paul's understanding of the gospel and exploring the role of the Spirit in Paul's understanding and definition of Christian existence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

Knowledge

1. List the main component parts of a Graeco-Roman apologetic letter and briefly discuss its function.
2. Identify the major introductory issues to the Galatian letter over which there is considerable debate and discuss the major views.
3. Reconstruct the major theological views of Paul's opponents in Galatians and outline his response to the same.
4. Discuss the role that the H.S. plays in Paul's understanding and definition of the Christian existence.

Skills

1. Translate any passage in Galatians without the use of lexical aids and identify any significant point of grammar or syntax.
2. Construct an exegetical and sermonic outline from a grammatical analyses of a given passage of the Greek text.
3. Use the textual apparatus of the UBS NT text to discuss any textual variant and its relative degree of certainty.

Attitudes

1. More fully appreciate the literary environment of the New Testament and Paul's letter as representative of Graeco-Roman epistolography.
2. Recognize the value and insight gained in approaching this NT letter as a literary composition addressed to a concrete historical situation and forged in the heat of polemical debate.
3. Realize the complexity and difficulty of reconstructing the historical setting of a NT writing from the fragmentary evidence therein.

TEXTBOOK

Aland, Kurt, et al. The Greek New Testament. 4th ed. United Bible Societies, 1994.

Fung, Ronald Y. K. The Epistle to the Galatians. In the NICNT series, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

BASIC OUTLINE

- I. Prolegomena: Introductory issues to the background and literary composition of the book.
- II. Textual Analyses and Exegesis: Translation, grammatical analysis and exposition.
- III. Theological Analysis and Synthesis: Term papers

METHODOLOGY

In this course we will seek to meet our objectives through:

1. Classroom lecture
2. Translation, recitation and discussion.
3. Individual reading, research and writing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Whenever possible, absences should be announced beforehand to the professor.
2. Completion of all reading assignments.
3. Oral Reading Report – see description
4. Translation assignments - Notebook with required content (see below).
5. Syntactical Analysis – Exegetical Outlines (3 passages)
6. Exegesis Paper.
7. Final Exam

NOTE: Except in situation of extraordinary extenuating circumstances, work turned in late without the prior permission of the professor (for extenuating circumstances only) will receive a grade reduction of one half letter grade for every day late.

Translation - Notebook

The entire book of Galatians will be translated, and placed in a 3-ring binder notebook. The format will be discussed in class and an illustrated description of the project will be handed out.

1. The notebook will include:
 - a) the Greek text
 - b) English translation
 - c) Parsing/Declining notes
 - d) Grammatical notes
 - e) Exegetical notes
 - f) Appendices: including the grammatical analyses of (3) extended passages from the epistle, exegetical outlines of the same passages
 - g) Problem Description Papers (see below)

2. The notebook will be graded as follows:
 - a) Utility - Is the notebook neat, clear in presentation and formatted correctly so as to serve as a resource for teaching or additional study
 - b) Completeness - Does the notebook contain all requirements and material presented during class discussions of the text
 - c) Accuracy - Does the notebook accurately record the work done in and out of class on the text of Galatians

Exegesis Paper

1. An exegesis paper on a chosen pericope in Galatians 1, not to exceed 12 pages. (Appendices may be included to cover additional research cited by footnote in your paper.)

2. The appendices of your paper MUST also include
 - a) a diagram of your passage
 - b) Grammatical analysis of your passage
 - c) An exegetical outline
 - d) A sermonic outline.

3. The paper MUST include standard documentation style and format as described in the latest edition of Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987.

Oral Reading Report¹

¹ In the event that there are more students in the class than prolegomena issues, the BGR 625 students may chose to fulfill this requirement by presenting a 10-12 minute oral presentation on a problem related to the

A reading assignment related to prolegomena issues is to be presented orally in class on the day the topic is discussed, or as assigned.

1. Present a summary review of the reading assignment that:
 - a) Clearly and succinctly defines the topic or Problem addressed in the reading.
 - b) Describes the author's position.
 - c) Briefly outlines/presents the author's supporting Evidence and/or arguments.
2. The student should:
 - a) **Limit** his presentation to **10-12 minutes**.
 - b) Provide a one page outline of his presentation (include complete bibliographic information at the top of the page).
- 3) NOT exceed the 12 minute limit
- 4) **NOT read** from a manuscript, but speak using note cards or prepared outline

Grading Procedure

1. Grade Weights:

Reading	50 = 5%
Translation - Notebook	
Translations	150 = 15%
SAs (syntactical analyses)	50 = 5%
Exegetical Outlines	50 = 5%
Exegesis Paper	300 = 30%
Oral Reading Report	150 = 10%
Class Participation	50 = 5%
Final Exam*	200 = 20%

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

* The final exam will consist of three parts: 1) Two essay questions chosen from questions submitted by the entire class; 2) One section (translation and reflection question) chosen by the professor; and 3) One essay question that you personally submitted.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barclay, William. Flesh and Spirit: An Examination of Galatians 5:19-23. Nashville: Abingdon, 1962.

passage they have chosen for their exegesis paper. The report would be given on the day the passage is dealt with in class.

- Barrett, C. K. Freedom and Obligation: A Study of the Epistle to the Galatians. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1985.
- Betz, Hans Dieter. Galatians: A Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Churches in Galatia. Hermeneia Commentary. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
- Bligh, John. Galatians: A Discussion of St. Paul's Epistle. London: St. Paul Publications, 1969.
- Brinsmead, Bernard Hungerford. Galatians: Dialogical Response to Opponents. SBL Dissertation Series no. 65. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1982.
- Bruce, F. F. The Epistle to the Galatians: A Commentary on the Greek Text. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Burton, Ernest de Witt. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1921.
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- Calvin, John. The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Philippians and Colossians. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965. Original edition, 1548.
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- Hansen, G. Walter. Galatians. IVP New Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.

- Hays, Richard B. The Faith of Jesus Christ: An Investigation of the Narrative Substructure of Galatians 3:1-4:11. SBL Dissertation Series no. 56. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1983.
- Hendriksen, William. Exposition of Galatians. New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968.
- Howard, George. Paul: Crisis in Galatia. London: Cambridge University Press, 1979.
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- Lull, David John. The Spirit in Galatians: Paul's Interpretation of Pneuma as Divine Power. SBL Dissertation Series no. 49. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1980.
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- Ossiek, Carolyn A. Galatians. NT Message Commentary. Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, 1980.
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- Ropes, James H. The Singular Problem of the Epistle to the Galatians. Harvard Theological Studies, 14. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard, 1929.
- Schutz, John Howard. Paul and the Anatomy of Apostolic Authority. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.
- Tenney, Merrill C. Galatians: Charter of Christian Liberty. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957.
- Wagner, Gunter, ed. An Exegetical Bibliography on the Letters to the Galatians and to the Philippians. Ruschlikon-Zurich: Baptist Theological Seminary, 1977.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D., July 1, 2004