

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH 532 New Testament Theology

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.
268-1075 (voice mail)
baker@agts.edu

Fall 2004
Tues 2:30-5 :30

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of New Testament theology in terms of its historical and social environment. Various approaches or emphases may be taken, depending on the instructor and/or purpose of the class. Generally the major doctrinal themes of the New Testament are covered. Attention is given to Pentecostal and charismatic issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Provide information on key issues in New Testament theology;
2. Survey the content of major themes from the major New Testament writers;
3. React positively to community models of New Testament theology;
4. Reflect a deeper value system based on New Testament theology in approaching ministry and life;
5. Respond to ministry needs in terms of New Testament theology;
6. Integrate New Testament theology into ministry and personal life;
7. Use a personal method of doing New Testament theology.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Ladd, G. E., *A Theology of the New Testament*, rev. ed., edited by Donald A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Any translation of the Bible.

Recommended:

Marshall, I.H. and David Peterson, *Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1998.

Wiles, Virginia, *Making Sense of Paul: A Basic Introduction to Pauline Theology*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2000.

COURSE OUTLINE

September 7

- I. Introduction: Nature and method of NT theology
 - A. Issues in New Testament Theology
 - 1) Method:
 - a. Ladd (Read pp. 1-28; 684-719)
 - b. Aker

c. Others

- 2) Diversity/Unity
- 3) Center
- 4) Continuity/Discontinuity

B. Function of NT theology

II. Theology of Matthew:

- A. Preparing to analyze: If the student needs an introduction or a refreshing about how to read the Synoptics, consult the following sources: Robert H. Stein, *The Synoptic Problem* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987); William W. Klein, Craig L. Bloomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993) 323-44;
- B. Help is also to be found by consulting introductory resources for the history and culture of this gospel; e.g., D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1992); Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997); K. C. Hanson, Douglas E. Oakman, *Palestine in the Time of Jesus* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998).
- C. For the theology of Matthew and his social background see also: B. J. Malina and J. H. Neyrey, "Comparing U.S. Values with the Mediterranean View," in the Appendices of *Calling Jesus Names: The Social Value of Labels in Matthew* (Sonoma, CA: Polebridge Press, 1988), pp.145-51. Peter F. Ellis, *Matthew: His Mind and His Message* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1974), Part Three, pp. 99-155. J. Koenig, *New Testament Hospitality: Partnership with Strangers as a Promise and Mission* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985), chaps. 1-4 (this book relates to all the NT). Ulrich Luz, *The Theology of the Gospel of Matthew*. NTT (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995). Graham M. Stanton, *A Gospel for a New People: Studies in Matthew* (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992). Mark Allan Powell, *God With Us: A Pastoral Theology of Matthew's Gospel* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995).
- D. Write a ten page paper on a biblical theological topic from the book of Matthew.
- E. Church:
 - Read Ladd, 31-132; 212-45.
 - Study especially Matthew 1-4, focusing on texts that address the foundation of the church.
 - Using a concordance, locate the references of "Church" in Matthew and study them. Why is this word only mentioned in this Gospel among others?
 - How does water baptism function in Matthew?
 - How does the Lord's Supper function in Matthew?
 - Recommended: I.H. Marshall, "Church," in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP), 122-25.

September 14

F. Christology:

- Read Ladd, 133-180.
- Using a concordance, locate and study "son of David" in Matthew.
- Once again look at Matthew 1-4, focusing on the identity and function of

Jesus.

G. Salvation:

- Read Ladd, 181-192.
- Study Matthew's definition of sin; looking especially at 4: 23-25 and 9:35-38.
- What is the basic model of salvation Matthew? Look at the New Exodus motif, and look up the words he uses for the concept (found in the same references listed previously).
- Recommended: B.L. Blackburn, "Miracles and Miracle Stories," in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP), 549-60. _____

September 21

H. Spirit.

- What is the Spirit's major role in this Gospel?
- Recommended: M.M.B. Turner, "Holy Spirit," in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP), 341-51.

I. Eschatology:

- Read Ladd, 193-211.
- Study carefully chapters 24-25.
- Recommended: D.C. Allison, Jr., "Eschatology," in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP), 206-09.

October 5

III. The Theology of Luke-Acts:

- A. For background assistance see the following: D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1992); Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997);
- B. Consult sources these for assistance on the historical and cultural background of these two books; note in particular that they provide special issues of discussion for Pentecostal/Charismatic theology and other Evangelicals. **The recommended book above (*Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts*) will be helpful for Luke's theology.** For this background also see above under Matthew.
- C. The following will also be helpful for understanding Luke/Acts historical and social background and theology: Harvie M. Conn, "Lucan Perspectives and the City," *Missiology: An International Review* 13 (Oct. 1985): 409-28. Robert O'Toole, *The Unity of Luke's Theology*, chp. 7, pp. 160-66. M. Hengel, *Property and Riches in the Early Church*, pp. 36-39. A. N. Sherwin White, *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament*, pp. 120-192. Joel B. Greene, *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).
- D. Write a ten page paper on a biblical theological topic from the book of Luke-Acts.
- E. Church:
- Read Ladd, 379-93.
 - Study Acts 2-4, focusing on the nature of the church on the day of Pentecost.
 - What is the function of the Lord's Supper in Luke?
 - The role of water baptism?
 - Spirit-baptism?

October 12

- F. Christology.
- Study Acts 1-3, looking for what Jesus does and what names are given him.
- G. Salvation:
- Read Ladd, 347-78. _____
 - Study Luke 1-3 and, again, Acts 3.
 - Recommended: I.H. Marshall, "Salvation," in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP), 719-24.

FIRST PAPER DUE: A TOPIC FROM MATTHEW

October 19

- H. Spirit:
- Read Aker, "New Directions," in *Faces of Renewal*, pp. 108-27.
 - What is the major function of the Spirit in Luke-Acts? How does prayer function in Luke-Acts?
- I. Missions:
- Do you find the Abrahamic promise to the nations in Luke and Acts? Be able to elaborate and explain.
- J. Eschatology:
- Read Luke 12, 19, and 22 looking for eschatological elements. Compare them with Matthew 24-25. _____

October 26

- IV. The Theology of John's Gospel and His Epistles:
- A. For background assistance see the following: D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1992); Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997);
- B. The following will also be helpful for understanding the historical and social backgrounds and theology of these books: G.R. Beasley-Murray, *Gospel of Life: Theology in the Fourth Gospel* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.)
- C. Write a ten page paper on a biblical theological topic from the book of John and his Epistles.

November 2

- D. Church:
- Read Ladd, 249-72; 306-21. _____
 - Read John 2-4. Why is "temple" a major theme in this section?
 - Is there a Lord's Supper in John? If so, where and why?

November 9

- E. Christology:
- Read Ladd, 273-89. _____
 - Is John's Christology ontological or functional, why?
 - Using a concordance, locate and study the references to Jesus' name of "I Am/am" What is its significance?
- F. Salvation:
- Read Ladd, 290-305. _____

- Locate and study the terms for salvation: “born again,” “life,” and “believe/faith.”
- Recommended: D.H. Johnson, “Life,” in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP), 469-71.
- Recommended: G.R. Osborne, “Resurrection,” in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (IVP), 673-88.
- What is the function of signs in the Fourth Gospel?
- What is the significance of the two major Jewish feasts in John?

November 16

G. Spirit:

- Read Ladd, 322-33.
- Study John 14-16 noting the following:
 - the work of the Spirit
 - the relationship between Jesus and the Spirit. _____

H. Eschatology:

- Read Ladd, 334-44.
- What is the relationship between realized eschatology and “being born again?”
- How many kinds of eschatology can you find in John and his Epistles? Be sure to include John 5:16-30.

SECOND PAPER DUE : A TOPIC FROM LUKE-ACTS

November 23

V. Pauline Theology:

- A. For background assistance see the following: D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1992); Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997);
- B. Help on the historical and cultural background on the Pauline Epistles may be found in: Gordon D. Fee, “Pauline Literature,” *Dictionary of Pentecostal Charismatic Movements*, pp. 664-83. The following will also be helpful for understanding the historical and social backgrounds and messages of these books: D. E. Smith & H. E. Taussig, *Many Tables: The Eucharist in the New Testament and Liturgy Today* (London: SCM Press, 1990), chaps. 2-3. For “household” John H. Elliot, *A Home for the Homeless: A Social-Scientific Criticism of 1 Peter, Its Situation and Strategy* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990). James D.G. Dunn, *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998). Robert Banks, *Paul’s Idea of Community* Rev. ed. (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994).
- C. For various topics in Paul, especially consult James D.G. Dunn, *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998): Chapter 5: The Beginning of Salvation”; Par. 13 – “The Crucial Transition”; Par. 15 – “Participation in Christ”; Par. 16 – “The Gift of the Spirit”; Chapter 6: “The Process of Salvation”; Par. 18 – “The Eschatological Tension”; Par. 19 – “Israel”; Chapter 7: “The Church”; Par. 20 – “The Body of Christ”; Par. 21 – “Ministry and Office”; Chapter 9: “Epilogue”; Par. 25 – “Prolegomena to a Theology of Paul.” For a readable but good introduction see Virginia Wiles, *Making Sense of Paul: A*

Basic Introduction to Pauline Theology (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2000).

- D. Church: (We will particularly focus on the Epistles to Timothy because they especially are informative about the Roman cultural world of Paul.)
- Read Ladd, 499-594.
 - Read through 1 Timothy paying attention to the social terms that appear. How do these relate to the concept of the house church?
 - In Paul generally, what do the two major terms for church “temple” and “house/household” signify?
 - Recommended: P.T. O’Brien, “Church,” in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP), 123-31.

November 30

- E. Christology:
- Read Ladd, 448-463.
 - Examine Romans 1:1-6 for Paul’s Christology. What is the issue there and what are the arguments and the possible solution? Also examine Romans 5 and 8 for Christology.
 - Recommended: Ben Witherington III, “Christology,” in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP), 100-15.
- F. Salvation:
- Read Ladd, 435-47; 464-98.
 - Examine Romans 3-8 considering the terms of: “flesh,” “spirit,” “law,” “grace,” “faith,” and “justification.” Does the Christian really have two natures at once? How is victory attained?

December 7

- G. Spirit:
- Read Ladd, 595-614.
 - What is Paul’s theology of ministry?
 - Recommended: C.J. Kruse, “Ministry,” in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP), 603-08.
 - Consider carefully Romans 12. 1 Corinthians 12-14; and Ephesians 4:1-16 regarding “spiritual gifts.”
 - Recommended: G.D. Fee, “Gifts of the Spirit,” in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP), 339-47. Gordon D. Fee, *God’s Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1994; and his *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1996).
- H. Missions:
- Read again Romans 1:1-7 and compare it with the great commission in Matthew 28:16-20.
 - Recommended: W.P. Bowers, “Mission,” in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP), 608-19.

December 14: Final Exam Day: 2:30

THIRD PAPER DUE: A TOPIC FROM JOHN

ONE PAGE READING REPORT ON TEXTBOOK (LADD) DUE

METHODOLOGY and REQUIREMENTS

1. Noting the course outline, the textbook (Ladd) **should be read in advance** for the material to be discussed on that day. On December 14, students will provide a one page reading report on Ladd at the end of which they will sign that they have read completely this book. Articles and portions of books are listed for students' benefit as well and are highly recommended reading. Notes are also recommended as the material is read. Materials listed in the Outline of the Course are on reserve.
2. The main text, though, is the Scripture. We will work our way through the material, interpreting it as we go. Hermeneutics are important for the proper development of theology. Remember, though, that theology is more than hermeneutics and interpreting individual texts. Theology is synthetic in nature. Furthermore, outside sources should be consulted for assistance. Particularly, a concordance will move one quickly to the place where scripture presents a topic.
3. Three biblical theology papers are required. The topics and due dates are listed in the Course Outline.
4. Reading: See above #1. The reading schedule of the non-textbook material is found inside the Course Outline. Though this is recommended reading for everyone, these readings will be helpful for the person assisting the professor on that particular topic. The schedule for students to assist the professor on particular topics will be worked out the first class day.
5. Three biblical theology papers on topics from Matthew, Luke-Acts, and John are required. The length of each is 10 pages. Each must be in acceptable seminary style and format. The due dates are listed in the Course Outline above. You may consult with the professor about the topic.

GRADING PROCEDURE

The student's grade will be derived from the following procedure:

100 points	First Paper
100 points	Second Paper
100 points	Third Paper
50 points	Reading Report

350 points possible

The grade will come from the appropriate percentages of the total possible:

95-100 %	A	80-83 %	B-
90-94 %	A-	77-79 %	C+
87-89 %	B+	74-76 %	C
84-86 %	B	70-73 %	C-

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aker, Ben. "Initial Evidence, A Biblical Perspective." In the *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

_____. "Matthew, Gospel of." In the *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988. 588-598.

_____. "New Directions in Lucan Theology: Reflections on Luke 3:21-22 and some Implications." In the *Faces of Renewal*, ed. Paul Elbert. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1987.

Barclay, W. *The Mind of St. Paul*. London: Fontana, 1958.

Bruce, F. F. *New Testament Development of Old Testament Themes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

_____. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

Conzelman, Hans. *An Outline of the Theology of the New Testament*. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.

Cullman, Oscar. *Christ and Time*. London: SCM, 1951.

Davies, W. D. *Paul and Rabbinic Judaism*. New York: Harper & Row, 1948.

Dunn, J. D. G. *Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Re-Examination of the New Testament Teaching on the Gift of the Spirit in Relation to Pentecostalism Today*. SCM Press, 1970. New Edition: *Jesus and the Spirit: A Study of the Religious and Charismatic Experience of Jesus and the First Christians as Reflected in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Elbert, Paul, ed. *Essays on Apostolic Themes*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1985.

Ervin, Howard M. *Conversion - Initiation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984.

Furnish, V. P. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981; 1982.

Goppelt, L. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981; 1982.

Green, E. M. B. *The Meaning of Salvation*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1965.

Guelich, R. A., ed. *Unity and Diversity in New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Guthrie, D. *New Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1981.

Hanson, A. T. *Studies in Paul's Technique and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.

Hasel, G. *New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Ladd, G. E. *The Blessed Hope*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956.

Lee, E. K. *The Religious Thought of St. John*. London: SPCK, 1950.

Malina, B. J. *The New Testament World. Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.

Malina, B. J., and J. H. Neyrey, eds. *Calling Jesus Names: The Social Value of Labels in Matthew*. Sonoma, CA: Polebridge Press, 1988.

Morris, L. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955.

_____. *The Cross of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

_____. *New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.

O'Toole, R. F. *The Unity of Luke's Theology*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1984.

Ridderbos, H. *Paul and Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1958.

_____. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.

Sanders, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. London: SCM, 1977.

Schoeps, H. J. *Paul: The Theology of the Apostle in the Light of Jewish Religious History*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1959.

Smith, T. C. *Jesus in the Gospel of John*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1959.

Stronstad, R. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984.

Taylor, M. J., ed. *A Companion to John: Readings in Johannine Theology*. New York: Alba House, 1977.

Vanderlip, D. George. *Christianity According to John*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975.

Whiteley, D. E. F. *The Theology of St. Paul*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.

SPECIFIC DATA:

Syllabus prepared by Benny C. Aker, PhD, June 2004.