

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**BNT 641 PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP  
IN THE PAULINE LETTERS**

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**Spring, 2006**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course conducts a doctrinal and expositional study of key passages that relate to spiritual leadership from the letters of Paul. Special emphasis will be given to the Corinthian correspondence. This investigation will explore how Paul would define spiritual leadership as to its origin, nature and function in the church. Additional attention will be given to Paul's own model and example of leadership as it relates to the training of disciples, treatment of subordinates and dealing with conflict, and opposition in the church.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

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

*Cognitive:*

1. Identify and list key passages from the Pauline writings that deal with the topic of spiritual leadership.
2. Define key terms and concepts that relate the above topic from a Pauline perspective.
3. Explain how Paul's view of spiritual leadership dovetails with the teachings of Jesus and compares or contrasts with a secular view of leadership.
4. Identify the chief components of "true spiritual leadership" and support your position from the writings of Paul.
5. Identify and list problems and situations in the church that could be helped by a clearer understanding and implementation of Paul's teachings on spiritual leadership

*Skills:*

1. Think critically about spiritual leadership as it is practiced in the church, providing biblical assessment from the Pauline writings.
2. Provide a contemporized and contextualized interpretation of the New Testament writings of Paul.
3. Construct an exegetical outline (in English) of a New Testament passage and summarize its teachings.
4. Extract timeless trans-cultural principles from the exegetically derived teachings of the New Testament.

*Attitudes:*

1. Appreciate more deeply the complexity of the social dynamics of spiritual leadership.
2. Articulate the importance of understanding the concrete historical and social setting (*Sitz im Leben*) of Paul's letters for their interpretation and relevant exposition.
3. Explain the importance of the church to continually evaluate its practices in light of biblical exegesis and theology.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

Arrington, French and Roger Stronstad eds. In *Life in Spirit New Testament Commentary*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

Clarke, Andrew D. *Serve the Community of the Church: Christians as Leaders and Ministers*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2000.

Hawthorne, G. F. and Ralph Martin, ed.s. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downer's Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Defining Spiritual Leadership
  - B. Leadership in the Graeco-Roman World
  - C. Leadership in the Kingdom of God - Jesus
  - D. Leadership and the Body of Christ - Paul
- II. Paul, and His Apostleship
  - A. A Stewardship of the Grace of God
  - B. Apostolic Calling and Authority
- III. The Challenge of Paul's Apostleship
  - A. Dealing with Problem Churches
  - B. Treatment of Subordinates
  - C. Pauline Discipleship
- IV. The Challenge to Paul's Apostleship
  - A. Interpersonal Conflicts
  - B. Dealing With Fronts of Opposition
  - C. Keeping Kingdom Goals While in Conflict
- V. The Example of Pauline Apostleship
  - A. Enduring Priorities
  - B. Enduring Principles

## METHODOLOGY

This course will seek to meet its objectives through class lectures and discussion, independent reading, research and writing.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Required Reading:

- a. The student is expected to have read the text book by Andrew Clark in its entirety.
- b. In addition, the student is to read the assigned articles in the IVP *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (See Handout)
- c. Read all the letters of Paul in the NASV OR NIV versions of the Bible **twice** during the course of this semester. See written assignments below.

### 2. Written Assignments:

- a. Write a 3-5 page critical book review of A. Clark's book (See handout) responding to specific questions on the value and relevancy of Clarke's book for the training of leaders in the Church.
- b. **Reading Reflections** - Chronicle your readings of the Pauline letters. Take notes on your observations regarding the following topics: (*Be sure to give scripture references*)
  - 1 Paul's understanding of authority in leadership.
  2. The responsibilities of a spiritual leader
  - 3 Paul's character as a leader: attitudes, conduct and traits
  4. Paul's self-understanding as a leader (apostle of Christ)
  5. How Paul dealt with problems in the church as a leader
  6. How Paul dealt with others, both subordinates and those regarded as equals.

**Note: These notes will be collected and graded.**

- c. Each student will prepare an 10-15 page research paper, "*What the Apostle Paul Wish the Church Knew About \_\_\_\_\_ ?*"
  1. The blank is to be filled in by you. It must articulate an area of concern related to the topic of spiritual leadership. E.g., What the Apostle Paul Wish the Church Knew About "*Conflict Resolution,*" or "*The Priorities of Spiritual Leadership,*" or "*The Use and Abuse of Spiritual Authority*" or "*The Passion of a Spiritual Leader,*" etc.
  2. The topic should be one that is sufficiently focused so as to be adequately covered in 10-15 pages.

### 3. Mid-term Exam/Project (choice of)

- a. Essay (topics TBA)
- b. Bibliographic Research Project (See handout)

## GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Grade Weights:

Required Reading	10%
Critical Review of Clarke's book	15%
Mid-term Project	15%
Reading Reflections	20%
Research Paper	30%
Class Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

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

**NOTE:** *Written projects and papers that are turned in late without an approved extension will be penalized one letter grade.*

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barnett, Paul. *The Message of 2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.

Bennett, David W. *Metaphors of Ministry: Biblical Images for Leaders and Followers*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993

Bruce, F. F. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Paul & His Converts: How Paul Nurtured the Churches He Planted*. Downers Grove, Illinois : InterVarsity Press, 1985.

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Fee, Gordon. *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.

Green, Michael. *To Corinth With Love : Paul's Message to the Troubled Church at Corinth and Its Relevance to Christians Today*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1988.

Greenleaf, Robert K. *Seeker and Servant: Reflections on Religious Leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1996.

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Longenecker, Richard N. *Paul, Apostle of Liberty*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1964.

Marshall, Peter. *Enmity in Corinth: Social Conventions in Paul's Relations with the Corinthians*. Tübingen : J.C.B. Mohr, 1987.

Renwick, David Alistair. *Paul, the Temple, and the Presence of God*. 1988.

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Sanders, J. Oswald. *Spiritual Leadership*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1967.

Shoemaker, H. Stephen. *Strength in Weakness*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1989.

Schatzmann, Siegfried. *A Pauline Theology of Charismata*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.

Witherington, Ben. *Conflict and Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: W. B. Eerdmans, 1994.

## **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D. November 1, 2005.