

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BNT 542 / BGR 627 – Studies in the General Letters: Epistles of Peter

David R. Bundrick, Ph.D.

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bundrickd@evangel.edu

Office: 417-865-2815 x7316

Home: 417-833-0505

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

For this course the emphasis will be on the exegesis of the First and Second Letters of Peter, with some attention given to the recent contributions of rhetorical criticism and social-science criticism that enhance the task of interpreting these inspired texts in light of their original setting. The course will be supplemented by brief studies of the life of Peter, his sermons in canonical Acts, and the Petrine tradition reflected in non-canonical texts attributed to Peter (*pseudepigrapha*). Class sessions will be conducted as an English Bible study with occasional reference to the Greek text. Prerequisites: Students enrolled for BNT 542 are expected to have completed BNT 530; those enrolled for BGR 627 are expected to have completed BGR 612 or its equivalent.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student should have demonstrated—in classroom discussions, presentations, papers, and on a final examination—the accomplishment of the following objectives in keeping with the mission of AGTS, which is to “...*Shap[e] servant leaders with knowledge, skill and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.*”

Knowledge

1. An understanding of the historical and social backgrounds of these letters
2. An awareness of the issues related to the authorship of these epistles
3. A close familiarity with the content and basic ideas of these letters
4. A solid grasp of the key theological and ethical issues raised in 1 & 2 Peter

Skill

1. The ability to rehearse orally or outline manually the author’s basic flow of thought
2. The ability to interpret these epistles for the contemporary Church in light of faithfulness to the intended message of the inspired author to his original hearers.
3. The ability to evaluate the usefulness of, and apply the results of, biblical critical methods of exegesis (i.e. social science criticism and rhetorical criticism) in a manner consistent with Evangelical and Pentecostal commitments to the reliability of Scripture

Passion

1. A heightened appreciation and love for these letters as sacred Scripture
2. A desire to grow personally as spiritual leaders in and for the Church
3. An attitude of excitement about challenging the Church, through preaching and teaching, to live its life in these Last Days in a manner consistent with the meaning and message of 1 & 2 Peter.

TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (NIV, NASB, or NRSV)

Elliott, John Hall. *A Home for the Homeless: A Social-Scientific Criticism of 1 Peter, Its Situation and Strategy*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

McKnight, Scot. *1 Peter: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Moo, Douglas J. *2 Peter: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

BASIC OUTLINE

May 8 Introduction: Peter's life and ministry in the Gospels, Acts and beyond.

- 9 Introduction: Interpreting epistles; evaluating newer exegetical tools: Social science and rhetorical criticism
- 10 1 Peter 1:1-2 — Epistolary Prescript: Authorship, date, destination and audience
- 11 1 Peter 1:3-12 — The *Exordium*
- 12 1 Peter 1:13-2:10 — The *Probatio, Argumentio I*
- 15 (Continued)
- 16 1 Peter 2:11-3:12 — The *Probatio, Argumentio II*
- 17 (Continued)
- 18 1 Peter 3:13-4:11 — The *Probatio, Argumentio III*
- 19 (Continued)
- 22 1 Peter 4:12-5:9 — The *Peroratio*
- DUE: Written critique of *Home for the Homeless* (BNT 542 students only) or translation of Greek text underlying exegesis paper (BGR 627 students only)**
- 23 1 Peter 5:10-14 — Doxology and Epistolary Conclusion
- 24 2 Peter 1:1-2 — Epistolary Prescript: Authorship, date, destination and audience
- 25 2 Peter 1:3-15 — The *Exordium*
- 26 2 Peter 1:16-3:13 — The *Probatio*
- 29 Memorial Day HOLIDAY—No Class
- 30 2 Peter 1:16-3:13 — The *Probatio* (Continued)
- 31 2 Peter 3:14-18 — The *Peroratio*
- June 1 Discussion of Petrine Pseudepigrapha; Review
- 2 FINAL EXAM

METHODOLOGY

The course will utilize lectures by the professor, dialogue between the professor and students, and seminar-type presentations by the students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular class attendance and participation in discussions are expected.
2. Submission of your reading log for the three textbooks: *A Home for the Homeless* and the two commentaries by McKnight and Moo. A form will be provided. **DUE: June 2, 2006.**
3. An exegesis paper (approximately 12 pages) of one literary unit in 1 or 2 Peter. Detailed instructions will be provided. For BGR 627 students, the exegesis paper must reflect usage of the Greek language, including at least one word study and significant grammatical and syntactical observations. BNT 542 students will not be expected to utilize the Greek text, but should pay special attention to matters of critical scholarship surrounding the exegesis of the text. BNT 542 students may make special arrangements with the professor to research and write a theological analysis on a specific theme in 1 or 2 Peter, in lieu of an exegesis paper. **DUE: June 9, 2006**
4. **Written assignment DUE: May 22, 2006**
 BNT 542 students: Written critique of *A Home for the Homeless* (3-4 pages).
 BGR 627 students: Written translation of the Greek text that forms the immediate context (minimum 20 verses) of the passage that you selected for exegesis. This must include detailed notes of verb conjugations and your translation decisions.
5. A seminar-type presentation (10-15) minutes to the class of the preliminary findings of your exegesis paper; this is to be presented on the date corresponding to the class discussion of you selected passage. *By May 10, you must report, for the professor's approval, the passage you have selected tentatively to exegete.*
6. Completion of a final exam over Bible content and interpretive issues relative to 1 and 2 Peter.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Class attendance and Participation	5%
Reading Log	15%
Book Critique or Greek Translation	15%
Presentation Report	15%
Exegesis Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

The grading scale will be that published in the AGTS Catalog.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2 Peter

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*On AGTS Library Reserve.

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