

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Degree Completion Program
Springfield, Missouri

BNTD 540 STU.: GOSPEL OF MARK FOR POSTMODERNS
August 30, September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2007
Thursday evening 6:00 – 10:00 pm
(3 Credits)

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Fall 2007

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An English Bible study (with reference to the Greek text) of the Gospel of Mark which the orthodox Christian tradition affirms, albeit with modern higher-critical challenges, as the work of John Mark, the associate of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Particular attention will be given to the importance of this letter for contemporary ministry to postmoderns, as carefully interpreted against its historical and cultural backgrounds and examined for relevant theological themes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES--GLOBAL

Upon completion of this course, the student should have accomplished in papers, classroom discussions, presentations, and examinations the following global domain objectives:

Knowledge

1. A preliminary understanding of what may reasonably be inferred about the historical and social backgrounds of the letter.
2. An understanding of the critical issues that bear on the question of the authorship of the letter.
3. The ability to outline from memory the basic contents and ideas of the letter.
4. A thorough grasp of the major theological and ethical issues reflected in the letter.
5. A comprehension of particular issues and themes in the letter relevant to the practice of ministry in contemporary society.

Attitude

1. A demonstrated appreciation of the nature of the letter as sacred Scripture.
2. A willingness to lay aside previous biases and understand the letter on its own terms.
3. A desire to be personally shaped by the message of the letter.
4. A desire to explicate the universal truths of the letter in contemporary ministry and church life.

Skill

1. The ability to critique modern life in terms of the ancient biblical message.
2. The ability to bring the insights of the letter to bear on contemporary ethical issues.
3. The ability to bring the theology of the letter to bear on the practice of ministry in the contemporary milieu.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

The Bible (Modern version as NIV [text used by professor], NASB, NKJV, NRSV, ESV, *et al.*)

[DEG] Garland, David E. *Mark* (The NIV Application Commentary). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. (656 pp.)

[BW] Witherington, Ben III. *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. (463 pp.)

Recommended

[DJG] Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992. (934 pp.)

COURSE OUTLINE

- Unit 1 – Mark: Missionary to Jews and Pagans
- Unit 2 – Jesus and Ministry in Galilee
- Unit 3 – Jesus’ Message and Power
- Unit 4 – Triumphal Entry and Passion Week
- Unit 5 – Trial, Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection

METHODOLOGY

This course will utilize lectures by the professor, audio-visual presentations, dialogue between the professor and students, and seminar-type presentations and critiques by the students, time permitting.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Unit Outline	Assignments	Session Outlines
Unit 1 – Mark: Missionary to Jews and Pagans	Read: BW, 1-61; DEG, 17-31; DJG, “Mark, Gospel of”; PB, 81-98; GJ, scan Objectives: 1. To determine authorship of the Gospel. 2. To determine setting (<i>sitz-im-leben</i>) of the Gospel. 3. To understand Mark’s role among other Gospels. 4. To research rules for interpreting Gospel genre. 5. To locate Mark among the Post-Moderns	1. Mark’s Identity 2. Mark’s Ministry 3. Ministry <i>Sitz-im-Leben</i> 4. Gospel Genre 5. Postmodernism
Unit 2 – Jesus and Ministry in Galilee	Read: BW, 67-177; DEG, 41-200 Objectives: 1. To understand J.B. in Salvation History. 2. To situate formative events of Baptism and Temptation. 3. To identify geography and character of Galilean Ministry. 4. To grasp Jesus’ identity and messianic secret.	1. Gospel Beginnings 2. John the Baptist 3. Baptism 4. Temptation 5. Galilean Ministry 6. Jesus’ Identity
Unit 3 – Jesus’ Message and Power	Read: BW, 178-274; DEG, 201-376 Objectives: 1. To understand Jesus’ preaching and teaching. 2. To observe the genuine compassion and authority of Jesus. 3. To understand role of miracles and exorcisms. 4. To see the role of Peter’s confession, Jesus’ Transfiguration, and the nature of the messianic secret. 5. To grasp the necessity of the road to Jerusalem and suffering.	1. Preaching and Teaching 2. Healing and Exorcism 3. Peter’s Confession and Transfiguration 4. Road to Jerusalem
Unit 4 – Triumphal Entry and Passion Week	Read: BW, 274-357; DEG, 377-486 Objectives: 1. To grasp the entry of Messiah. 2. To link the acted parable of the fig tree with Israel. 3. To interpret the controversy narratives. 4. To interpret the Olivet Discourse.	1. Triumphal Entry 2. Fig Tree and Temple Cleansing 3. Controversies 4. Olivet Discourse
Unit 5 – Trial, Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection	Read: BW, 359-442; DEG, 487-630 Objectives: 1. To grasp the inner significance of the trial of Jesus. 2. To understand the Jewish/Roman dynamics of the trial. 3. To understand crucifixion in its original setting. 4. To grasp the nature of the resurrection and its certainty. 5. To understand the ending of the Gospel.	1. Trial 2. Crucifixion 3. Death 4. Resurrection 5. End of the Gospel

REQUIREMENTS

1. Bible Content Examination. Each student must sustain an examination over the content of Mark that focuses largely on identifying subject matter by chapter. There will be a pre-test (non-graded) in the first session and a post-test (graded) in the last (using the same examination) to assist in assessing the student's learning and achievement of the class objectives.
2. Reading Report. Each student must submit a reading report at the end of the course that logs all class reading by author, book, date, time, and so forth (excluding the Bible text). A reading report form will be provided on the first day of class.
3. Presentation Reports. Each student will prepare a written paper, two to three (2-3) double-spaced pages in length, as a basis for discussion or a possible oral report (depending on the class size and quality of the papers) to one or more sessions of the class beginning with Unit 2. Topics from which students may chose may be identified from the unit objectives and assignments, from additional topics provided by the professor, or from special Markan interests negotiated by the student. Each report must close with a brief, well-reasoned application to contemporary Christian life and ministry where such application is possible and appropriate. Presentation papers are due at the end of each class period. Topics must be agreed upon with the professor one week in advance while in attendance at a class session so that the professor may weave them into the lesson plan for each succeeding session if appropriate. **Papers are due at the end of each class session (2-5).**
4. Final Paper. One of the presentation reports must be expanded into a research paper of not less than 10 pages, employing not less than 10 sources, and presented in standard Turabian form. **Due at beginning of last class session.**
5. Quizzes. The professor may administer up to 4 quizzes at the end of the class period covering information discussed in the class. Advance completion of assigned readings will be significant in preparation for and understanding of class presentations.

Possible Presentation Report Topics:

In addition to (or expanding upon) the topics that may be derived from the outline and objectives of Units 2 – 5, the student may wish to consider the following for a presentation report:

Unit 2—Life and/or Ministry of John the Baptist; Mark's Understanding of Jesus; Mark's Life & Ministry; The Situation of Mark's Ministry; Relevance of Mark for Postmoderns.

Unit 3—The Message of Jesus; The Nature of Jesus' Teaching/Preaching; The Significance of Jesus' Healing; The Role of Exorcisms in Jesus' Ministry; The Compassion of Jesus

Unit 4—An Analysis of the Triumphal Entry; A Study of the Miracle of the Fig Tree; An Examination of A Controversy of Passion Week; A Study of an Aspect of Olivet Discourse

Unit 5—An Examination of Jesus Trial Before Sanhedrin (or Pilate); A Study of Crucifixion as Tool of Execution; The Nature of the Burial of Jesus; The Resurrection of Jesus; The End of Mark's Gospel

GRADING

Bible Content Examination	33%
[Quizzes	10%]
Presentation Reports	33%
Final Paper	33%
[Participation	10%]

Prompt and timely completion of assignments is essential to the degree completion program. Late work will be accepted only by pre-arrangement with the professor and only on sufficient grounds. Late work submitted beyond agreed-upon dates, if accepted, may be penalized by one letter grade per week late. The professor reserves the right to allocate 10% of the grade for participation, raising or lowering for significant lapses or contributions. Grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY***Commentaries and Special Studies***

- Barker, Glenn W., William L. Lane, and J. Ramsey Michaels. *The New Testament Speaks*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969. (pp. 248-259)
- [PB] Barnett, Paul. *Is the New Testament Reliable?: A Look at the Historical Evidence*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1986. (pp. 81-98)
- Beasley-Murray, George R. *Jesus and the Last Days: The Interpretation of the Olivet Discourse*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1993.
- Best, Ernest. *Following Jesus: Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 2001.
- Cranfield, C. E. B. *The Gospel According to Mark: An Introduction and Commentary*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959. (pp. 61-101)
- Evans, Craig A. *Mark 8:27-16:20*. WBC. Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 2001.
- France, R. T. *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Garland, David E. *Mark* (The NIV Application Commentary). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Guelich, Robert A. *Mark 1-8:26*. WBC. Dallas: Word, 1989.
- Gundry, Robert H. *Mark: A Commentary on His Apology for the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Hooker, M. D. *A Commentary on the Gospel According to St. Mark*. London: A & C Black, 1991.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *Mark*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1989.
- Lane, William L. *The Gospel According to Mark*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
- Martin, Ralph P. *Mark: Evangelist and Theologian*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1972.
- McKnight, Scot. *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

- Rhoads, David, Joanna Dewey, and Donald Michie. *Mark as Story: An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel*. 2d ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.
- Roskam, H. A. *The Purpose of the Gospel of Mark in its Historical and Social Context*. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2004.
- Stein, Robert. *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987. (esp. 45-88)
- Telford, W. R. *The Theology of the Gospel of Mark*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Thomas, Robert L. and Stanley N. Gundry, eds. *NIV Harmony of the Gospels*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.
- Twelftree, Graham H. *Jesus the Miracle Worker: A Historical and Theological Study*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Wessel, Walter W. “Mark” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Vol. 8. Grand Rapids: Regency/Zondervan, 1984. (esp. 603-793)
- Witherington, Ben III. *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

New Testament Introduction (cf. sections on Mark/Gospels)

- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997. (pp. 126-170)
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. (pp. 89-109)
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 4th ed. Leicester, England/Downers Grove, IL: Apollos/InterVarsity, 1997.

New Testament Theology (cf. sections on Mark/Gospels)

- Bultmann, Rudolf. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 Vols. New York: Scribner, 1951-55
- Caird, G. B. *New Testament Theology*. Completed and edited by L. D. Hurst. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994.
- Conzelmann, Hans. *An Outline of the Theology of the New Testament*. 2nd ed. New York: Harper, 1969.
- Cullmann, Oscar. *Christ and Time*. London: 1962.
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- Filson, Floyd. *Jesus Christ the Risen Lord*. New York: Abingdon, 1956.
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- Knudsen, Ralph E. *Theology in the New Testament*. Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson, 1964.
- Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. and ed. Donald A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. (pp. 228-36)
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Stagg, Frank. *Theology of the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman, 1962.

Stauffer, E. *New Testament Theology*. New York: Macmillan, 1955.

Zuck, Roy B. *A Biblical Theology of the New Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1994. (pp. 65-86)

Dictionaries/Encyclopedias

Bromiley, Geoffrey W., gen. ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Revised.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-88. Articles: *Mark, Gospel According to; Mark, John*

Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove,

IL: InterVarsity, 1992. Articles: *Apocalyptic Teaching; Apostle; Authority and Power;*

Baptism; Blasphemy; Burial of Jesus; Christ; Chronology; Death of Jesus; Demon,

Devil, Satan; Destruction of Jerusalem; Disciples; Discipleship; Eschatology; Galilee;

Gentile; Gethsemane; Gospel (Genre); Gospels, (Historical Reliability); Herodian

Dynasty; John the Baptist; Judaism; Judas Iscariot; Kingdom of God; Kingdom of

Heaven; Languages of Palestine; Last Supper; Mark, Gospel of; Miracles and Miracle

Stories; Parables; Passion Narrative; Pharisees; Pontius Pilate; Prayer; Preaching from

the Gospels; Predictions of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection; Priest, Priesthood;

Prophets, Prophecy; Resurrection; Revolutionary Movements; Rome; Sabbath;

Samaritans; Sanhedrin; Scribes; Sign of Jonah; Son of David; Son of God; Son of Man;

Synagogue; Synoptic Problem; Temple; Temple Cleansing; Transfiguration; Trial of

Jesus; Triumphal Entry.

Postmodernism

Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical Responses to the Challenge of*

Postmodernism. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. (pp. 16,17)

Jones, Tony. *Postmodern Youth Ministry*. El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties, 2001. (p. 34)

[GJ] Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Grenz, Stanley J. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Long, Jimmy. *Generating Hope: A Strategy for Reaching the Postmodern Generation*.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.

Loscalzo, Craig A. *Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World*.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.

Miller, Mark. *Experiential Storytelling: Rediscovering Narrative to Communicate God's*

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Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World*.

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Tomlinson, Dave. *The Post Evangelical*. El Cajon, CA: EmergentYS Books, 2003. (42-43)

SPECIFIC DATA: Prepared by Edgar R. Lee; July, 2007.