

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH 532 New Testament Theology

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Fall 2008

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. Reflect in a more spiritual manner to life and ministry **needs** in terms of New Testament theology;
2. Teach and preach more effectively and appropriately on **societal** and **religious issues** from understanding **current issues** in the NT theological area;
3. Interpret more appropriately the New Testament using a **biblical theological hermeneutic**;
4. React positively to community models of New Testament theology in terms of **relationships**;
5. Use a **personal method** of doing New Testament theology;
6. Integrate and articulate the major **theological themes** of the NT.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Thielman, Frank. *Theology of the New Testament: A Canonical and Synthetic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Any translation of the Bible.

Recommended:

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

Marshall, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

COURSE OUTLINE

Chapel meets on Sept 25 from 1:30-2:45

Fall Break: Oct 20-24

Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov 27-28

- **Introduction to New Testament Theology:**
 - **Issues and Positions**
 - **Read Thielman: Introduction: Chapter 1: The Theology of the New Testament: The Basic Questions**
 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 24: The Theological Unity of the New Testament**

- **Framing New Testament Theology and Christian Experience**
 - **The Bible of the New Testament Communities: The Foundation**
 - **First Century Expectations**
 - **John the Baptist and the Baptism of the Spirit**
 - **Exile and Wilderness: Sin and Its Consequence**
 - **New Covenant: The Coming of Jesus and the Spirit**
 - **Signs and Wonders: Salvation**
 - **People of God: New Community and Temple**
 - **Spiritual Ministries: Temple Service**

- **Introduction to the Gospels:**
 - **The Problem of the Four Gospels**
 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 2: The Persistence and Importance of a Fourfold Gospel**
 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 7: Four Diverse Witnesses to the One Gospel of Jesus Christ**
 - **Presentation and discussion of four Gospels using social scientific (community) models**

- **The Four Gospels and Acts**
 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 3: Mark: The Death of God's Son as Good News**
 - **Read the Gospel of Mark**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 4: Matthew: New Wine in Old Skins**
 - **Read the Gospel of Matthew**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 5: Luke-Acts: The Place of Christians in the Program of Salvation History**
 - **Read the Gospel of Luke and Acts**

- **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 6: John: Faith in Jesus as the Means to Eternal Life**
- **Read the Gospel of John**

- **First paper and report due: Sept 25**

- **The Pauline Epistles**
 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 8: The Coherence and Center of Paul's Theology
And Thielman Chapter 22: Paul's Emphases and Convictions**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapters 9 and 10: First and Second Thessalonians**
 - **Read 1st & 2nd Thessalonians**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapters 11 & 15: Galatians and Romans**
 - **Read Galatians and Romans**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapters 12 & 14: First and Second Corinthians**
 - **Read 1st & 2nd Corinthians**

 - **Read Thielman Chapters 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, 1st Timothy, Titus, and 2nd Timothy**

- **2nd paper and report due: Oct 30**

- **The Non-Pauline Letters and the Revelation of John**
 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 23: Finding Unity in the Non-Pauline Letters and Revelation & Thielman Chapter 33: The Clash of Worldviews in Hebrews to Revelation**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 24: James**
 - **Read James**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 25: Jude**
 - **Read Jude**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 26: Second Peter**
 - **Read 2nd Peter**

 - **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 27: First John; Chapter 28: Second John; Chapter 29: Third John**
 - **Read 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John**

- **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 30: First Peter**
- **Read 1st Peter**

- **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 31: Hebrews**
- **Read Hebrews**

- **Read and Study Thielman Chapter 32: Revelation**
- **Read Revelation**

- **3rd paper and report due: Dec 4**

- **Conclusion**
 - **Reading report due (Final exam day: Dec 11)**

METHODOLOGY and REQUIREMENTS

1. Observe the reading and study directives in the course outline. Reading should be done in advance for the particular topic of study for the day, enhancing learning and class discussion.
2. This course will focus on reading the entire New Testament and the textbook. An ample number of articles and books are in the bibliography for the benefit and interest of the student and should be consulted along the way. 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.
3. Three biblical theology papers are required. The first will focus on a topic from the Gospels and Acts; the second on a topic from the Pauline Epistles, and the third on a topic from Hebrews to Revelation section. Each paper will be done in acceptable AGTS style, conforming to the latest edition of Turabian. Each paper will be from 9-10 pages in length. Paper # 1 is due
4. On the day of the scheduled final exam, a one page brief report signifying (signature) and noting that the student has read the **NT** and the **textbook**.
5. Attendance: As per AGTS policy, more than two absences result in failure of a block class. (3 tardies = 1 absence.) Absence due to attending a module class is not excused.
6. Inclusive Language Policy: As per the AGTS Faculty Manual, all written assignments must use language that is non-discriminatory and includes all people equally. Exclusive (i.e., “he-man”) language will result in points deducted for form.

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

300 points possible

These three assignments will be averaged and graded according to the following scale.

Grading Scale:

100-point Percent Scale

98-100 %	=	A ¹
93-97	=	A
<u>90-92</u>	=	A-
87-89	=	B+
83-86	=	B
<u>80-82</u>	=	B-
77-79	=	C+
73-76	=	C
<u>70-72</u>	=	C-
67-69	=	D+
63-66	=	D
<u>60-62</u>	=	D-
0-59	=	F

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Banks, Robert. *Paul's Idea of Community*. Rev. ed. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994.

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Beasley-Murray, G.R. *Gospel of Life: Theology in the Fourth Gospel*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.

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

¹ As per AGTS policy, an A+ is granted only in the case of publishable work.

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SPECIFIC DATA:

Syllabus prepared by Benny C. Aker, PhD, August, 2008.