

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BTH 532 New Testament Theology

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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: Oct. 6 and Dec. 1 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Fall Study Break: Oct 19-23

Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov 26-27

Due to out of town commitments, class will not meet on Nov 3 and 10. Compensation has already been made by lengthening the daily class time.

Introduction

(Read Thielman: Introduction: Chapter 1: The Theology of the New Testament: The Basic Questions; and Chapter 34: The Theological Unity of the New Testament)

1. Methods of NT Theology
2. Biblical vs Systematic Theology
3. Textbook Approach
4. Course Approach

Old Testament preparatory for New Testament

(Consult Thielman Chapter 2: The Persistence and Importance of a Fourfold Gospel Chapter 7: Four Diverse Witnesses to the One Gospel of Jesus Christ)

1. Failure and Sin and of Israel
2. Covenants:
 - a. Abrahamic
 - b. Sinai/Moses
 - c. Davidic
 - d. Promise of New
 - e. Relationship between Covenant and Exile/exodus

John the Baptist: Dawn of the End

(Consult Thielman Chapter 3: Mark: The Death of God's Son as Good News (Read the Gospel of Mark))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 4: Matthew: New Wine in Old Skins (Read the Gospel of Matthew))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 5: Luke-Acts: The Place of Christians in the Program of Salvation History (Read the Gospel of Luke and Acts))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 6: John: Faith in Jesus as the Means to Eternal Life (Read the Gospel of John))

Gospels and Acts

1. The Church
 - a. Continuity: National and Spiritual Israel
 - b. Identity and nature of Church (boundaries; community)
2. Sin (exile)
3. Salvation (Exodus/signs and wonders)
4. New Covenant

- a. Jesus (Christology)
 - b. Spirit and Spirit baptism
5. Mission
 6. Eschatology and climax

Pauline Epistles

(Consult Thielman Chapter 8: The Coherence and Center of Paul's Theology; Thielman Chapter 22: Paul's Emphases and Convictions; and Thielman Chapters 9 and 10: First and Second Thessalonians (Read 1st & 2nd Thessalonians))

(Consult Thielman Chapters 11 & 15: Galatians and Romans (Read Galatians and Romans))

(Consult Thielman Chapters 12 & 14: First and Second Corinthians (Read 1st & 2nd Corinthians))

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

1. Church
 - a. New Temple
 - b. New Sacred Servants (Spiritual ministries)
2. Sin
3. Salvation
4. Covenant
 - a. Jesus (Christology)
 - b. Spirit
5. Mission
6. Eschatology and climax

Later Writings

(Consult Thielman Chapter 23: Finding Unity in the Non-Pauline Letters and Revelation and Thielman Chapter 33: The Clash of Worldviews in Hebrews to Revelation)

(Consult Thielman Chapter 24: James (Read James))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 25: Jude (Read Jude))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 26: Second Peter (Read 2nd Peter))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 27: First John; Chapter 28: Second John; Chapter 29: Third John (Read 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John))

Consult Thielman Chapter 30: First Peter (Read 1st Peter))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 31: Hebrews (Read Hebrews))

(Consult Thielman Chapter 32: Revelation (Read Revelation))

1. Church
2. Sin
3. Salvation
4. Covenant
 - a. Jesus (Christology)
 - b. Spirit
5. Mission

6. Eschatology and climax

METHODOLOGY and REQUIREMENTS

1. Observe the course outline and prepare in advance by reading the particular NT portion as well as the textbook. Covering outline topics will vary time wise and so students will judge from class procedure about the timing of them. Since the textbook approaches NT Theology a bit different from the approach we will take in class, we will compensate in the following way as we work our way through the New Testament material and it. Since Thielman begins with Mark's Gospel, begin immediately there and follow the textbook and the course outline regarding the reading of the biblical books. Reading of the Bible and the textbook should move along consistently and regularly so as to keep up with the course and to keep abreast of course outline advancement. As you read, pay attention to the topics in the outline. As you run across something being addressed in the NT and textbook, take notes. These notes will allow you to be prepared for class (discussion and questions) and for the exam, not to mention for the papers.
2. This course will focus on reading the 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 outline material, interpreting the appropriate scripture passages and drawing meaning and application 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. Two 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 or 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 Sept 22; Paper # 2 is due Oct 27.
4. A comprehensive essay exam will be administered at the scheduled time.
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	Comprehensive exam
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**

90-92 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = **B**

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = **C**

70-72 = C-

67-69 = D+

63-66 = **D**

60-62 = D-

0-59 = **F**

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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, June, 2009.