

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BTH 532 New Testament Theology**

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Fall, 2001

**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. Discuss the essence of New Testament theology;
2. Provide information on key issues in New Testament theology;
3. Survey the content of major themes from the major New Testament writers;
4. React positively to community models of New Testament theology;
5. Reflect a deeper value system based on New Testament theology in approaching the ministry;
6. Respond to ministry needs in terms of New Testament theology;
7. Integrate New Testament theology into ministry and personal life;
8. Use a personal method of doing New Testament theology.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required:**

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

**Recommended:**

Marshall, I.H. and David Peterson, Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1998.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. Introduction: Nature and method of NT theology
  - A. Definition
  - B. Function of NT theology
  - C. Relationship to OT and canon
  - D. Method and Approaches to NT theology: center and unity  
Ladd, STUDY: pp. 1-28; 684-719  
Aker
  
- II. Matthew:
  - A. Study carefully material on the synoptic problem and its suggested resolution(s) and about how to interpret them. The following are suggested: Robert H. Stein, *The Synoptic Problem* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987); William W. Klein, Craig L. Bloomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993) 323-44;
  
  - B. Consult introductory resources for the history and culture of this gospel; e.g., D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1992); Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997); K. C. Hanson, Douglas E. Oakman, *Palestine in the Time of Jesus* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998).

STUDY: Ladd, 212-45

The following will also be helpful for understanding Matthew's historical and social background and message B. J. Malina and J. H. Neyrey, "Comparing U.S. Values with the Mediterranean View," in the Appendices of Calling Jesus Names: The Social Value of Labels in Matthew (Sonoma, CA: Polebridge Press, 1988), pp.145-51. Peter F. Ellis, Matthew: His Mind and His Message (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1974), Part Three, pp. 99-155. J. Koenig, New Testament Hospitality: Partnership with Strangers as a Promise and Mission (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985), chps. 1-4. THIS BOOK WILL RELATE TO ALL NT WRITERS AS WELL. Ulrich Luz, The Theology of the Gospel of Matthew. NTT (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995). Graham M.

Stanton, A Gospel for a New People: Studies in Matthew (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992). Mark Allan Powell, *God With Us: A Pastoral Theology of Matthew's Gospel* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995).

For each topic, peruse the Gospel, noting the texts in context that address it. Organize them in notes for study, interpretation, and reflection. In addition to preparing for class, these will provide the material for a personal biblical theology.

- C. Church: STUDY Ladd, 31-132. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Christology: STUDY Ladd, 133-180. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Salvation: STUDY Ladd, 181-192. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Spirit: \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Eschatology: STUDY Ladd, 193-211. \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Missions: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Luke-Acts:

- A. Consult sources on the historical and cultural background on these two books; note in particular that they provide special issues of discussion for Pentecostal/Charismatic theology and other Evangelicals. The recommended book above (*Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts*) will be helpful for current discussion. Suggestions: See above under Matthew.

The following will also be helpful for understanding Luke/Acts historical and social background and message: Harvie M. Conn, "Lucan Perspectives and the City," Missiology: An International Review 13 (Oct. 1985): 409-28. Robert O'Toole, The Unity of Luke's Theology, chp. 7, pp. 160-66. M. Hengel, Property and Riches in the Early Church, pp. 36-39. A. N. Sherwin White, Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament, pp. 120-192. Joel B. Greene, The Theology of the Gospel of Luke (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

For each topic, peruse Luke and Acts, noting the texts in context that address it. Organize them in notes for study, interpretation, and reflection. In addition to preparing for class, these will provide the material for a personal biblical theology.

- B. Church: STUDY Ladd, 379-93. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Christology: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Salvation: STUDY Ladd, 347-78. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Spirit: \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Read Aker, "New Directions," in Faces of Renewal, pp. 108-27.
- G. Missions: \_\_\_\_\_

H. Eschatology: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. John's Gospel and His Epistles:

A. Consult sources on the historical and cultural background on these books;  
Suggestions:

The following will also be helpful for understanding the historical and social backgrounds and messages of these books: G.R. Beasley-Murray, Gospel of Life: Theology in the Fourth Gospel (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.)

For each topic, peruse John's Gospel and his epistles, noting the texts in context that address it. Organize them in notes for study, interpretation, and reflection. In addition to preparing for class, these will provide the material for a personal biblical theology.

- B. Church: STUDY Ladd, 249-72; 306-21. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Christology: STUDY Ladd, 273-89. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Salvation: STUDY Ladd, 290-305. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Spirit: STUDY Ladd, 322-33. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Eschatology: STUDY Ladd, 334-44. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Mission: \_\_\_\_\_

V. Paul:

A. Consult sources on the historical and cultural background on the Pauline Epistles. Suggestions: Gordon D. Fee, "Pauline Literature," *Dictionary of Pentecostal Charismatic Movements*, pp. 664-83.

The following will also be helpful for understanding the historical and social backgrounds and messages of these books: D. E. Smith & H. E. Taussig, Many Tables: The Eucharist in the New Testament and Liturgy Today (London: SCM Press, 1990), chps. 2-3. For "household" John H. Elliot, A Home for the Homeless: A Social-Scientific Criticism of I Peter, Its Situation and Strategy (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990). James D.G. Dunn, The Theology of Paul the Apostle (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998). Robert Banks, Paul's Idea of Community Rev. ed. (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994).

For each topic, peruse Romans and Galatians, 1 Corinthians, and 1 & 2 Timothy, noting the texts in context that address it. Organize them in notes for study, interpretation, and reflection. In addition to preparing for class, these will provide the material for a personal biblical theology.

- B. Church: (We will particularly focus on the Epistles to Timothy because they especially are informative about the Roman cultural world of Paul.)  
STUDY Ladd, 499-594. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Christology: STUDY Ladd, 448-463. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Salvation: STUDY Ladd, 435-47; 464-98. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Spirit: STUDY Ladd, 595-614. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Missions: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Please finish reading Ladd's book before the exam. You will be responsible for it on this exam.

VI. Comprehensive Exam

**METHODOLOGY and REQUIREMENTS**

1. Noting the course outline, the textbook (Ladd) should be read in advance for the material to be discussed that day. Articles and portions of books are listed for student's benefit as well and are highly recommended reading. Notes are also recommended as the material is read. Materials listed in the Outline of the Course are on reserve.
2. The main text, though, is the Scripture. 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. Furthermore, outside sources should be consulted for assistance. Particularly, a concordance will move one quickly to the place where scripture presents a topic.
3. There will be one exam, administered the last day of class.
4. Reading and reports.  
The reading schedule of the non-textbook material is found inside the Course Outline. Though this is recommended reading for everyone, these readings will be helpful for the person assisting the professor on that particular topic. The schedule for students to assist the professor on particular topics will be worked out the first class day.
5. A research paper on a topic in NT theology. The length should be around 20 pages and should be in acceptable seminary style and format. It will be **due on Nov. 20**. You may consult with the professor about the topic.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

The student's grade will be derived from the following procedure:

100 points	exam (#3)
100 points	paper (#5)
50 points	for professorial assistance report (#s 1 and 4)
<b>250 points possible</b>	

The grade will come from the appropriate percentages of the total possible:

95-100 %	A	80-83 %	B-
90-94 %	A-	77-79 %	C+
87-89 %	B+	74-76 %	C
84-86 %	B	70-73 %	C-

### **SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY: NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY**

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Barclay, W. *The Mind of St. Paul*. London: Fontana, 1958.

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**SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Benny C. Aker, August, 2001.