

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
***BGR 624 Studies in the Synoptic Gospels/Acts: Mark***

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Fall, 2002

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

An exegetical and doctrinal study of the Gospel of Mark. The primary focus will be on how Mark's content and narrative structure reveals his contribution to NT Christology and the doctrine of Christian discipleship. Special emphasis will be given to the "Son of Man" sayings and so-called "Messianic Secret" motif.

***OBJECTIVES***

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

Knowledge

1. Discuss the major questions of introduction related to the Gospel of Mark (author, date, provenance, destination etc.), outline various scholarly positions, and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.
2. Construct an "occasion" (*Sitz im Leben*) for the Gospel and support it with an appeal to the structure of the Mark and its internal evidence.
3. Outline and discuss the contribution of Mark to NT Christology. Use and refer to Mark's use of the "Son of Man" sayings and/or the "Messianic Secret" motif in your answer.
4. Write an essay on "What it means to be a follower of Christ" from a Markan perspective, using the internal evidence of his gospel.

Skills

1. Read a NT gospel as a literary work, appreciating its distinctive style, form and structure.
2. Critically evaluate conflicting ways of interpreting the content of a NT gospel, by identifying hermeneutical, historical and theological presuppositions operating in the handling of the text.
3. Translate a given text from Mark's Gospel, construct a syntactical analysis of the passage and list of lexical, grammatical and syntactical questions that need be asked and answered when interpreting a given text.
4. From a syntactical analysis of a given passage, construct an exegetical analysis of a the passage that could be then employed in a producing an expository sermon outline.
5. Identify the practical spiritual value that can be derived from the doctrinal teaching of a

given text, or an entire gospel.

### Attitudes

1. Recognize the kerygmatic nature of the Gospels and their contemporary value for preaching.
2. Appreciate the centrality of the cross of Christ and its theological implications to our understanding of "the Gospel" and what it means to be his disciples.
3. Understand more clearly that what we believe about Jesus is crucial to our identity and life as his disciples.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

#### ***Required:***

Lane, William. *The Gospel According to Mark*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1974.

Green, J. B. and McKnight, S. ed.s *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

#### ***Recommended:***

Wessel, Walter W. *Mark*. Vol. 8 in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelien. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

- I. Prolegomena: Introductory Issues
  - A. Background Reading Reports
  - B. Introductory Lectures
- II. Structural and Content Analysis
  - A. Structural Features
  - A. Literary Features
  - B. Thematic Features
- III. Exegetical/Doctrinal Analysis
  - A. Key Christological Passages
  - B. Key Discipleship Passages

## **METHODOLOGY**

In this source we will seek to meet our objectives through:

1. Classroom lecture.
2. Guided classroom discussion of issues related to assigned reading, lectures, and class assignments.
3. Individual reading, research, and writing.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Whenever possible absences should be announced beforehand to the professor. Excessive absenteeism is defined by the AGTS catalog and can result in a reduction of ones course grade.
2. Completion of the class text and all supplemental readings before the completion of the course.
3. Translations of assigned passages in Mark.
4. Syntactical Analyses of (5) select passages in Mark
5. Exegetical Outlines of (5) select passages in Mark
6. Expository Sermon of (1) select passage in Mark - MUST be supported by and show linkage to both the syntactical analysis and exegetical outlines
7. A 12-15 page (excluding bibliography and appendices) exegesis paper of a select passage in Mark's gospel.
8. Final Exam

***Note: Work turned in late without the prior permission of the professor will receive a grade reduction of  $1/2$  letter grade for every day late.***

## **GRADING PROCEDURE**

1. ***Grade Weights:***

Class participation	5%
Translation assignments	20%
Syntactical Analyses	10%
Exegetical Outlines	10%
Expository sermon	10%
Exegesis Paper	25%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

2. The total number of possible points to be earned in the semester is 1000. Point totals at the end of the semester are tabulated and a grading curve plotted relative to the collective

grade profile of the class.

### ***SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY***

Beasley-Murray, G. R. *Jesus and the Future*. London: Macmillan, 1954.

Best Ernest. *Following Jesus: Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark*. Sheffield, England: University of Sheffield, 1981.

Cranfield, C. E. B. *The Gospel According to Saint Mark*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959.

Cullmann, Oscar. *Christology of the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959

Dwyer, Timothy. *The Motif of Wonder in the Gospel of Mark*. Sheffield, England: University of Sheffield Press, 1996.

Earle, Ralph. *The Gospel According to Mark*. In *The Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1957.

France, R. T. *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2002.

Higgins, A. J. B. *Jesus and the Son of Man*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.

Hooker, Morna D. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

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Hurtado, Larry. *Mark*. In the *New International Biblical Commentary*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, Publishers, 1989.

Johnson, S. E. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. In the *Harper's New Testament Commentary*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1960.

Kingsbury, J. D. *The Christology of Mark's Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.

Martin, R. P. *Mark: Evangelist and Theologian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1972.

Marxsen, Willie. *Mark the Evangelist*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1969

- Moule, C. F. D. *The Gospel According to Mark.*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1965.
- Nineham, D. E. *The Gospel of St. Mark.* In the *Pelican Gospel Commentaries*. Baltimore: Penguin, 1964.
- Oden, Thomas C. and Christopher Hall, eds. *Mark.* In the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*. Vol. II. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- Plummer, A. *The Gospel According to St. Mark.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1914.
- Schweizer, E. *The Good News According to Mark*, trans. D. H. Madvig, Richmond: John Knox Press, 1970.
- Schneck, Richard. *Isaiah in the Gospel of Mark, I-VIII.* Villejo, CA: Bibal Press, 1994.
- Swete, H. B. *The Gospel According to St. Mark.* London: Macmillan, 1927
- Taylor, Vincent. *The Gospel According to St. Mark.* London: Macmillan, 1952.
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- Tuckett, Christopher, ed. *The Messianic Secret.* Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.
- Witherington, Ben. *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-rhetorical Commentary.* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2001.

## **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D., July, 24, 2002