

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. 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:

Dan O. Via, *What is New Testament Theology* (Fortress Press, 2002).

Recommended:

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

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

Leonhard Goppelt, Trans by John Alsup, *Theology of the New Testament* 2 vols.

(Grand Rapids:Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1981-82).
James D.G. Dunn, ed., *New Testament Theology*. (Series on NT published by
Cambridge University Press).
Warren Carter, *Matthew and Empire : Initial Explorations* (Trinity Press
International, 2001). (Valuable for Roman background and Matthean theology)

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction: Nature and method of NT theology

- A..Focus on Discussion of Textbook
- B. Discussion focuses on such issues as
- C. Definition:
- D. Function of NT theology
- E. Relationship to OT and canon
- F. Center and unity
- G. Unity in diversity
- H. Continuity/discontinuity
- I. Contextualization
- J. Method and Approaches to NT theology

II. Matthew:

- A. We will spend some time on Matthew studying the book and its theology via its key topics as noted below. Because it is one of the synoptic gospels and presents special hermeneutical consideration, it may be necessary to consult such sources as: 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. The following sources are also helpful regarding the background of Matthew. 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).
- C. Read this gospel through at one sitting if possible. Then, we will focus on key texts as an entry to its theology: [we will spend about three weeks in Matthew; 6 class periods]
Matthew 1-9, 24-25. Interpret these texts looking for material relating to the following themes: [For each theme, 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.]

Biblical Theological Issues
Church/Kingdom of God
Jesus/Christology
Sin & Salvation
Spirit
Mission
Eschatology

- D. It is strongly recommended to read one or more of the following New Testament theology works on Matthew's theology:
Ladd, 212-45; 31-132; 133-180; 181-192; 193-211
Goppelt, Vol 2: 211-35 (also cf. Vol 1)
Morris, 114-43
- D. 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).

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.
- E. 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).

- F. Read Luke-Acts through at one sitting if possible. We will focus on key texts and then move to other ones. Interpret the following texts: **Luke 1-4; Acts 2**. Then for each topic, peruse Luke and Acts, noting the texts in context that address it. Organize these notes for study, interpretation, and reflection. In addition to preparing for class, these will provide the material for a personal biblical theology.
 - D. We will develop the following topics:
 - Biblical Theological Issues
 - Church/Kingdom of God
 - Jesus/Christology
 - Sin & Salvation
 - Spirit
 - Mission
 - Eschatology
 - G. It will also be helpful to read one or more of the following works on NT theology:
 - Ladd, 379-93; 347-78;
 - Aker, "New Directions," in *Faces of Renewal*, pp. 108-27.
 - Morris, 144-221
 - Goppelt, Vol 2: 237-305
- IV. John' 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.)
 - B. Read John and his Epistles through at one sitting if possible. We will focus on key texts: **John 1-8; 13-21; 1 John 1-3**. Then 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.
 - C. We will develop the following topics:
 - Biblical Theological Issues
 - Church/Kingdom of God
 - Jesus/Christology
 - Sin & Salvation
 - Spirit
 - Mission
 - Eschatology
 - D. It will also be helpful to read one or more of the following works on NT theology:

Ladd, 249-72; 306-21; 273-89; 290-305; 322-33; 334-44.
Morris, 223-91
Goppelt, Vol 2 :289-305

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; *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1996).
- B. 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).
- C. Interpret Romans 1-8, 12; 1 Cor 12-13
- D. We will develop the following topics:
 - Biblical Theological Issues
 - Church/Kingdom of God (We will particularly focus on the Epistles to Timothy because they especially are informative about the Roman cultural world of Paul.))
 - Jesus/Christology
 - Sin & Salvation
 - Spirit
 - Mission
 - Eschatology
- E. 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.
- F. Please consult one or more of the following for more information:
 - Ladd, 499-594; 448-463; 435-47; 464-98; 595-614
 - Goppelt, Vol 2:31-149
 - Morris, 19-90

VI. Comprehensive Exam

METHODOLOGY and REQUIREMENTS

1. Noting the course outline, the Bible sections and one of the suggested readings

- _____. "New Directions in Lucan Theology: Reflections on Luke 3:21-22 and some Implications." In the *Faces of Renewal*, ed. Paul Elbert. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1987.
- Barclay, W. *The Mind of St. Paul*. London: Fontana, 1958.
- Bright, J. *Covenant and Promise*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1976.
- _____. *The Kingdom of God*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1953.
- Bruce, F. F. *New Testament Development of Old Testament Themes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.
- _____. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.
- Collins, R. F. *Models of Theological Reflection*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1984.
- Conn, H. M. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology Anthropology, and Mission in Trialogue*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Conzelman, Hans. *An Outline of the Theology of the New Testament*. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.
- Cullman, Oscar. *Christ and Time*. London: SCM, 1951.
- Davies, W. D. *Paul and Rabbinic Judaism*. New York: Harper & Row, 1948.
- Dulles, A. *Models of the Church*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1974.
- Dunn, J. D. G. *Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Re-Examination of the New Testament Teaching on the Gift of the Spirit in Relation to Pentecostalism Today*. SCM Press, 1970. New Edition: *Jesus and the Spirit: A Study of the Religious and Charismatic Experience of Jesus and the First Christians as Reflected in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Elbert, Paul, ed. *Essays on Apostolic Themes*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1985.
- Ervin, Howard M. *Conversion - Initiation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984.
- Fackre, G. "Narrative Theology: An Overview." *Interpretation* 37 (October 1983): 340-352.

- Fleming, C. E. *Contextualization of Theology*. Pasadena: William Carey, 1980.
- Furnish, V. P. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981; 1982.
- Gager, J. G. "Review of B. J. Malina's *New Testament World*." *Interpretation* 37 (April 1983): 194-197.
- Goppelt, L. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981; 1982.
- Green, E. M. B. *The Meaning of Salvation*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1965.
- Guelich, R. A., ed. *Unity and Diversity in New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Guthrie, D. *New Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1981.
- Hanson, A. T. *Studies in Paul's Technique and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Hasel, G. *New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Hauerwas, S., and L. G. Jones. *Why Narrative? Readings in Narrative Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Johnston, R. K., ed. *The Use of the Bible in Theology: Evangelical Options*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.
- Ladd, G. E. *The Blessed Hope*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1956.
- Lee, E. K. *The Religious Thought of St. John*. London: SPCK, 1950.
- Malina, B. J. *The New Testament World. Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.
- Malina, B. J., and J. H. Neyrey, eds. *Calling Jesus Names: The Social Value of Labels in Matthew*. Sonoma, CA: Polebridge Press, 1988.
- Morris, L. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955.
- _____. *The Cross of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

- _____. *New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- O'Toole, R. F. *The Unity of Luke's Theology*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1984.
- Ridderbos, H. *Paul and Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1958.
- _____. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- Sanders, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. London: SCM, 1977.
- Schoeps, H. J. *Paul: The Theology of the Apostle in the Light of Jewish Religious History*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1959.
- Smith, T. C. *Jesus in the Gospel of John*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1959.
- Stronstad, R. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984.
- Taylor, M. J., ed. *A Companion to John: Readings in Johannine Theology*. New York: Alba House, 1977.
- Vanderlip, D. George. *Christianity According to John*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975.
- Whiteley, D. E. F. *The Theology of St. Paul*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.