

'Acts & Paul' (4NT518) – 3 hours

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor, church planting and in church revitalization. He is in the final stages of a doctorate in New Testament Studies, where his thesis has focused on the purpose of Romans through attention to its cultural setting (*Reason[s] for Romans through Roman Culture*). **Both Paul and Acts are a special area of interest for Bruce. His PhD thesis is on Romans and as part of this he has published and presented at high level conferences in this field. In this course students will not only gain a classic seminary understanding of Paul, but through interaction with Roman culture, understand him and his letters more broadly.**

< Office hrs: **F**, 5-6:30 (weekends of this course); or **M**, 4-5:30; **Th**, 11.00-12:30. Email me for an appointment; blowe@rts.edu >

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Little needs to be said about Paul. He and his letters are a vital part of how we are to understand the Christian faith. In this course there is both a theoretical and practical bent. You will be given an understanding of Paul himself, but also against his cultural context. It is only as we understand both of these that we are truly in a position to see the powerful message Paul speaks to our culture today.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a general understanding of each of Paul's letters.
2. To highlight the specific value of each of Paul's letters for today – particularly the counter-cultural message Paul presented in his own day and its relevance for us today.
3. To resolve the key issues & 'problem passages' in Paul and his writings.
4. To highlight passages of 'special importance' in each of Paul's letters and to investigate how they might be preached to our present generation.

Required Texts:

Carson & Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Zondervan, 2005)
ISBN 0310238595

Hawthorne, Martin & Reid (eds.), *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP, 1993)
ISBN 0830817788

Williams, *Paul's Metaphors* (Hendrickson, 2003)
ISBN 1565632877 (Available on Amazon & Hendrickson)

Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology* (Eerdmans, 1997)
ISBN: 978-0-8028-4469-9

Lowe, *Reason(s) for Romans – A Roman Cultural, Rhetorical & Linguistic Study*
(Free & available on iqweb after Feb 23rd)

ASSESSMENT

50% Research Paper; **due on or before the last class (i.e. May 10th)**

20% Mid-Term Exam; **Download after Feb 23rd; complete by March 28th**

30% Final exam - **due two weeks after last class (i.e. Midnight 24th of May)**

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?

February 8 & 9; February 22 & 23; March 28 & 29; April 18 & 19; May 9 & 10