

‘Acts & Romans’ (4NT516) – 2 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, 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 (*A New Paradigm and Purpose for Romans*). **Both Acts and Romans are of special interest for Bruce, the latter for obvious reasons, but the former because of his interest in its narrative structure.**

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

There is a real sense in which this course provides an exciting supplement to other New Testament courses, as well as advancement in its own right. In the Gospel's course you have opportunity to study Luke's story of Jesus, but in this course we will focus on volume 2 – the continuing story! This course will therefore begin with the gospel of Luke before moving onto Acts. If you have already done Gospel's, then this will be a wonderful complement. If you haven't yet done it, this will be a foretaste as well as an wonderful learning experience in its own right. Likewise in "Paul" you have opportunity to study all of Paul's letters including Romans. But in this course there is opportunity to dig so much deeper into Romans (Paul's richest letter). One of the assigned texts will be the Professors PhD thesis on Paradigms and Purposes of Romans. Though this you will be challenged to hone your fishing skills on this all-important letter.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To gain a solid understanding of both Acts and Romans.
2. To refine "fishing" skills for both *letters* and *narratives* of the New Testament.
3. To highlight and apply specific texts for application to yourself and others.

Required Texts:

- Johnson, Luke Timothy *Acts of the Apostle*
(Liturgical Press, 2006) ISBN 0814659683
- Martin, Ralph & Peter Davids (eds.), *Dictionary of The Later New Testament & Its Development*
(IVP, 1997) ISBN 0830817795
- Lowe, Bruce *A New Paradigm and Purpose for Romans – Problem Texts, Roman Echoes & Relationships*
(Available from Jonathan from early January – cost of \$25)

ASSESSMENT

- 60%** Research Papers; due one week after last class (i.e. February 7th)
- 40%** Final exam - due two weeks after last class (i.e. *Midnight 14th of Feb*)

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?

January 16&17; January 23&24; January 30&31.

General Outline

Session	Date	Class Lectures
1	J16-17	Acts
2	J 23-24	Acts & Romans
3	J 30-31	Romans