

Paul's Epistles (4NT520) – 2010 (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. 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 (*Romans as Brokering God's Patronage*). **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. In addition, it will be our purpose to understand how Paul thought as a Christian, so we might see how to think as Christians today.**

< Office hrs: Th, 11.00-1pm. 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 will also be exposed to the cultures which shaped him. It is only as we understand both of these that we are truly in a position to see his mind and thus the way a Christian should think.

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 consider how a Christian should think.

Required Texts:

Donald Carson & Douglas Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Zondervan, 2005) ISBN 978-0-3102-3859-1

Gerald Hawthorne, Ralph Martin & Daniel Reid (eds.), *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP, 1993) ISBN 978-0-8308-1778-8

David Williams, *Paul's Metaphors* (Hendrickson, 2003) ISBN 978-1-5656-3984-3

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

ASSESSMENT

- 30%** Research Paper; **due on or before last class (i.e. May 6th)¹**
- 20%** Mid-Term Exam; **Download after March 11th; complete by March 18th**
- 30%** Final exam - **due two weeks after last class (i.e. Midnight 20th of May)**
- 10%** Summary of 12 Metaphors (1 each chapter) **due Midnight 20th May²**
- 10%** Review of the first two chapters of Ridderbos **due in class March 11th³**

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?

Thursday 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, February 04 - May 06

¹ This will be approx 10-15 pages double spaced. It will be a critical paper in which I wish you to interact with secondary literature (journal articles, monographs and a range of commentaries from at least three different traditions). The topic will be one of your choice negotiated with me. If you are stuck for a topic, I will assign one to you.

² This will be about 4 pages single spaced – approx three summaries per page. The sections you choose will be examinable – so on the final exam you may be asked to write an essay on the metaphor you chose from the chapter on “Slavery and Freedom.”

³ About 2 pages single spaced. You will want to structure it like this: A short paragraph summarizing the content of the first two chapters, then a lengthy section listing succinctly the things you liked about it, then a similar sized section on the things you didn't like. I brief conclusion will list things like who you might recommend this book for.

General Outline

Session	Date	Class Lectures
1	F4	The Center of Paul?
2	F11	The Center of Paul?
3	F18	The Center of Paul? & Romans (Part I)
4	F25	Romans (Part II)
5	M4	Romans (Part III)
6	M11	Galatians/Colossians
	M18	Break
7	M25	Ephesians/Philippians
8	A1	1Thessalonians/2Thessalonians
9	A8	1Corinthians
10	A15	1Corinthians
11	A22	1Corinthians/2Corinthians
12	A29	2Corinthians
13	M6	Pastorals