Of Paul the Apostle, Robert Frost once said: “He is the fellow who theologized Christ almost out of Christianity. Look out for him.” In fact, no name is more associated with the emergence of Christianity and the shaping of the Christian church than this man who called himself apostle to the nations.

In this course, we will trace the outlines of Paul’s thought and practice, as they are available to us in his letters and in the book of Acts. Against the backdrop of the social world of the Roman Empire of the first century, we will try to understand the nature of the good news Paul proclaimed, and the way he thought his gospel should transform lives and build communities.

Consistent with the goals of RTS — to wit: to shape the character, understanding, and skills of servants of Christ’s church — we will pay particular attention to the way Paul’s person, theology, and pastoral genius can equip us for the service of King Jesus.

INSTRUCTOR
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Handouts available online before class each Monday:
Navigate from either
http://reggiekidd.com • rts
or
http://www.rts.edu/Site/Staff/rkidd/default.aspx
course materials
REQUIRED RESOURCES

R. Kidd, *The Heart of Paul’s Theology*, 4 mov’s or mp3’s, covering Introduction, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and 1 & 2 Corinthians

R. Kidd, *The Prison Epistles*, 5 mov’s or mp3’s, covering Introduction, Colossians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians

All 9 mov’s or mp3’s are downloadable from Third Millennium http://thirdmill.org/seminary/download.asp/site/iim/category/download ... Third Mill suggests a $1.99 donation per item (all proceeds to Third Mill)


RESERVE READINGS

- Herman Ridderbos, “The Redemptive-Historical Character of Paul’s Preaching” and “The Law of God in Paul’s Doctrine of Salvation,” Chaps. 3 & 4 of his When the Time Had Fully Come, pp. 44-60, 61-77
- Herman Ridderbos, “Romans 7,” from his commentary on Romans.
- Herman Ridderbos on Romans 11 (Richard Gaffin, trans., unpublished)
- Reggie M. Kidd, “Notes on Colossians & Ephesians,” prepared for New Geneva Study Bible (alternatively, you may read the notes in the NGSB, the Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible, or the Reformation Study Bible).

ASSIGNMENTS

5% Class Attendance
10% Overall Reading/Viewing
50% Two Take-Home, Closed Book Midterms — Objective Questions: content of designated epistles and sections of Acts; assigned sections of CMM & LTJ; Objective Questions and Short Essays: Dennis Johnson’s Message of Acts
35% Take Home Final Exam or Greek Exegesis Paper
100%
Midterms

**Bible Content:** Read, re-read, re-re-read, re-re-re-read the biblical materials. Know what’s in them! I reserve the right to ask any question that lets me know you know what’s actually in Paul’s letters and the Acts – that’s what ordination exams cover. And we lose more evangelical students in college because their professors simply know more Bible than they do. One thing I will expect is that you are able to “bullet point” the letters and Acts (e.g., “Use bullet points to walk me through 1 Corinthians” or “Give me bullet points for what’s in ch. 3 of each of Paul’s letters”) … I will post my own bullet points for you … you may use them … or you may use your own, if they are clearer and more specific than mine.

**Introductory Matters:** We will spend little class time on introductory matters (e.g., authorship, date, occasion). In the lectures I will be assuming acquaintance with the issues as treated by CMM & LTJ; instead, there will be a component of the midterms devoted to this material. Sample question on introductory matters:

According to CMM, there is strong, direct textual evidence for the circulation of a fifteen-chapter form of the letter to the Romans (True or False)

**Dennis Johnson:** objective questions and short essays – this is nice stuff!

**Midterm One – CMM & LTJ:** Acts, Paul Intro, Gal, Thess, Cor; **Content:** Acts 1:1-21:17 (includes 3 Miss Journeys as treated in class), Gal, Thess, Cor; **Dennis Johnson**, chs. 1-6

**Midterm Two – CMM & LTJ:** Rom, Php, Col, Phm, Eph, Pastorals; **Content:** Acts 21:18-28:31 (following the 3 Miss Journeys), plus Rom, Php, Col, Phm, Eph, Pastorals; **Dennis Johnson**, chs. 7-12

**Optional Final Exam** — The final exam will be open-Bible essays. The exam will give you an opportunity to reflect on the lectures, videos, and readings. I have included sample essay questions from past exams to give you a flavor of my questions. In addition to those that follow, you can expect some questions that call upon you to interact with the secondary readings:

How does the genius of Paul’s social ethic come to expression in the revolutionary sounding Gal 3:28? in the more conservative sounding 1 Co 7:17-24? Are these passages in conflict with each other? Do they complement each other? How?

What if Paul (after Crete) had been taken to Rome and was executed before he had the opportunity to write the epistle of 2 Timothy? What would we be missing? What contribution (if any) does this letter make to the Pauline corpus?

**Optional Greek Exegesis Paper** — This will be an especially handy option if you are on an ordination track with one of the Presbyterian denominations – you may elect to use the “notebook” you developed in Chuck Hill’s Greek Exegesis course to write a smooth, elegant, clear, concise, and cogent exegesis paper on your passage (ca. 20 pp., minus endnotes, bibliography & any appendices). I have a couple of samples I can share with you.

Students exercising this option will meet with me in a group during the Monday lunch slot – we will meet every week until we have gone through everybody’s passage in the Greek, and I am satisfied that each student understands the significant syntactical issues his or her paper must address.
| Wk 1 2/9 | Intro | HPT 1; Bruce, chs. 1-6 | D. Johnson, chs. 1-3 |
| Wk 2 2/16 | Acts | Bruce, chs. 7-14 | D. Johnson, chs. 4-6 |
| Wk 3 2/23 | 1st Missionary Journey & Galatians | HPT 2; Bruce, chs. 15-19 | Banks, Going…; Wright 1.1-2; D. Johnson, chs. 7-8 |
| Wk 4 3/2 | 2nd Missionary Journey & Thessalonians | HPT 3; Bruce, chs. 20-22 | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 1-2; Wright 2.1-4 |
| Wk 5 3/9 | 3rd Missionary Journey & Corinthians | HPT 4; Bruce, chs. 23-24 | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 3-4; Wright 3.1-3 |
| Wk 6 3/16 | Corinthians | Bruce, chs. 25-27; Gaffin, “Usefulness” | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 5-6; Wright 4.1-5 |
| Spring Break 3/23 | | | |
| Wk 7 3/30 | Romans | Bruce, chs. 28-33; Hays, “Homosexuality” | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 7-8; Wright 5.1-6; D. Johnson, chs. 9-10 |
| Wk 8 4/6 | Romans | Vos, pp. 1-71; Ridderbos, “Romans 7” | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 9-10; Wright 6.1-6; D. Johnson, chs. 11-12 |
| Wk 9 4/13 | Romans | Ridderbos, When Time, chs. 3-4; Ridderbos, “Romans 11”; Wright, “Christ, Law, People” | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 11-12; Wright 7.1-6 |
| Wk 10 4/20 | Off | PPE 1-3 | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 13-14; Wright 8.1-4 |
| Wk 11 4/27 | Romans | PPE 4 | Banks, Comm’y, chs. 15-16 |
| Wk 13 5/11 | Release & Pastorals (wth Re-Arrest) | Bruce, chs. 37-38; Fee, “Review”; Kidd, “Titus as Apologia”; “Acts of Paul & Thecla” | Midterm Two (See p. 4 for material covered) |
| Term Paper Deadline 5/15 | | | Gk Exegesis Papers Due |
| Exam Week 5/18-21 | | | Final Exam |