

SPRING · 2009

SYLLABUS · V · 10  
COURSE · NUMBER ·  
ZNTS18/01

# ACTS · PAUL · RTS/O

## ACTS · AND · THE · PAULINE · EPISTLES PAUL'S · PERSON, · THEOLOGY, · AND · PASTORAL · GENIUS

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

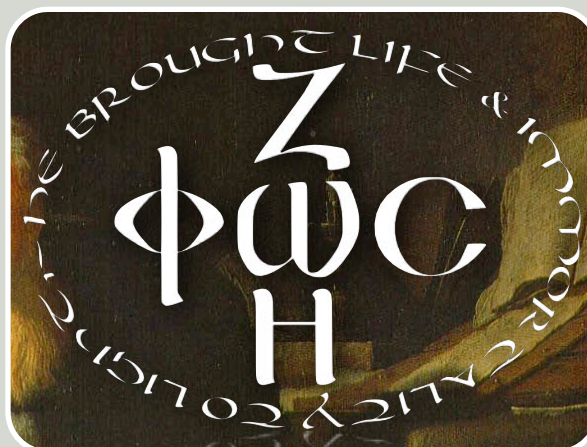
social world of the Roman Empire of the first century, we will try to understand the nature of the good news Paul proclaimed, and the way he thought his gospel should transform lives and build communities.

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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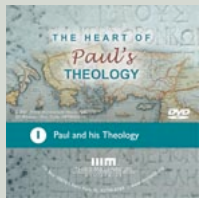


**Handouts** available online before class each Monday:

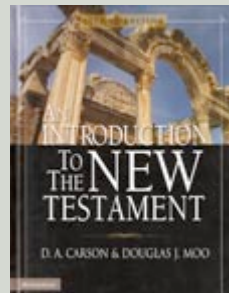
Navigate from either  
<http://reggiekidd.com> • rts  
or

<http://www.rts.edu/Site/Staff/rkidd/default.aspx>  
course materials

# REQUIRED · RESOURCES

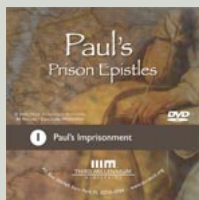


R. Kidd, *The Heart of Paul's Theology*, 4 mov's or mp3's, covering Introduction, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and 1 & 2 Corinthians

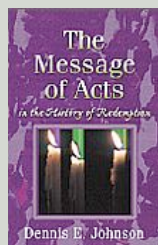


Carson, Moo, & Morris, *An Introduction to the NT*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Zondervan, 2005) – relevant chapters only (# ISBN-10: 0310519403; # ISBN-13: 978-0310519409)

(hereafter = CMM)



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



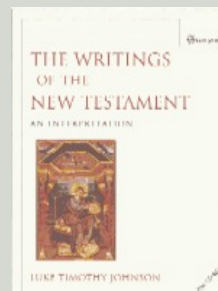
Dennis Johnson, *The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption* (P&R, 1997) (# ISBN-10: 0875522351; # ISBN-13: 978-0875522357)

All 9 mov's or mp3's are downloadable from Third Millennium

[http://thirdmill.org/seminary/download.asp/site/iiim/category/download ...](http://thirdmill.org/seminary/download.asp/site/iiim/category/download...)  
Third Mill suggests a \$1.99 donation per item (all proceeds to Third Mill)

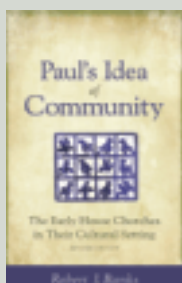


Robert Banks, *Going to Church in the First Century*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Seedsowers, 1990) (# ISBN-10: 0940232375; # ISBN-13: 978-0940232372)



Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Writings of the New Testament*, 3<sup>rd</sup> rev. ed., (SCM, 2003) – relevant chapters only (# ISBN-10: 0334029112; # ISBN-13: 978-0334029113)

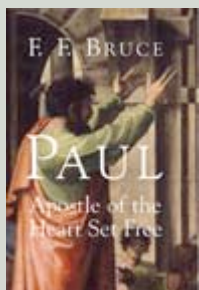
(hereafter = LTJ)



Robert Banks, *Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in Their Historical Setting*, revised ed. (Hendrickson, 1994) (# ISBN-10: 1565630505; # ISBN-13: 978-1565630505)



N. T. Wright, *Paul in Fresh Perspective* (Fortress, 2005, 2009) (# ISBN-10: 0800663578; # ISBN-13: 978-0800663575)



F.F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free* (Eerdmans, 1977, 2000) (# ISBN-10: 0802847781; # ISBN-13: 978-0802847782)

## 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
- Geerhardus Vos, *The Pauline Eschatology*, pp. 1-71.
- Richard Gaffin, "The Usefulness of the Cross," in *Westminster Theological Journal* 41 (1978-79): 228-246.
- Richard Hays, "Homosexuality," in his *The Moral Vision of the NT* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1996), pp. 379-406.
- Herman Ridderbos, "Romans 7," from his commentary on Romans.
- Herman Ridderbos on Romans 11 (Richard Gaffin, trans., unpublished)
- N.T. Wright, "Christ, the Law and the People of God: The Problem of Romans 9-11," in *The Climax of the Covenant: Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology* (Fortress, 1993), pp. 231-257.
- 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*).
- Kevin Vanhoozer, "Imprisoned or Free? Text, Status, and Theological Interpretation in the Master/Slave Discourse of Philemon," in *Reading Scripture with the Church*, ed., Adam, Fowl, Vanhoozer, Watson (BakerAcademic, 2006), pp. 51-93.
- Gordon Fee, "Review of R. Kidd's *Wealth and Beneficence*" in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 1992/2, pp. 352-354.
- Reggie M. Kidd, "Titus as *Apologia*: Grace for Liars, Beasts, and Bellies" in *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 21.2, pp. 185-209.
- "The Acts of Paul and Thecla" (from Hennecke & Schneemelcher, *New Testament Apochrypha*, Vol. 2 [Westminster Press, 1964]), pp. 352-364.

## 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 & LJT:** 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.

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SCHEDULE

ActsPaul Schedule Spring, 2009	Topic	Pre-class Reading/Viewing (always include the appropriate chaps. in CCM & LTJ!!!)	Pre- or Post-Class Readings	• Due •
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	1 <sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey & Galatians	HPT 2; Bruce, chs. 15-19	Banks, <i>Going...</i> ; Wright 1.1-2; D. Johnson, chs. 7-8	
Wk 4 3/2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey & Thessalonians	HPT 3; Bruce, chs. 20-22	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 1-2; Wright 2.1-4	
Wk 5 3/9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey & Corinthians	HPT 4; Bruce, chs. 23-24	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 3-4; Wright 3.1-3	
Wk 6 3/16	Corinthians	Bruce, chs. 25-27; Gaffin, "Usefulness"	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 5-6; Wright 4.1-5	
Spring Break 3/23				
Wk 7 3/30	Romans	Bruce, chs. 28-33; Hays, "Homosexuality"	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 7-8; Wright 5.1-6; D. Johnson, chs. 9-10	Midterm One (See p. 4 for material covered)
Wk 8 4/6	Romans	Vos, pp. 1-71; Ridderbos, "Romans 7"	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 9-10; Wright 6.1-6; D. Johnson, chs. 11-12	
Wk 9 4/13	Romans	Ridderbos, <i>When Time</i> , chs. 3-4; Ridderbos, "Romans 11"; Wright, "Christ, Law, People"	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 11-12; Wright 7.1-6	
Wk 10 4/20	Off	PPE 1-3	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 13-14; Wright 8.1-4	
Wk 11 4/27	Romans	PPE 4	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 15-16	
Wk 12 5/4	Journey to Rome & Prison Epistles	PPE 5; Bruce 34-36; Kidd, "Notes on Col/Eph"; Vanhoozer, "Imprisoned?"	Banks, <i>Comm'y</i> , chs. 17-18	
Wk 13 5/11	Release & Pastorals (with Re-Arrest)	Bruce, chs. 37-38; Fee, "Review"; Kidd, "Titus as <i>Apologia</i> "; "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