

Acts and Paul

Reformed Theological Seminary,
Washington, D.C.
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I. Purpose

1. To acquaint the student with the history and theology of the early church as presented in Acts, with particular emphasis on the apostle Paul
2. To familiarize the student with the fundamental structures of Pauline theology, with special attention to the present-day debate on Paul's view of the law and justification
3. To help the student gain an appreciation for the way in which Paul acts above all as a pastoral theologian by applying his apostolic understanding of the mystery of Christ to the particular circumstances of the churches to which he writes.

II. Texts

1. F. F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.
2. Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., *By Faith, Not by Sight: Paul and the Order of Salvation*. Paternoster Press, 2006.
3. N. T. Wright, *Paul In Fresh Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
4. Stephen Westerholm, *Understanding Paul: The Early Christian Worldview of the Letter to the Romans*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
5. William N. Wilder, *The Doctrine of Justification in the Work of N. T. Wright* (online at <http://www.studycenter.net/NTWright-Justification.htm>)

III. Grading

1. A three-hour, closed-book exam, worth 40% of the grade, will be given after classes end on a date to be determined.
2. Students will complete three assignments (essay or short answer TBA) covering their reading of Westerholm, Wright, and Gaffin. The first assignment (on the Westerholm reading) will be due **October 13th**. The second assignment (on the Wright reading and listening) will be due **November 17th**. The third assignment (on the Gaffin reading) will be due **December 15th**. Each assignment will be worth 15% of their grade (for a total of 45% of the grade).
3. Student participation in class will be worth the final 15% of the grade.

IV. Course Outline and Schedule

Assignments should be completed by the date listed. You are responsible for all assigned reading or listening, even if it is not covered in class.

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| 1. September 15 | Introduction
Acts 1:1-12:24 | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 1-8
Westerholm, Chapters 1-3 |
| 2. September 22 | Acts 13:1-15:35 | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 9-10
Westerholm, Chapters 4-6 |
| 3. September 29 | Acts 15:36-18:21 | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 11-12
Westerholm, Chapters 7-9 |
| 4. October 6 | Acts 18:22-28:20 | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 13-14
Westerholm, Chapters 10-12 |
| 5. October 13 | Galatians | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 15-19
<u>Westerholm assignment due</u> |
| 6. October 20 | The Thessalonian
Correspondence | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 20-22
Wright, Chapters 1-2
Wilder, Lecture 1 |
| 7. October 27 | 1 Corinthians | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 23-25
Wright, Chapters 3-4
Wilder, Lecture 2 |
| 8. November 3 | 2 Corinthians | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 26-27
Wright, Chapters 5-6
Wilder, Lecture 3 |
| 9. November 10 | Romans 1-8 | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 28-29
Wright, Chapters 7-8
Wilder, Lecture 4 |
| 10. November 17 | Romans 9-16 | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 30-32
<u>Wright assignment due</u> |
| 11. November 24 | Philippians | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapter 33
Gaffin, Chapter 1 |
| 12. December 1 | Philemon,
Colossians | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 34-35
Gaffin, Chapter 2 |
| 13. December 8 | Ephesians | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapter 36
Gaffin, Chapters 3-4 |
| 14. December 15 | The Pastoral Letters | Other Reading: Bruce, Chapters 37-38
<u>Gaffin assignment due</u> |