

The Pauline Epistles

Professor Paul S. Jeon (psj200@gmail.com)

February 4-May 20, Thursday 7:30-10:00

NT 520

“And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.”¹

“I have lived with St Paul as a more or less constant companion for more than twenty years. . . . I still have the sense of being only half-way up the mountain, of there being yet more to explore, more vistas to glimpse. . . . Always I am aware that I myself have a good deal more climbing yet to do.”²

Course Purpose

1. To develop a working knowledge of Paul and his letters³
2. To refine our ability to interpret Paul’s letters
3. To apply Paul’s theology and letters to “real life” and ministry

Course Description

1. The course consists of three main sections:
 - a. The course will begin with an overview of Paul, highlighting his calling as an apostle, pastor, and missionary. The first part of the course will also consider the “center” of Paul’s theology and some contemporary issues in Pauline studies.
 - b. It will then proceed to a discussion of all the Pauline Epistles.
 - c. It will conclude with some reflections on common emphases in all of the letters and various ministerial applications.
2. The course is intended to be an *introductory* course (one could do a separate course on each of the letters). The instructor assumes that the participants have little or no exposure to Paul’s letters.
3. Given the constraints of time the course will consist mainly of lecture.
4. Each class will begin promptly at 7:30 and end at 10:00 with a 30-minute break.

¹ 2 Peter 3:15-16.

² N. T. Wright, *What Saint Paul Really Said: Was Paul of Tarsus the Real Founder of Christianity?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997) 7.

³ The course will cover 1 Corinthians to Philemon. Romans will not be covered (the letter is reserved for a separate course). Also, Pauline authorship is assumed for all the letters.

Course Assignments

1. Outline select portions of each epistles (see schedule and example below).
2. Complete all readings (see schedule below).⁴
3. Submit two exegetical papers (see instructions below).

Course Texts

1. Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993.⁵
2. Richard B. Gaffin. *By Faith, Not by Sight: Paul and the Order of Salvation*. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster, 2006.
3. N. T. Wright. *Paul in Fresh Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005.
4. Westerholm, Stephen. *Perspectives Old and New on Paul: the "Lutheran" Paul and His Critics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
5. Select articles.

Course Grading Scale

1. Outlines 30%
2. Paper 1 10%
3. Paper 2 15%
4. Exam 1 20%
5. Exam 2 25%

All outlines, papers, and exams must be completed on time. Exceptions will be made according to the discretion of the instructor. Exams are based on the lectures and readings.

*RTS Grading Scale*⁶

A	97-100	D+	75-77
A-	94-96	D	72-74
B+	91-93	D-	70-71
B	88-90	F	Below 70
B-	86-87	I	Incomplete
C+	83-85	W	Withdraw
C	80-82	S	Satisfactory
C-	78-79	P	Passing

⁴ * An outline of 10 pages (double-spaced) of the readings can be used for the exams.

⁵ This is an excellent general source for Pauline Studies. While specific readings have not been assigned, it will be helpful to read the articles in this Dictionary on the various course topics.

⁶ <http://virtual.rts.edu/site/virtual/coursecatalog/gradingscale.aspx>.

Course Schedule

1. February 4
 - a. Review of Syllabus
 - b. Paul, the Apostle, Missionary, and Pastor
 - c. Read Eugene H. Peterson, "Pastor Paul," in *Romans and the People of God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999) 283-94; Jeffrey A. D. Weima, "Infants, Nursing Mother, and Father: Paul's Portrayal of a Pastor," *Calvin Theological Journal* 37 (2002) 209-29; Gaffin, *By Faith, Not By Sight*.
2. February 11
 - a. The Center of Paul's Theology
 - b. Contemporary Issues in Pauline Studies Part 1
 - c. Interpreting Paul
 - d. Read Gaffin, *By Faith, Not By Sight* (cont.); Stanley E. Porter, "Understanding Pauline Studies: An Assessment of Recent Research," *Themelios* 22 (1996) 14-25; ———, "Understanding Pauline Studies: An Assessment of Recent Research," *Themelios* 22 (1997) 13-24; Wright, *Paul in Fresh Perspective*, chs. 1-4.
3. February 18
 - a. 1 Thessalonians
 - b. 2 Thessalonians
 - c. Read 1-2 Thessalonians; outline 1 Thessalonians 1; Wright, *Paul*, 5-8; Thomas R. Schreiner, "The Thessalonian Letters," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 3 (1999) 1-87.
4. February 25
 - a. Galatians
 - b. Read Galatians; outline Galatians 3; Moisés D. Silva, "The Truth of the Gospel: Paul's Mission According to Galatians," in *Gospel to the Nations* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity) 51-61; ———, "Faith Versus Works of Law in Galatians," in *Justification and Variegated Nomism Volume 2, the Paradoxes of Paul* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004) 217-48; Wright, "The Letter to the Galatians: Exegesis and Theology," in *Between Two Horizons* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000) 205-36.
5. March 4
 - a. 1 Corinthians
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians; outline 1 Corinthians 2; Raymond F. Collins, "Reflections on 1 Corinthians as a Hellenistic Letter," in *Corinthian Correspondence* (Louvain Peeters, 1996: Leuven University Press, 1996) 39-61; Richard B. Hays, "Ecclesiology and Ethics in 1 Corinthians," *Ex auditu* 10 (1994) 31-43; Thomas R. Schreiner, "1 Corinthians," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 6 (2002) 2-93.
6. March 11
 - a. Philippians
 - b. Read Philippians; outline Philippians 3; **submit Paper 1**; Todd D. Still, "An Overview of Recent Scholarly Literature on Philippians," *Expository Times* 119, (2008) 422-28; L. Gregory Bloomquist, "Subverted by Joy: Suffering and Joy in Paul's Letter to the Philippians," *Interpretation* 61 (2007) 270-82; I. Howard Marshall, "Which Is the Best Commentary? Philippians," *Expository Times* 103 (1991) 39-42.

7. March 18
 - a. 2 Corinthians
 - b. Read 2 Corinthians; outline 2 Corinthians 3; Scott J. Hafemann, "A Call to Pastoral Suffering: The Need for Recovering Paul's Model of Ministry in 2 Corinthians," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 4 (2000) 22-36; ———, "The Comfort and Power of the Gospel: The Argument of 2 Corinthians 1-3," *Review & Expositor* 86 (1989) 325-44; Ralph P. Martin, "Theological Perspectives in 2 Corinthians: Some Notes," *Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers* (1990) 240-56.
8. March 25: Exam 1
9. April 1 **NO CLASS**
10. April 8
 - a. Colossians
 - b. Philemon
 - c. Read Colossians and Philemon; outline Colossians 1; Ben Witherington and G. Francois Wessels, "Do Everything in the Name of the Lord: Ethics and Ethos in Colossians," in *Identity, Ethics, and Ethos in the New Testament* (Berlin New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2006) 303-33; John Paul Heil, "The Chiastic Structure and Meaning of Paul's Letter to Philemon," *Biblica* 82, no. 2 (2001) 178-206
11. April 15
 - a. Ephesians
 - b. Read Ephesians; outline Ephesians 1; Jody A. Barnard, "Unity in Christ: The Purpose of Ephesians," *Expository Times* 120 (2009) 167-71; Ralph P. Martin, "Reconciliation and Unity in Ephesians," *Review & Expositor* 93 (1996) 203-35; Kenneth S. Hemphill, "Ephesians," *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 39 (1996) 4-57.
12. April 22
 - a. 1 Timothy
 - b. Titus
 - c. Read 1 Timothy and Titus; outline Titus 2; Ray Van Neste, "The Message of Titus: On Overview," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 7 (2003) 18-30; Raymond F. Collins, "The Theology of the Epistle to Titus," *Ephemerides theologicae Lovanienses* 76 (2000) 56-72; Gordon D. Fee, "Toward a Theology of 2 Timothy--from a Pauline Perspective," *Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers* (1997) 732-49; Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, "2 Timothy Contrasted with 1 Timothy and Titus," *Revue biblique* 98 (1991) 403-18; I. Howard Marshall, "The Christian Life in 1 Timothy," *Taiwan Journal of Theology* (1987) 151-64
13. April 29
 - a. 2 Timothy
 - b. Common Emphases and Convictions of Paul's Letters Part 1
 - c. Read 2 Timothy; outline 2 Timothy 4; **submit Paper 2.**
14. May 6
 - a. Common Emphases and Convictions of Paul's Letters Part 2
 - b. Read Westerholm, *Perspectives Old and New.*
15. May 13
 - a. Common Emphases and Convictions of Paul's Letters Part 3

- b. Closing Comments
 - c. Prepare for Exam 2.
16. May 20: Exam 2

Sample General Outline Galatians 1

Letter Opening/Greeting (1:1-5)

Paul's introduction (1:1-2)

- Paul's description of his apostleship (1:1)
 - Not from men nor through man (1:1a)
 - But from Jesus Christ and God the Father (1:1b)
- Paul's identification of his comrades (1:2a)
- Paul's identification of recipients (1:2b)

Paul's extensive greeting (1:3-5)

- Paul's traditional greeting of grace and peace (1:3)
- Paul's theological elaboration of the greeting (1:4-5)
 - Jesus Christ (1:4a)
 - Gave himself for our sins (1:4a)
 - To deliver us from the present evil age (1:4b)
 - God the Father
 - Willed Christ's sacrifice (1:4c)
 - And deserves glory forever and even (1:5)

Declaration of No Other Gospel (1:6-24)

No other gospel than Paul's gospel (1:6-9)

- Paul's astonishment at the apostasy of the Galatians (1:6)
- Paul's qualification (1:7)
 - There is no other gospel (1:7a)
 - But there are some that are distorting the gospel (1:7b)
- Paul's warning (1:8-9)
 - Cursed is anyone that preaches a gospel contrary to Paul's gospel (1:8)
 - Reiteration of curse (1:9)

Paul's gospel is God's gospel (1:10-24)

- The divine nature of Paul's gospel (1:10-12)
 - Paul's motivation: "I am seeking the approval of God, not man" (1:10)
 - Reminder that Paul's gospel is not man's gospel (1:11)
 - Paul received his gospel through a revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:12)
- Personal "proof" of the divine nature of Paul's gospel (1:13-24)
 - Paul's former life (1:13-14)
 - Paul persecuted the church of God violently (1:13)
 - Paul was advancing in Judaism, so zealous for the traditions (1:14)
 - Paul's new life (1:15-24)
 - God's special calling and revelation to Paul (1:15-16a)
 - Paul's response (1:16b-24)

Did not immediately consult with anyone (1:16b-17a)
But went way into Arabia and returned to Damascus (1:17b)
Then went up to Jerusalem after three years to see only Cephas
(1:18-20)
Finally went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia (1:21-24)

Paper Instructions

The format of the paper follows that of a relatively new commentary series published by Baker Academic entitled *Paideia: Commentaries on the New Testament*. Designed for students in religious and theological programs and yet accessible to laymen, the series reflects the kind of papers that will be done for this course. Quoting from the editors of *Paideia* one blogger notes:⁷

each commentary deals with the text in terms of *larger rhetorical units*; these are *not verse-by-verse* commentaries. This series thus stands within the stream of recent commentaries that attend to the *final form* of the text. Such *reader-centered literary approaches* are inherently *more accessible to liberal arts students without extensive linguistic and historical-critical preparation than older exegetical approaches*, but within the reader-centered world the sanest practitioners have *paid careful attention to the extratext of the original readers*, including not only these readers' knowledge of the geography, history, and other context elements reflected in the text but also to their ability to respond correctly to the literary and rhetorical conventions used in the text. *Paideia* commentaries pay *deliberate attention to this extratextual repertoire in order to highlight the ways in which the text is designed to persuade and move its readers.*"

Each rhetorical unit is explored from three angles:

- (1) introductory matters;
- (2) tracing the train of thought or narrative flow of the argument; and
- (3) theological issues raised by the text that are of interest to the contemporary Christian.

Each course paper consists of four parts, which should total to 10 pages double-spaced (except the outline):

1. Introductory Matters (2 Pages)
 - Summarize the main issues of the select chapter (e.g., textual, theological, exegetical problems, etc.).
2. Outline of Chapter (1 Page)
 - Outline the chapter in the same manner as you have outlined the assigned course chapters.
3. Tracing the Train of Thought (5 Pages)

⁷ <http://myhomilia.blogspot.com/2007/11/paideia-new-commentary-series.html>. Bolding original to blogger.

- Provide an analysis that deals with the larger rhetorical units rather than doing a verse-by-verse study.

4. Theological Issues (2 Pages)

For Paper 1 choose a chapter from: 1-2 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1-2 Corinthians, Philippians	For Paper 2 choose a chapter from: Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus
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