

Greek Readings: Romans Part I¹

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September 2-December 9, Thursday 6:30-9:30

6NT602

“This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.”

- Martin Luther, “Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans”

Course Purpose

1. To develop a deeper knowledge of Paul and the first half of his letter to the Romans
2. To refine our ability to interpret Paul's letters and understanding of his theology
3. To engage current exegetical and theological challenges from the New Perspective from the vantage point of Romans

Course Description

1. The instructor assumes that the participants have taken an introductory course to Paul's letters. Also, the instructor assumes that the participants have taken at least several courses in NT Greek.
2. The course will follow the pattern of a doctoral seminar by using most of the time in discussion.
3. The course will be a detailed exegetical study of the letter to Romans. While it will engage current critical scholarship and discuss theological questions (which is inevitable), the focus of the seminar will be on a text-centered, literary-rhetorical approach to the letter to the Romans.

Course Assignments

1. Outline select portions of the epistle (see schedule and example below).
2. Write translations.²
3. Complete all readings that correspond to the select portions.
4. Submit and present one exegetical paper (see instructions below).

¹ Given the length of the letter and depth of material this reading course will cover Romans 1-8 with some concluding comments on 9:1-11:36. The second course on Romans (“Romans Part II”) will cover in more detail 9:1-11:36 and the rest of the letter (12:1-16:27).

² I will explain what kind of translation I have in mind.

Course Texts

1. Douglas Moo. *The Epistles to the Romans*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
2. Robert Jewett. *Romans: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.
3. Misc. articles.

Course Grading Scale

1. Exam 20%
2. Outlines and Translations (Class Participation) 30%
3. Paper 50%

All outlines and papers must be completed on time. Exceptions will be made according to the discretion of the instructor.

*RTS Grading Scale*³

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

Course Schedule

1. September 2
Romans 1:1-17
2. September 9
Romans 1:18-4:25 (translate up to and including 2:29)
3. September 16
Romans 1:18-4:25 (translate up to and including 3:26)
4. September 23
Romans 1:18-4:25 (translate up to and including 4:25)
5. September 30
Romans 5:1-8:39 (translate up to and including 5:21)
6. October 7
Romans 5:1-8:39 (translate up to and including 6:23)
7. October 14
Romans 5:1-8:39 (translate up to and including 7:25)
8. October 21
Romans 5:1-8:39 (translate up to and including 8:30)

³ <http://virtual.rts.edu/site/virtual/coursecatalog/gradingscale.aspx>.

9. October 28
Exam on Romans 1:1-8:39
10. November 4
Presentation of Student Paper
11. November 11
Presentation of Student Paper
12. November 18
Presentation of Student Paper
13. November 25 (**No class—Thanksgiving Break**)
14. December 2
Romans 9:1-11:36 (translate up to and including 11:36)
15. December 9
Conclusion to the Romans 1-8

Course Paper

Any text from Romans 1-8

Each course paper consists of four parts, which should total to a maximum of 25 pages double-spaced (except the outline):

1. Introductory Matters/History of Research (2-5 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. Exegesis (10-15 Pages)
 - Provide an analysis that deals with the larger rhetorical units rather than doing a verse-by-verse study.
4. Conclusion: Theological Issues (2-5 Pages)

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)