

Greek Exegesis (4NT506) – 2 hours

Syllabus – Fall 2015

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments. He then completed his M. Div at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor and in church revitalization. He recently completed a doctorate in New Testament Studies / Ancient History, where his thesis has focused on the cultural backdrop to Romans. He also has several scholarly articles focused on important Greek issues in both Paul and James. Bruce is excited about how knowledge of Greek might enrich our understanding and application of Scripture.

< Office hrs: Tuesday 8-9am & 11-1pm, Thursday 12pm-5:30pm Please email to confirm appointment; blowe@rts.edu >

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to hone exegetical skills through better understanding how to *use* the Greek. So often, students finish their formal studies in Greek and still feel “none the wiser” on how to actually apply it to their reading and teaching of the Bible. This course seeks to focus on this very issue, showing the great blessing and benefit of “dialoguing” with the Greek text, for a better understanding God’s word.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. *To become more at ease* with Koine Greek through an inculcation of Greek Grammar, Syntax and Vocabulary roots.
2. *To gain an excitement* for how Greek can enrich your understanding of the Scriptures in general, and thereby *produce a burden* to use the Greek more and more throughout one’s future ministry.
3. *To apply this learning* of Greek to Galatians, in order to demonstrate the language’s practical usefulness
4. *To understand Galatians better.*
5. *To better preach, teach and apply* God’s word to others.

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?

Monday 25th August to Monday 1st December; 9am to 11am

ASSESSMENT

[1] 40% Weekly quiz.¹

[2] 60% Exegesis assignment on Galatians 6.1-18; **Due date see below.**²

¹ This will be done at the start of each lesson – thus it is essential that you turn up to class one time every week! Each quiz will be graded as a percentage (i.e. out of 100). But in the end each quiz will contribute *about* 3% (x13 = 40%) to the overall grade, and this will be calculated on the Self-service system.

² **This Paper** is substantial (note 60%). It will be assumed that it will be thorough like any other Bible paper (i.e. it

ASSIGNED TEXTS

Wallace, D. B., *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2nd ed, 2003). ISBN 9780310218951

Robinson, T. A., *Mastering New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011). ISBN 9780801047558

Goodrich, R. J. & Lukaszewski, A. L., *A Reader's Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2nd ed). ISBN 9780310273783

OPTIONAL:

Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed. (Chicago; University of Chicago Press, 2000).

This text is excellent! But it is also very expensive (approx. \$150) and I will therefore not require it for this class. You should be able to get by with the above books and different computer software if you have it.

Liddell & Scott, *A Greek-English Lexicon* (1883).

This now standard Greek Lexicon takes you beyond just New Testament words. It is can be downloaded for free at: [HTTP://WWW.ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/GREEKENGLISHLEX00LIDDRICH](http://www.archive.org/details/greekenglishlex00liddrich). In addition to this, Liddell and Scott is directly referenced when it comes to producing translations for the many Greek Texts available on the fantastic website: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

TERM SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Translation/ Dialogue HW	Quiz
1	A25	Gal. 1	---
2	S1	Gal. 1	✓
3	S8	Gal. 2	✓
4	S15	Gal. 2	✓
5	S22	Gal. 3	✓
6	S29	Gal. 3	✓
7	O6	Gal. 3	✓
8	O13	Gal. 3	✓
9	O20	Gal. 4	✓
10	O27	Gal. 4	✓

will have a “thesis”, it will interact with good secondary sources). But in addition to this your paper will show evidence of your own exegesis of the Greek text, based on the information learnt in this subject. Galatians commentaries you will definitely want to interact with will include those heavily based on the Greek text: i.e. New International Greek Testament Commentary [Bruce]; International Critical Commentary [Burton]; Word Biblical Commentary [Longenecker]; Hermeneia [Betz]; [Lightfoot]; Anchor Bible [Martyn].

11	N3	Gal. 4	✓
12	N10	Gal.5	✓
13	N17	Gal. 5	✓
Mid-Term Break			
14	D1	Gal. 5	✓
2 Weeks Later	D15	60% Exegetical Paper Due	

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	1. Lengthy exegetical essay. 2. Informal class interaction.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	1. Close interaction with the Greek text of Galatians.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	1. Galatians is an important place for current discussions about Reformed doctrine.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	1. Singing worship song in class. 2. The exegetical assignment for this class covers Gal. 5-6, a key section related to sanctification.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	1. Certain elements of Galatians will lead us into world-view issues, but since this class is more about exegesis, this will be minimal.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a	Moderate	1. There will be a desire to look at alternate perspectives in dealing with Galatians. 2. It is required of students to

	God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		interact with a range of traditions in their paper.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	1. Worship songs will be sung together at the start of every class.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Minimal	1. Some pastoral discussion will take place in the process of exegeting Galatians and in the student's assignments.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 49 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)