

## **Acts & Romans**

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June 19-22, 2017 | 9:00AM-4:00PM

### **COURSE PURPOSE**

1. To develop a working knowledge of Acts & Romans
2. To refine our ability to outline and interpret
3. To reflect on the personal and ministerial applications of Acts & Romans

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

1. The course consists of two main sections—Acts (06/19-20) and Romans (06/21-22).
2. The course is intended to be an *introductory* course (one could do a separate course on each book). The instructor assumes that the participants have little or no exposure to either.
3. Given the constraints of time, the course will consist mainly of lecture.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

See below under “Course Schedule.”

### **COURSE TEXTS**

1. D. A. Carson & D. Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*
2. R. Cara, *Cracking the Foundation of the New Perspective on Paul*
3. P. Jeon, *Introducing Romans*
4. A. Thompson, *The Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus*

### **COURSE GRADING SCALE**

- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. Summaries | 10% |
| 2. Reviews   | 20% |
| 3. Outlines  | 70% |

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

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **June 19 – Acts Part I**

- Review of Current Scholarship/Introductory Issues
- The Theology of Acts & Key Themes

#### ***Prior to class, read the following and come ready to discuss:***

- (1) Read through the entire book of Acts twice. Write a summary of what you believe are key themes, terms, and images of the book. Include any questions that arise as you read. Do not use any reference work. Your summary should be two-pages, double-spacing, font 12 (Times New Roman).
- (2) Read the chapter on Acts in Carson and Moo.

### **June 20 – Acts Part II**

- Outline of the Letter/Examination of the Flow
- Notable Sections/Special Issues
- Concluding Remarks

#### ***Related Assignments (we will discuss the due date in class)***

- (1) Write a book review of Thompson's *The Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus*. The review should not exceed 2,000 words.
- (2) Complete an analytical outline of Acts.

### **June 21 – Romans Part I**

- Review of Current Scholarship/Introductory Issues
- The Theology of Romans & Key Themes

#### ***Prior to class, read the following and come ready to discuss:***

- (1) Read through the entire book of Romans twice. Write a summary of what you believe are key themes, terms, and images of the book. Include any questions that arise as you read. Do not use any reference work. Your summary should be two-pages, double-spacing, font 12 (Times New Roman).
- (2) Read Jeon's *Introducing Romans*.

### **June 22 – Romans Part II**

- Outline of the Letter/Examination of the Flow
- Notable Sections/Special Issues
- Concluding Remarks

#### ***Related Assignments (we will discuss the due date in class)***

- (1) Write a book review of Cara's *Cracking the Foundation of the New Perspective on Paul*. The review should not exceed 2,000 words.
- (2) Complete an analytical outline of Acts.

## SAMPLE OUTLINE

### Paul's Thanksgiving for the Colossians and Motivations for Ministry (Colossians 1:1-29)

- 1:1-2 **Introduction**  
1:1 Senders: Paul an apostle and Timothy a brother  
1:2a Recipients: Saints at Colossae  
1:2b Greetings: Grace and peace
- 1:3-6a **Paul's Thanksgiving**  
1:3 Always thanking God in prayer for the Colossians  
1:4-5a Reasons for thanks  
1:4a Faith in Christ  
1:4b Love for all saints  
1:5a Hope of heaven  
1:5b-6a Gospel came to Colossians and is spreading globally
- 1:6b-8 **Epaphras' role**  
1:6b-7a Transmitted gospel  
1:7b-8 Faithful minister for Colossians' sake
- 1:9-12 **Paul's Intercessory Prayer**  
1:9 Know God's will with wisdom and understanding  
1:10a Live in a way pleasing to God  
1:10b Bear fruit in every good work  
1:10c Increase in knowledge  
1:11 Be strengthened with power  
1:12 Give thanks to God
- 1:13-14 **Union with Christ**  
1:13 Transferred from darkness to Christ's kingdom  
1:14 Redemption and forgiveness in Christ
- 1:15-20 **Christ-Hymn**  
1:15-17 Christ the Agent of Creation  
1:15 Christ = firstborn of all creation  
1:16 All things created through Christ  
1:17 All things sustained through Christ  
1:18-20 Christ the Agent of Redemption  
1:18 Christ = head of the body, the church  
1:19 Fullness of God dwells in Christ  
1:20 Reconciliation found in Christ's blood
- 1:21-23 **Colossians' Transformation**  
1:21 Past: Alienated evildoers  
1:22a Present: Reconciled by Christ's death  
1:22b Purpose: Be holy and blameless  
1:23 Condition: Continuation in the faith and Paul's gospel
- 1:24-29 **Paul's Ministry Motivations**  
1:24 Rejoice in sufferings for sake of the church  
1:25-26 Paul is minister and steward of the gospel and church  
1:27 God reveals Christ among Gentiles to mature them  
1:28-29 Paul labors in preaching so that all may be mature in Christ

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Rubric</b>	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<p><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></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Class preparation, assignments, exams.
<b>Scripture</b>	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	Exegetical focus, significant outlines, class preparation of specific passages.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Medium/Strong	Reformed approach and covenants underlie class.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Close study of the Word of God sanctifies; strong devotional components of Scripture.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Material taught thoroughly within and analyzed against redemptive-historical worldview.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Discussion and evaluation of contributions from other traditions in a respectful and honoring way.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Exegetical work forms the backbone of strong preaching; frequent discussion of applications.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Study of the Word of God should move believers to worship.
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	Moderate	Discussion as applicable.
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Discussion as applicable.