

SPRING · 2012

SYLLABUS · V · 10  
COURSE · NUMBER ·  
ZNTS18/01

# ACTS · PAUL · RTS/O

## ACTS · AND · THE · PAULINE · EPISTLES PAUL'S · PERSON, · THEOLOGY, · AND · PASTORAL · GENIUS

Of Paul the Apostle, Robert Frost once said: "He is the fellow who theologized Christ almost out of Christianity. Look out for him." In fact, no name is more associated with the emergence of Christianity and the shaping of the Christian church than this man who called himself apostle to the nations.

In this course, we will trace the outlines of Paul's thought and practice, as they are available to us in his letters and in the book of Acts. Against the backdrop of the

social world of the Roman Empire of the first century, we will try to understand the nature of the good news Paul proclaimed, and the way he thought his gospel should transform lives and build communities.

Consistent with the goals of RTS – to wit: to shape the character, understanding, and skills of servants of Christ's church – we will pay particular attention to the way Paul's person, theology, and pastoral genius can equip us for the service of King Jesus.

### INSTRUCTOR

Reggie M. Kidd, MDiv, PhD  
Professor of New Testament  
Reformed Theological Seminary/Orlando

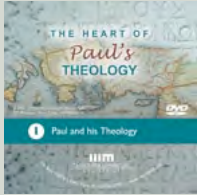
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Office hours by appointment



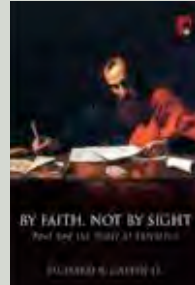
**Handouts** available online before class each Monday:

Navigate from Self-Service

# REQUIRED · RESOURCES



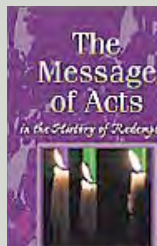
R. Kidd, *The Heart of Paul's Theology*, 4 mov's or mp3's, covering Introduction, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and 1 & 2 Corinthians



Richard B. Gaffin, "By Faith, Not by Sight": Paul and the Order of Salvation (Paternoster, 2006 [ISBN 9781842274187](#))



R. Kidd, *The Prison Epistles*, 5 mov's or mp3's, covering Introduction, Colossians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians



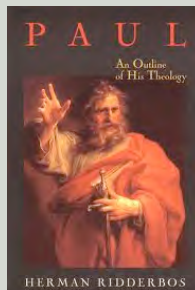
Dennis Johnson, *The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption* (P&R, 1997) ([ISBN 9780875522357](#))

All 9 mov's or mp3's are downloadable from Third

Millennium [http://thirdmill.org/seminary/download.asp/site/iiim/category/download ...](http://thirdmill.org/seminary/download.asp/site/iiim/category/download...) Third Mill suggests a \$1.99 donation per item (all proceeds to Third Mill)



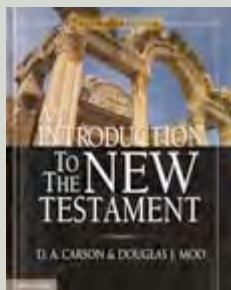
F.F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free* (Eerdmans, 1977, 2000) ([ISBN 9780802847782](#))



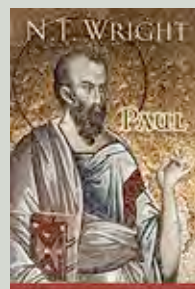
Herman Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology* (Eerdmans, 1997; [ISBN 9780802844699](#))



Bruce Winter, *Roman Wives, Roman Widows: The Appearance of New Women and the Pauline Communities* (Eerdmans, 2003; [ISBN 9780802849717](#))



Carson & Moo, *An Introduction to the NT*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Zondervan, 2005) – relevant chapters only ([ISBN 9780310238591](#))



N. T. Wright, *Paul in Fresh Perspective* (Fortress, 2005, 2009) ([ISBN 9780800663575](#))

# RESERVE READINGS

**Note: only readings that appear on the schedule (below) are required:**

- Herman Ridderbos, "The Redemptive-Historical Character of Paul's Preaching" and "The Law of God in Paul's Doctrine of Salvation," Chaps. 3 & 4 of his *When the Time Had Fully Come*, pp. 44-60, 61-77
- Geerhardus Vos, *The Pauline Eschatology*, pp. 1-71.
- Richard Gaffin, "The Usefulness of the Cross," in *Westminster Theological Journal* 41 (1978-79): 228-246.
- Richard Hays, "Homosexuality," in his *The Moral Vision of the NT* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1996), pp. 379-406.
- Herman Ridderbos, "Romans 7," from his commentary on Romans.
- Herman Ridderbos on Romans 11 (Richard Gaffin, trans., unpublished)
- N.T. Wright, "Christ, the Law and the People of God: The Problem of Romans 9-11," in *The Climax of the Covenant: Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology* (Fortress, 1993), pp. 231-257.
- Reggie M. Kidd, "Notes on Colossians & Ephesians," prepared for *New Geneva Study Bible* (alternatively, you may read the notes in the *NGSB*, the *Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible*, or the *Reformation Study Bible*).
- Kevin Vanhoozer, "Imprisoned or Free? Text, Status, and Theological Interpretation in the Master/Slave Discourse of Philemon," in *Reading Scripture with the Church*, ed., Adam, Fowl, Vanhoozer, Watson (BakerAcademic, 2006), pp. 51-93.
- Gordon Fee, "Review of R. Kidd's *Wealth and Beneficence*" in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 1992/2, pp. 352-354.
- Reggie M. Kidd, "Titus as *Apologia*: Grace for Liars, Beasts, and Bellies" in *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 21.2, pp. 185-209.
- "The Acts of Paul and Thecla" (from Hennecke & Schneemelcher, *New Testament Apochrypha*, Vol. 2 [Westminster Press, 1964]), pp. 352-364.

# ASSIGNMENTS

## 5% Class Attendance

**10% Overall Reading/Viewing**, includes turning in weekly Reading/Viewing Reflections

**40% Two Take-Home, Closed Book Midterms** – Objective Questions & Short-essay: content of designated epistles and sections of Acts; assigned sections of Carson/Moo; lectures; Dennis Johnson's *Message of Acts*; DVD's

**25% Final Exam on Pastoral Scenarios** (take-home, open-book)

**90% Total Possible Points** (a "B," according to the RTS scale)

**Optional "Go-for-the-'A'" Assignment** (Choose ONE of the following – each is worth 10%)

**Option 1.** Write an **Exegesis Paper** on a passage from Galatians (based on your Exegetical Notebook from C. E. Hill's Gk. Exegesis class – approximately 20-25 pp., or 5,000-6,000 words, including footnotes and bibliography)

**Option 2.** Write **two 500 word popular-level articles or blogs** (with 500± words of scholarly documentation and notes per article, plus appropriate bibliography) – topics to be approved by your instructor – possibilities:

- "Paul & Theories of the Atonement: Christus Victor, Penal Substitution, and the Cruciform Life." How do various aspects of Christ's atoning work take shape in Paul's theology?
- In what sense is Jesus God for Paul? is Jesus to be worshipped?
- Does Paul see a way to do politics as ministry? are the responsibilities of "secular" citizenship & of participation in the "Kingdom of God" identical? congruent? conflicting? without any point of contact?
- Does Paul believe in a universalistic salvation? or is his theology compatible with a universalist view of salvation?
- Where do so-called charismatic manifestations fit into Paul's view of the beginning of a new humanity in Christ?
- For Paul, does the coming of Christ make an irrelevance of distinctions based on gender?

- What was the “social location” of Paul’s churches, and what are the implications for the church today?
- What is the function of Christ’s resurrection in Paul’s theology?
- How helpful can Paul be to students of modern psychology?
- Who is the “I” of Romans 7?
- Does Paul hold out a separate hope for Israel in Romans 9–11?
- In Paul’s thinking, how do notions of predestination and free will relate?
- How does Paul view the role of the Law in the life of the believer – is there a “third use” of the law?
- How does Paul view the role of the Law in political life – is there a “second use” of the law?
- What is Paul’s theology of worship (or some aspect thereof)?
- What is Paul’s theology of sacrament (or some aspect thereof)?
- Any issue surrounding Paul’s understanding of the Second Coming of Christ.
- Is there a particular thinker, writer, artist, or composer Paul has impacted significantly, and in such a way that it would be profitable for you to explore that impact? (Sorry for the obtuse syntax.)

**Option 3.** Read Through and Write a **Critical Review of a Major Commentary or Monograph** (approximately 10–12 pp., or 2,500–3,000 words) – to be approved by your instructor – suggestions:

- Acts: Luke Timothy Johnson (Sacra Pagina)
- Romans: Cranfield (both vols. of ICC), Jewett (Hermeneia); Moo (NICNT)
- 1 Corinthians: Fee (NICNT), Witherington
- 2 Corinthians: Hughes (old NICNT)
- Ephesians: M. Barth (Anchor), Lincoln (Word)
- Pastorals: Towner (NICNT), Witherington (IVP)
- Gerd Theissen, *Psychological Aspects of Pauline Theology* (Fortress, 1987)
- Gerd Theissen, *The Social Setting of Pauline Christianity: Essays on Corinth* (Fortress, 2004)
- Tom Holland, *Contours of Pauline Theology: A Radical New Survey of the Influences on Paul’s Biblical Writings* (Mentor, 2004)
- Gordon Fee, *Pauline Christology: An Exegetical-Theological Study* (Hendrickson, 2007)
- Wayne Meeks, *The First Urban Christians* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) (Yale, 2003)
- Wayne Meeks, *The Writings of St. Paul* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), Norton Critical Library (Norton, 2007)

## Midterms

**Bible Content:** Read, re-read, re-re-read, re-re-re-read the biblical materials. Know what's in them! I reserve the right to ask any question that lets me know you know what's actually in Paul's letters and the Acts – that's what ordination exams cover. And we lose more evangelical students in college because their professors simply know more Bible than they do. One thing I will expect is that you are able to "bullet point" the letters and Acts (e.g., "Use bullet points to walk me through 1 Corinthians" or "Give me bullet points for what's in ch. 3 of each of Paul's letters") ... I will post my own bullet points for you ... you may use them ... or you may use your own, if they are clearer and more specific than mine.

**Introductory Matters:** We will spend little class time on introductory matters (e.g., authorship, date, occasion). In the lectures I will be assuming acquaintance with the issues as treated by C&M; instead, there will be a component of the midterms devoted to this material. Sample question on introductory matters:

According to C&M, there is strong, direct textual evidence for the circulation of a fifteen-chapter form of the letter to the Romans (True or False)

**Dennis Johnson:** objective questions &/or short essay – this is nice stuff!

**Midterm One – C&M:** Acts, Paul Intro, Gal, Thess, Cor; **Content:** Acts 1:1-21:17 (includes 3 Miss Journeys as treated in class), Gal, Thess, Cor; **Dennis Johnson,** chs. 1-6; **DVD Series:** HPT

**Midterm Two – C&M:** Rom, Php, Col, Phm, Eph, Pastorals; **Content:** Acts 21:18-28:31 (following the 3 Miss Journeys), plus Rom, Php, Col, Phm, Eph, Pastorals; **Dennis Johnson,** chs. 7-12; **DVD Series:** PPE

**Final Exam** – The final exam will be open-Bible essays. The exam will give you an opportunity to reflect on the lectures, videos, and readings. I have included sample essay questions from past exams to give you a flavor of my questions. In addition to those that follow, you can expect some questions that call upon you to interact with the secondary readings:

How does the genius of Paul's social ethic come to expression in the revolutionary sounding Gal 3:28? in the more conservative sounding 1 Co 7:17-24? Are these passages in conflict with each other? Do they complement each other? How?

What if Paul (after Crete) had been taken to Rome and was executed before he had the opportunity to write the epistle of 2 Timothy? What would we be missing? What contribution (if any) does this letter make to the Pauline corpus?

**Optional Greek Exegesis Paper** – This will be an especially handy option if you are on an ordination track with one of the Presbyterian denominations – you may elect to use the "notebook" you developed in Chuck Hill's Greek Exegesis course to write a smooth, elegant, clear, concise, and cogent exegesis paper on your passage (ca. 20 pp., minus endnotes, bibliography & any appendices). I have a couple of samples I can share with you.

Students exercising this option will meet with me in a group during the Monday lunch slot – we will meet every week until we have gone through everybody's passage in the Greek, and I am satisfied that each student understands the significant syntactical issues his or her paper must address.

ActsPaul Schedule Spring, 2012	Topic	Pre-class Reading/Viewing (always include the appropriate chaps. in CCM)	Pre- or Post-Class Readings	• Due •
Wk 1 2/13	Intro	HPT 1; Bruce, chs. 1-6	D. Johnson, chs. 1-3 Ridd., <i>When Time</i> , chs. 3-4	
Wk 2 2/20	Off — get ahead!	Bruce, chs. 7-14 Ridd., <i>Paul I-II</i> (pp. 13-90)	D. Johnson, chs. 4-6	
Wk 3 2/27	<b>Acts</b>	HPT 2; Bruce, chs. 15-19	D. Johnson, chs. 7-8	
Wk 4 3/5	1 <sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey & <b>Galatians</b>	HPT 3; Bruce, chs. 20-22; Ridd., III (pp. 91-158)	Wright 2.1-4	
Wk 5 3/12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey & <b>Thessalonians</b>	HPT 4; Bruce, chs. 23-24; Ridd., <i>Paul XII</i> (pp. 487-562)	Wright 3.1-3	
Wk 6 3/19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey & <b>Corinthians</b>	Bruce, chs. 25-27; Gaffin, "Usefulness"; Ridd., <i>Paul VII.45-52</i> (pp. 272-326)	Wright 4.1-5	
Spring Break 3/26				
Wk 7 4/2	<b>Corinthians</b>	Bruce, chs. 28-33; Hays, "Homosexuality"; Winter, chs. 1-5	Wright 5.1-6; D. Johnson, chs. 9-10 Gaffin, chs. 1-2	<b>Midterm One</b> (See p. 6 for material covered)
Wk 8 4/9	<b>Romans</b>	Vos, pp. 1-71; Ridd., <i>Paul IV-V</i> (pp. 159-204);	Wright 6.1-6; D. Johnson, chs. 11-12 Gaffin, chs. 3-4	
Wk 9 4/16	<b>Romans</b>	Ridd., <i>Paul VI &amp; VII.42-44</i> (pp. 205-272); Ridderbos, "Romans 7"	Wright 7.1-6	
Wk 10 4/23	<b>Romans</b>	Ridderbos, "Romans 11"; Wright, "Christ, Law, People" Ridd., <i>Paul VIII</i> (pp. 327-361)	Wright 8.1-4	
Wk 11 4/30	<b>Romans</b>	PPE 1-3; Ridd., <i>Paul IX</i> (pp. 362-395)		
Wk 12 5/7	Journey to Rome & <b>Prison Epistles</b>	PPE 4-55; Bruce 34-36; Kidd, "Notes on Col/Eph"; Vanhoozer, "Imprisoned?" Ridd., <i>Paul X-XI</i> (pp. 396-486)		
Wk 13 5/14	Release & <b>Pastorals</b> (wth Re-Arrest)	Bruce, chs. 37-38; Fee, "Review"; Kidd, "Titus as <i>Apologia</i> "; "Acts of Paul & Thecla"; Winter, chs. 6-9		<b>Midterm Two</b> (See p. 6 for material covered)
Term Paper Deadline 5/18				<b>"A" Option Projects Due</b>
Exam Week 5/21-24				<b>Final Exam</b>

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Acts & Pauline Epistles  
 Professor: Reggie Kidd  
 Campus: Orlando  
 Date: Spring 2012

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b> <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>		<b>Rubric</b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<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	Understanding Paul's theology is critical to a Reformed theological education.
<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	In the text as much as possible — challenging those w/ Greek to us it.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Paul has largely shaped Reformed thinking — frequent class reflections on interplay between Paul and the tradition.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Lectures and readings often point in this direction.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Paul is about conforming life to the Word.
<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	Paul is exemplar.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Paul is exemplar.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Some attention to Paul's instruction on 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	Paul is exemplar.
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Paul is exemplar