

## Acts and Romans

Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington  
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Daniel W. MacDougall  
Professor of Biblical Studies  
Covenant College  
14049 Scenic Highway  
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750  
([dan.macdougall@covenant.edu](mailto:dan.macdougall@covenant.edu))

### I. Purpose

1. To begin an understanding of how to handle critical questions concerning Acts and Romans.
2. To be able to appreciate the man Paul and the time in which he lived.
3. To develop proper hermeneutical practices for interpreting Acts and Romans.
4. To get an understanding of the message of Acts and Romans and how they can be applied today.

### II. Texts

1. F. F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1977, chapters 1-24. (ISBN 0-8028-4778-1)
2. D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 2005, pp. 198-224, 285-330, 391-411, 456-478. (ISBN 0-310-23859-5)
3. Dennis E. Johnson, *The Message of Acts*, Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P. & R. Publishing Co., 1997. (ISBN 0-87552-235-1)

Articles to be sent

1. James D. G. Dunn, "The New Perspective on Paul," *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 65, no. 2, Spr. 1983, pp. 95-122.
2. John R. W. Stott, *Romans: God's Good News for the World*, InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1994, pp. 24-31.

### III. Grading

1. There will be a take home final (worth 50%). The test will cover all the material covered in class and in the assigned readings. This test will be distributed on the final class period and must be sent by **February 12**. This may be sent either hard copy or by email.
2. There will be one larger exegesis paper (worth 30%) to be sent hard copy by **February 26**. See section V.
3. Class participation (20%). This is a necessary and vital component for this class. You must be prepared.

### IV. Reading Assignments

Before **January 27** read the two articles on the "new perspective" on Paul. These articles will be sent to you. Take notes for discussion in class. Define what the "new perspective" is, what are the key terms used, and what are the important biblical terms or phrases that are reinterpreted. Evaluate the weaknesses and strengths of each position, and state what steps you would use to further examine this issue.

Before you take the final, read Johnson's book. Show your knowledge of his basic approach to the book of Acts and evaluate this approach, especially on how Acts should be applied today. What strengths do you see in his presentation, and what weaknesses? How was it helpful to you?

### V. Paper

The paper (due on **February 26**) is an exegesis paper on some portion of Romans 1-8 (at least 10 verses). The section should be a coherent section. Use significant commentaries, lexicons and other important resources to help you understand the passage. You must incorporate in your research not only commentaries and other exegetical helps, but also you must find at least 2 relatively recent articles on your section. Be sure to footnote any information you get from any sources. Include a bibliography. The paper is to be typed, double-spaced. This is a major paper, but should not exceed about 12 pages. If you know Greek, make use of it, but knowledge of Greek is not required.

1. Pick a coherent section Romans 1-8 you are interested in studying of at least 10 verses.
2. Show how your section fits into the outline of the whole epistle and further develops Paul's argument as a

whole in this letter.

3. Give a single sentence stating the theme of the section you are examining.
4. Give a very detailed outline of your passage (how every phrase fits in relation to the others).
5. Explain each verse in your passage, discussing any problems in the text and giving your understanding of each verse. This may be done in a commentary style. This is the main portion of the paper.
6. State how the information from your passage should be applied today.
7. Send a **hard** copy to me at Dr. Daniel MacDougall, c/o Covenant College, 14049 Scenic Highway, Lookout Mountain, GA, 30750.

**VI. Course Outline and Reading Schedule** (Take notes, you will be tested over this material even if it is not covered in class. This material may be read before the week of classes, or following. It would probably be more helpful to you to read it ahead of time, but that may not be possible for all of you.)

**I. January 27, The Book of Acts**

Read: Carson and Moo, pp. 198-224, 285-330  
Bruce, Chapters 1-8

**II. January 28. Romans**

Read: Carson and Moo, pp. 391-411  
Bruce, Chapters 9-16

**III. January 29, The New Perspective on Paul**

Read: Carson and Moo, pp. 456-478  
Bruce, Chapters 17-24

Assignment: Exegesis Paper on Romans due **February 26**. (send hard copy)

**Final:** Take home, given out on January 29, send it to me by **February 12** (either electronically or hard copy)