

Acts & Pauline Epistles
2NT518 RTS/Orlando
Spring 2008
COURSE SYLLABUS — v. 1.1



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On campus: Mon-Wed
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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.

VIEWING ASSIGNMENTS:

- R. Kidd, *The Heart of Paul’s Theology*, 4 mov’s or mp3’s, covering Introduction, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and 1 & 2 Corinthians
- R. Kidd, *The Prison Epistles*, 5 mov’s or mp3’s, covering Introduction, Colossians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians
- All 9 mov’s or mp3’s are downloadable from Third Millennium <http://thirdmill.org/seminary/download.asp/site/iiim/category/download> ... Third Mill suggests a \$1.99 donation per item (all proceeds to Third Mill)

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Carson, Moo, & Morris, *An Introduction to the NT*, 2nd ed. (Zondervan, 2005) — relevant chapters
- Richard B. Gaffin, *“By Faith, Not by Sight”: Paul and the Order of Salvation* (Paternoster, 2006)

- Dennis Johnson, *The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption* (P&R, 1997)
- Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Writings of the New Testament*, 3rd rev. ed., (Augsburg Fortress, 2003) — relevant chapters
- Bruce Winter, *Roman Wives, Roman Widows: The Appearance of New Women and the Pauline Communities* (Eerdmans, 2003)
- N. T. Wright, *Paul in Fresh Perspective* (Fortress, 2005).
- **Reserve Readings (available in the library):**
 - Richard Hays' chapter, "Homosexuality," in *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*.)
 - 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 Apocrypha*, Vol. 2 [Westminster Press, 1964]), pp. 352-364

ASSIGNMENTS

A. Two Take-Home, Closed-Book Midterms (2 x 20% = 40%)

- Objective section: content of designated epistles & sections of Acts; assigned sections of CMM & LTJ
- Essay section: class lectures, Kidd mov's/mp3's, assigned readings

B. Take-Home, Open-Book Final on Pastoral Issues (mostly interacting with the lectures and secondary readings — 30%).

C. Choose 1 of 2 (= 30%):

1. **Greek Exegesis Paper** — An exegetical treatment of a passage from Galatians, in conjunction with Prof. Hill's *Exegesis* course (ca. 20 pp., minus bibliography).

2. Participate in a team project on one of the following topics:

- Compare the perspectives of NT Wright & Richard Gaffin (with the former's *Paul in Fresh Perspective* and the latter's *By Faith, Not by Sight* as starting points) — project leader, Ike Hughes
- “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? — Project leader, Graham Buck

The main points of departure for this assignment are:

- Jeffery, Ovey, & Sach, *Pierced for Our Transgression: Rediscovering the Glory of Penal Substitution* (Crossway, 2007);
- NT Wright, “The Cross & the Caricatures”¹
- Gustaf Aulen, *Christus Victor*
- relevant essays in James/Hill, *The Glory of the Atonement*
- Assess the contribution of Bruce Winter's thesis that Paul's pastoral counsel concerning women was aimed at helping his churches respond to the rise of “'new' Roman women.” This group will interact with Bruce Winter's *Roman Wives, Roman Widows* — project leader, Reggie Kidd.

¹ At <http://www.fulcrum-anglican.org.uk/news/2007/20070423wright.cfm?doc=205> ... also see the response at <http://piercedforourtransgressions.com/content/view/107/51/>