

FALL · 2009

SYLLABUS · V. · 12

# ACTS · PAUL · CHINA

## 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.

Since our goals are 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

rkidd@rts.edu • reggiekidd.com



Handouts available online

<http://www.rts.edu/Site/Staff/rkidd/actspaulfall2009.aspx>

## REQUIRED · RESOURCES

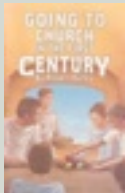


R. Kidd, *The Heart of Paul's Theology*, 4 mov's or mp3's, covering Introduction, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and 1 & 2 Corinthians



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

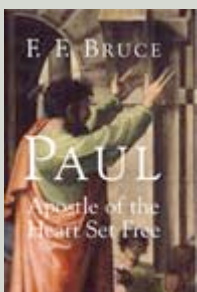
All 9 mov's or mp3's are downloadable from Third Millennium <<http://thirdmill.org/seminary/download.asp/site/iiim/category/download>> ... though Third Mill suggests a \$1.99 donation per item, these videos are free to Company employees.



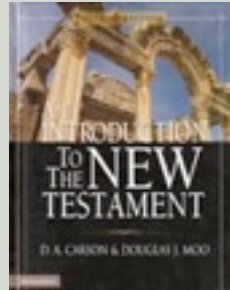
Robert Banks, *Going to Church in the First Century*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Seedsowers, 1990) (# ISBN-10: 0940232375; # ISBN-13: 978-0940232372)



Robert Banks, *Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in Their Historical Setting*, revised ed. (Hendrickson, 1994) (# ISBN-10: 1565630505; # ISBN-13: 978-1565630505)

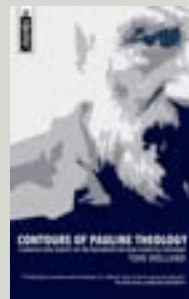


F.F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free* (Eerdmans, 1977, 2000) (# ISBN-10: 0802847781; # ISBN-13: 978-0802847782)

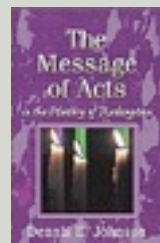


Carson, Moo, & Morris, *An Introduction to the NT*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Zondervan, 2005) – relevant chapters only (# ISBN-10: 0310519403; # ISBN-13: 978-0310519409)

(hereafter = CMM)



Tom Holland, *The Contours of Pauline Theology: A Radical New Survey of the Influences on Paul's Biblical Writings* (Mentor, Christian Focus, 2004) (# ISBN-10: 185792469X; # ISBN-13: 978-1857924695)



Dennis Johnson, *The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption* (P&R, 1997) (# ISBN-10: 0875522351; # ISBN-13: 978-0875522357)



N. T. Wright, *Paul in Fresh Perspective* (Fortress, 2005, 2009) (# ISBN-10: 0800663578; # ISBN-13: 978-0800663575)

## ASSIGNMENTS

### 10% Overall Reading/Viewing

For the other **90%** of the grade, please plan to do **3** of the following **6** optional assignments (**each** will be worth **30%** of your final grade):

**Option 1 (30%):** Answer the "Review Questions" and the "Application Questions" in the study guides for the *Heart of Paul's Theology* videos (all five videos).

**Option 2 (30%):** Answer the "Review Questions" and the "Application Questions" in the study guides for the *Paul's Prison Epistles* videos (all four videos).

**Option 3 (30%):** Write a paper (ca. 2500 words) discussing the applicability of Robert Banks' analysis of Paul's house church idea to your ministry setting.

**Option 4 (30%):** Write a paper (ca. 2500 words) comparing and contrasting the views of N.T. Wright and Tom Holland. How helpful is Wright's "fresh perspective"? How enlightening is Holland's "New Exodus" paradigm for Paul? Are there ways in which each writer could make the other better?

**Option 5 (30%):** Design a 10-unit course titled something like "Introducing Paul," that would be appropriate for your ministry setting. Please explain your ministry setting, then provide an annotated outline of your course (use the annotations to explain what you plan to cover during a particular session). Organize the course any way you want, but provide a rationale for the line of approach you choose.

**Option 6 (30%):** Take an open-book, open-notes essay exam. 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.

War has broken out in one of your ministry's Bible studies. The group had been studying through Romans, and everyone was getting along famously until they hit chapter 7. Now the group is hotly divided between those who say, "Thank God! Paul understands me!" and those who say, "How could you possibly be a Christian and think you are still 'captive to the law of sin' (7:23)? Hasn't Paul just said: 'Sin will have no dominion over you (6:14)?!?!'" Your job is to spend a couple of weeks going over this passage with these folks – what are you going to try to communicate?

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?

## ALL WORK DUE FRI., DEC. 5

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## SCHEDULE MON., SEPT. 28- FRI., OCT. 2

ActsPaul Schedule Fall, 2009	Topic	Supporting Readings or Videos (always include the appropriate chaps. in CCM!!!)
Monday Morning	Intro to Paul	<i>Heart of Paul's Theology (HPT)</i> , Video 1 Bruce, chs. 1-6
Monday Afternoon	Intro to Acts	Bruce, chs. 7-14 Johnson, entire
Tuesday Morning	1 <sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey & <b>Galatians</b> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey & <b>Thessalonians</b>	<i>HPT 2</i> Bruce, chs. 15-19 <i>HPT 3</i> Bruce, chs. 20-22
Tuesday Afternoon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey & <b>Corinthians</b> ; The Eschatological "So What"?	<i>HPT 4</i> Bruce, chs. 23-27 Banks, <i>Going to Church</i> Banks, <i>Paul's Idea of Comm'y</i>
Wednesday Morning	<b>Romans</b>	Bruce, chs. 25-27 Wright, all Holland, all
Wednesday Afternoon	<b>Romans</b>	
Thursday Morning	<b>Romans</b>	
Thursday Afternoon	<b>Romans</b>	Bruce, chs. 28-33
Friday Morning	Journey to Rome & <b>Prison Epistles</b>	<i>Paul's Prison Epistles (PPE)</i> , Videos 1-5 Bruce 34-36 Kidd, "Notes on Col/Eph"
Friday Afternoon	Release & <b>Pastorals</b> (wth Re-Arrest)	Bruce, chs. 37-38 Fee, "Review of Kidd, <i>Wealth and Beneficence...</i> " (handout) Kidd, "Titus as <i>Apologia</i> " <a href="http://www.thirdmill.org/paul/titus_apologia.asp">http://www.thirdmill.org/paul/titus_apologia.asp</a> "Acts of Paul & Thecla" (handout)

ALL WORK DUE FRI., DEC. 5