Instructor: Dick Belcher (rbelcher@rts.edu)

Course Description

Selections from the Old Testament are translated and discussed in class. There is an emphasis on parsing, grammatical construction, OT meaning (with the use of commentaries), relationship to Christ, and modern meaning.

Course Objectives

a) To strengthen a student's ability to translate the Hebrew of the OT.
b) To discuss various interpretations of the text through the use of different commentaries.
c) To explore the relationship of the text to Christ and its meaning for today.

Grades

There are no papers, quizzes, or exams. Grades are entirely determined by a student's preparation and class participation. The student must demonstrate that he is adequately prepared and can competently interact with the material in a classroom setting.

Definition of prepared for Belcher's section: during each class students will be assigned a series of verses that will be discussed in class. Preparation for class includes the following: (a) make your own translation, (b) parse all the verbs, and (c) read the assigned commentaries and be able to interact with the the different views in light of the questions below (under Course Procedure).

Definition of prepared for Cara's section: during each class, students will be assigned a series of verses that will be discussed in the following class. The amount of preparation that each student must achieve includes the following: (a) make your own translation from Greek to English, (b) be able to parse all the verbs/nouns, (c) prepare a logical progression of the Greek text, and (d) look up and evaluate one grammatical feature using your chosen Greek grammar text book.

Clarification about Grades: It is important for students to recognize that completing the basic requirements on a weekly basis will only secure a “B” grade for the class. A student must exhibit exceptional ability and understanding of the material in order to secure an “A” grade. Please keep in mind that there is an inevitable degree of grading subjectivity for a class structured in this manner. However, this subjectivity is mitigated to some degree because students receive grades from two different professors. For further questions see Phil 2:14.
Commentaries and Tools

1) The student should choose and/or will be assigned one of the commentaries listed below.


2) The student should read one older commentary (Calvin, Luther, Spurgeon, Matthew Henry, etc).

3) The student will be assigned an English translation to compare with the Hebrew.

4) It is also highly recommended that the student use and bring to class a grammar (Williams or Arnold and Choi).

Course Procedure

1) Translate the passage in Hebrew, parse the verbs, and note any major discrepancies between the Hebrew and the English translation.

2) Read the assigned commentaries on the passage you have translated, including the introduction to the psalm.

3) Look for answers to the following questions as you translate the psalm and read the commentary:

   a) What makes the psalm a royal psalm?
   b) What is the historical or literary context of the psalm?
   c) What are major themes of the psalm?
   d) Are there any distinguishing poetic techniques or metaphors in the psalm?
   e) What general emotional affect comes from reading the psalm?
   f) Is the psalm used in the NT?
   g) How does the psalm relate to Christ's person and/or work?
#### Schedule

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<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Psalm 2</td>
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<td>Feb 23</td>
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