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BT 660 New Testament Theology

Joel B. Green

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BT660 New Testament Theology

Final Version

Joel B. Green, Instructor
joel_green@asburyseminary.edu

Joey Koskie, Teaching Intern
joey_koskie@asburyseminary.edu

Office: 859.858.2206
Study (Home): 859.296.2236

Tuesdays, 6:15 – 9:00 pm
Spring 2005

Catalog Description

Treats the general content and historical development of New Testament theology from the perspective and methodology of contemporary biblical theology.

Prerequisites: OT520, NT520, IBS-1

Mixed Media Course

This course will be offered on Asbury's Kentucky campus, with participants also located on the Seminary's Florida campus. It will be offered through ***mixed mode delivery***—with use of ExL technology integrated into the instruction of the course, and with networking activities constituting a regular part of the course grade. Additionally, course materials (such as PowerPoint slides, handouts, co-curricular reading, et al.), as well as conferencing and a chat room, will be available on-line through an icon ("BT660A-SP05") placed on each student's desktop, using the Seminary's FirstClass Client program. This means that every student will need access to the Seminary's e-mail system; access is possible through use of computers available in the Information Commons areas of both the Kentucky and Florida campuses, through an internet service provider from a home computer, or via the World Wide Web.

For assistance with all technical matters related to accessing course materials, send your questions by e-mail to ExL_Support@asburyseminary.edu.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, participants should be able to:

1. Articulate the primary problems confronting persons interested in "biblical theology";

2. Demonstrate a critical awareness of representative ways of “doing” biblical theology” as a New Testament enterprise;
3. Articulate how various New Testament materials contribute to a New Testament theology; and
4. Reflective self-critically on the practice of “biblical theology” within the context of the Christian church.

Course Reading — Required

Fowl, Stephen, and L. Gregory Jones. *Reading in Communion: Scripture and Ethics in Christian Life*. Grand Rapids: Wm.B. Eerdmans, 1991.

Green, Joel B., and Max Turner, eds. *Between Two Horizons: Spanning New Testament Studies and Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Wm.B. Eerdmans, 2000.

One of the following two titles:

Caird, G.B., with L.D. Hurst. *New Testament Theology*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1994.

Wright, N.T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.

One of the following three titles:

Bauckham, Richard J. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Green, Joel B. *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1995.

Lincoln, Andrew T., and A.J.M. Wedderburn. *The Theology of the Later Pauline Letters*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1993.

Course Requirements

On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see either Patrick H. Alexander, et al., eds., *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999); or Carole Slade, *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses* (11th ed.; Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Students should submit written materials on time. Late papers will receive no written comments. Assignments that are more than one week late will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.

Florida students should submit written materials to my e-mail address (joel_green@asburyseminary.edu) as e-mail attachments: *.wpd, *.pdf, *.doc, or *.rtf. Kentucky students may do the same.

Students wishing feedback on written assignments prior to their due date may submit complete drafts at least 5 days prior to the due date.

(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation. See the schedule of reading for each class session. Note that assigned reading should be completed by the day listed. Attendance at and readiness to participate in all sessions of the course is expected. Persons who attend all sessions of the course will have 2 points added to their final grade. Discussion questions will be posted to a Conference Folder on the Intranet (“BT660–JBG”) in advance of most sessions to guide student preparation.

(2) Critical Review. Choose one of the three volumes from the list of Required Reading included in the series “New Testament Theology,” and write a critical review of approximately 1250-1500 words (5-6 pages) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due dates vary; see the Course Schedule. (20%)

For information on my expectations for book reviews, see the relevant document in the “Course Center.”

(3) Perspectives on the Practice of Biblical Theology. Reflection on and the practice of biblical theology should serve as a point of integration for other aspects of your theological training, including work in philology, history, exegesis, doctrine, and so on. How might the practice of biblical theology serve in this way? Your final paper should propose your best answer to that question, while exemplifying both how you understand the New Testament authors to be engaging in “biblical theology” and what you take to be key ingredients for engaging in biblical theology. In preparing your paper, you will want to draw on material from secondary reading for the course, as well as from one or more New Testament books (especially as exemplars of the practice of “biblical theology”). This assignment will be prepared in four (or five) parts:

(3.1) Team Reflections on Fowl and Jones. What do you learn from Fowl and Jones about reflection on and the practice of biblical theology? The purpose for submitting these reflections is *formative*—that is, the Team will receive feedback from the instructor, which can be used by each of its members in preparing the final paper for submission at the end of the semester. These papers need not take the form of a coherent argument, but instead might take the form of a series of items, each developed briefly, in paragraph form. Approximately 750–1000 words (3-4 pages), typed, double-spaced, using appropriate form and a standard referencing system. Due: 1 March. (10%)

(3.2) Team Reflections on Green and Turner. What do you learn from the contributions gathered together by Green and Turner about reflection on and the practice of biblical theology? The purpose for submitting these reflections is *formative*—that is, the Team will receive feedback from the instructor, which can be used by each of its members in preparing the final paper for submission at the end of the semester. These papers need not take the form of a coherent argument, but instead might take the form of a series of items, each developed briefly, in paragraph form. Approximately 750-1000 words (3-4 pages), typed, double-spaced, using appropriate form and a standard referencing system. Due: 29 March. (10%)

(3.3) Reflections on Caird/Hurst, or on Wright. What do you learn from Carid/Hurst or Wright about reflection on and the practice of biblical theology? The purpose for submitting these reflections is *formative*—that is, you will receive feedback from the instructor, which can be used in preparing your final paper for submission at the end of the semester. This is *not* a Team project; however, persons who work in groups of at least two, and who submit a single, collaborative paper, will receive 2 points of extra credit on this assignment. These papers need not take the form of a coherent argument, but instead might take the form of a series of items, each developed briefly, in paragraph form. Approximately 750–1000 words (3-4 pages), typed, double-spaced, using appropriate form and a standard referencing system. Due: 19 April. (10%)

(3.4) Draft of Final Paper. You may choose to submit a complete draft of your final paper in order to receive feedback from the instructor, which can be used in preparing your final paper for submission at the end of the semester. Due: 3 May. (0%)

(3.5) Final Paper. Approximately 3,000 words (12 pages), typed, double-spaced, using appropriate form and a standard referencing system. Due: 17 May. (50%)

For information on my expectations for these reflection papers and for the final paper, see the relevant documents in the Course Center.

Course Schedule

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| 8 Feb | 1. Biblical Theology: Problems and Proposals |
| 15 Feb | 2. New Testament Theology and the Christian Scriptures—1: Canon, Final Form, Bible/Scripture |
| 22 Feb | 3. New Testament Theology and the Christian Scriptures—2: Narrative Theology and Its Discontents |

- 1 Mar** **4. New Testament Theology and the Christian Scriptures—3: Intertextuality and Criteria of Validity in Interpretation**
Due: Reflections on Fowl and Jones.
- 8 Mar** **5. The Theology of the Gospels, the Four-Fold Gospel Canon, and the Contribution of the Gospels to Biblical Theology—1**
- 15 Mar** **6. The Theology of the Gospels, the Four-Fold Gospel Canon, and the Contribution of the Gospels to Biblical Theology—2**
Due: Review of Green.
- 22 Mar** **No Class / Reading Week**
- 29 Mar** **7. The Theology of the Gospels, the Four-Fold Gospel Canon, and the Contribution of the Gospels to Biblical Theology—3**
Due: Reflections on Green and Turner.
- 5 Apr** **8. Letter-Writing as a Theological Enterprise, the Two Letter Collections, and the Contribution of New Testament Letters to Biblical Theology**
- 12 Apr** **9. The Pauline Corpus, and the Contribution of Paul's Letters to Biblical Theology—1**
Due: Review of Lincoln and Wedderburn.
- 19 Apr** **10. The Pauline Corpus, and the Contribution of Paul's Letters to Biblical Theology—2**
Due: Reflections on Caird/Hurst or Wright.
- 26 Apr** **11. The So-Called Catholic Letters, and the Contribution of the Catholic Letters to Biblical Theology—1**
- 3 May** **12. The So-Called Catholic Letters, and the Contribution of the Catholic Letters to Biblical Theology—2**
Due: Draft of Final Paper (Optional)
- 10 May** **13. The Book of Revelation, New Testament Theology, and Biblical Theology**
Due: Review of Bauckham.
- 17 May** **Due:** Final Paper.