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NT 614 Exegesis of the Gospel of Mark

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NT 614

EXEGESIS OF MARK

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Spring 2001
3 semester units
Enrollment Limit: 30
Tuesdays, Thursday

Catalog Description

This course examines the Greek text of Mark. Detailed exegesis of the material in this Gospel will be the focus of this course, but with careful attention to the social, rhetorical, literary, and theological dimensions and implications of the text. There will be special attention to the Christological message of the book in its historical and canonical context.

Introduction

Among the New Testament Gospels, Mark's Gospel is widely recognized to be the first Gospel to be written, and seen as an important source for Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. Mark presents us with a compelling narrative in the form of an ancient biography focusing on Jesus as the Son of Man who came to give his life as a ransom for many.

Pre-requisites: NT 500 or 501/502, and IBS-- 1

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, participants should:

- (1) be able to recognize the importance of a close reading of the text of Mark;
- (2) be able to begin to master the skills necessary to exegete the Greek text of a NT document;
- (3) grasp the importance of the structure of Mark for understanding Mark's Christology;
- (4) understand the role of the Mark in the New Testament canon;
- (5) be able to propose fruitful ways in which Mark may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;
- (6) begin to grasp the manner that rhetoric or persuasion works in a narrative form such as we find in Mark's Gospel; and
- (7) have a heightened sense of and commitment to the Son of Man and the cross-shaped discipleship to which Mark calls Christians.

Course Requirements and Reading

On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carol Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses, 11th ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.

(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation: Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts in the Gospel of Mark (see the reading schedule, below), (2) taking notes on the Markan text, and (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the following commentaries. (15%)

Evans, Craig, The Gospel According to Mark 9-16, (Nashville: Word/Broadman, 2000)

Marcus, Joel, The Gospel According to Mark 1-8 (N.Y.:Doubleday, 2000)

Witherington, Ben The Gospel of Mark. A Socio Rhetorical Commentary (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000)

Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade, no more than three sessions may be missed.

(2) A Critical Review: A review of one of the following books, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the beginning of class, 14 March, 2002. As a critical review, this essay should summarize the author's central theses; demonstrate the author's approach to the subject matter; and critique the author's analysis (e.g., with regard to the author's method, its faithfulness to the primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on). (25%)

Rhoads, D. and D. Richie, Mark as Story. An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel, (Phila: Fortress, 1982)

Tuckett, C. ed. The Messianic Secret (Phila: Fortress, 1983)

Telford, W.R. Mark. New Testament Guides, (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995).

(3) A Research Assignment: An exegesis paper of approximately 20 pages (with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins), typed, with 1.5 or double spacing, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected pericope within Mark's Gospel. This paper should evidence *both* a close reading of the text *and* critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. (See the bibliographic resources in the commentaries, as well as *New Testament Abstracts* in the Library.) Due by 4:00 p.m., 18 April, 2002. (30%)

(4) A Final Exam: Comprehensive of the Lectures and content of the course (30%).

Reading Schedule

The student should plan to work through the commentaries as we progress through the text of Mark's Gospel.

Course Schedule

This course will meet twice weekly. The first week of classes will focus on prolegomena matters. Thereafter we will be gradually working through the exegesis book of Mark at a rate of 1.5 chapters a week.

Course Schedule

Week One will focus on methodological and background issues such as authorship, date, audience, genre, relationship to other Gospels.

Week Two Mark 1-2 will be examined in detail

Week Three Mark 3-4 will be examined in detail

Week Four	Mark 5-6 will be examined in detail
Week Five	Mark 7-8 will be examined in detail October 15 deadline for critical review
Week Six	Mark 9-10 will be examined in detail
Week Seven	Mark 11-12 will be examined in detail
Week Eight	Mark 13-14 will be examined in detail Nov. 10 Exegesis Paper due
Week Nine	Mark 15-16 will be examined in detail (including discussion of the various texts of Mark 16 and its possibly lost ending)
Week Ten	The historical and theological contribution of Mark to the canon
Week Eleven	Preparation for the Final Exam
Week Twelve	In class Final Exam