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BT 660 (AKA BT 606)

PAULINE THEOLOGY

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Jan./Spring 2003
3 semester units
Enrollment Limit: None
Jan. 6-10 (Wilmore);
5 Saturdays (Orlando)

Catalog Description

This course treats the general content of New Testament theology. The specific focus of this form of the course will be on Pauline theology, including an examination of Paul's symbolic universe, his storied world, his theologizing, and his theology.

Introduction

Paul's theology has been the primary source for Protestant theological thinking ever since Luther, and that orientation continued in large measure in the theological works of John Wesley, as his Standard Sermons, Notes of the NT, and reflections on his own conversion bear witness. It is thus crucial for any Protestant, and especially those under the Wesleyan umbrella come to grips with the Pauline corpus which makes up over a third of the NT.

Pre-requisites: NT 500 or 501/502, and IBS—1; or NT 520.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, participants should:

- (1) be able to recognize the importance of a theological reading of the texts of Paul's letters;
- (2) be able to begin to master the skills necessary to do an informed theological presentation of some Pauline topic;
- (3) grasp the importance of the storied world and use of rhetoric for understanding Paul's theology;
- (4) understand the role of the Paul's letters in the New Testament canon;

- (5) be able to propose fruitful ways in which Paul's letters may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;
- (6) begin to grasp the manner that rhetoric or persuasion works in an epistolary form such as we find in Paul's letters; and
- (7) have a heightened sense of and commitment to the Son of God and the cross-shaped discipleship to which Paul calls Christians.
- (8) have the ability to read Paul in ways that are spiritually formative.

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 textbooks; (2) taking notes on the Pauline text of the following epistles--- Galatians, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philippians and (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the textbooks. (15%)

Witherington, Ben The Paul Quest. The Search for the Jew of Tarsus, (Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1998) pb. This book should be read first as a general orientation to Pauline studies.

Witherington, Ben Paul's Narrative Thought World., (Louisville: Westminster/J. Knox, 1994), pb. This book should be read second, to give an overview of Pauline theology in its various topics.

Dunn, J.D.G. The Theology of Paul the Apostle, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998). Read 500 pages in this volume, your choice of which ones.

Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade, no more than one session 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 the first day of class. 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%)

THE STUDENT MAY PICK ANY ONE OF THE PAULINE VOLUMES IN THE SERIES NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY EDITED BY J.D.G.DUNN (CAMBRIDGE: CAMBRIDGE U. PRESS, 1991FF.)

(3) A Research Assignment: A theology 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 topic within Paul's theology (e.g. Christology, eschatology, pneumatology ecclesiology). 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 textbooks, as well as *New Testament Abstracts* in the Library.) Due by 4:00 pm, January 17 2003 (Wilmore), April 1 (Orlando) (30%)

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

Reading Schedule

See the comments listed above with the textbooks.

Course Schedule

Prolegomena matters will be dealt with in the first class, after which we will be working through the standing topics of Pauline theology, including his anthropological terms. There will necessarily be an especial focus on Pauline christology