

CANADIAN NAZARENE COLLEGE

PAUL THE APOSTLE - BL 377 (20.377) (6)

Professor Vern A Hannah - Instructor
(1995 - 1996)

This course may be taken for CNC and/or University of Manitoba credit. It normally requires an introductory-level Bible course as a pre-requisite.

A significant portion of the Fall Term will focus on general introductory material and an overview of the book of Acts to provide background to Paul's work and thought. The latter part of the Fall Term and the whole of the Winter Term will engage Paul through a study of his major letters. The book of Romans will receive special attention.

I General Course Outline

A. Fall Term

1. Introduction: Between Jesus and Paul; the Cultural - Political - Religious world of the first century AD.
2. Luke/Acts: Authorship - Date - Unity
3. The Nature and Purpose of Acts: History? Theology? or Both?
4. Major Events and Personalities in Acts (Expansion of 1:8)
5. Major Theological Themes in Acts:
 - The nature and work of the Holy Spirit
 - The apostolic preaching (*kerygma*)
 - The Christology of Acts
 - Mission: motives and methods
 - The early church community
6. Paul: The Man and his Mission - various views; the relation between Jesus and Paul; the nature of Paul's letters and their groupings.
7. Early Pauline Letters: Galatians and Thessalonians 1 & 2

B. Winter Term

1. Philippians
2. Corinthians 1 & 2
3. Romans
4. The Questioned Letters (Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)
5. Paul's Major Ideas

II Textbooks

- A. Ralph P. Martin, *New Testament Foundations: A Guide for Christian Students*, Vol. 2 - The Acts, The Epistles, The Apocalypse (Eerdmans, Rev. ed., 1986)
- B. David Wenham, *Paul: Follower of Jesus or Founder of Christianity? A New Look at the Question of Paul and Jesus* (Eerdmans, 1995)

III Course RequirementsA. Readings

1. The book of Acts and all the Pauline letters covered in class. Use a modern standard translation.
2. Read the relevant sections in Martin to parallel the class schedule coverage. (*Note: You will gain much more from the class sessions if you read these sections prior to coverage in class.*)
3. Read Wenham by November 28 and prepare a 5 - page summary - critique of the main issues. Include Wenham's positions on the issues. Due Date: Nov. 28/95.

B. Write a 10 - 12 page (typed) research paper on one of the topics below:

1. The "centre" of Paul's thought. Does he have one key integrating thought?
2. The meaning of salvation in Paul.
3. Christology in Paul (ie., the nature of Christ in his thought)
4. Paul's concept of the church
5. Paul's concept of the sacraments
6. Paul's view of women and marriage (was Paul a male chauvinist?)
7. The place of resurrection in Paul's thought (of Christ and of believers)
8. Paul's understanding of the gifts of the Spirit
9. The meaning and importance of prayer for Paul
10. The significance of the phrase "in Christ" for Paul
11. Did Paul's view of the parousia ("second coming") change?
12. Paul's understanding of nomos ("law")

(cont'd)

- 13. Sexual ethics in Paul's Teaching
- 14. Social ethics in Paul

(Note: Show evidence of research in the relevant major commentaries and Pauline Theologies) Due Date of Paper: April 2/96

- C. Regular class attendance and participation. Occasionally the class will meet in small groups for exegesis and discussion.
- D. Examinations (2)
 - (1) End of Fall Term - Dec. _____
 - (2) End of Winter Term - April '96

IV Basis of Evaluation

- A. Summary/Critique of Wenham - 25%
- B. Fall Term Exam - 20%
- C. Research Paper - 25%
- D. Winter Term Exam - 20%
- E. Class Participation - 10%

V Grading Scales (Approximate)

- "A" range: 85 - 100%
- "B" range: 75 - 84%
- "C" range: 60 - 74%
- "D" range: 50 - 59%
- "F" range: Below 50%

VI Policy on Late Assignments - Assignments handed in after the indicated due date will be reduced in value 10% *per day late*. Assignments will not be accepted after the last day of lectures of the respective terms except in "emergency" cases deemed legitimate by the Instructor.

VII Bibliography TBA