

## **Canadian Nazarene College**

**Paul the Apostle, BL 377**

**Fall 1999, Sept. 24-25; Oct. 22-23; Nov. 19-20;**

**Friday, 4:00-6:00 pm, 7:00-9:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm;**

**Instructor: Richard Thompson**

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### ***Course Objectives***

The apostle Paul unquestionably stands as one of the most important figures in the history of the Christian church. All of us today are deeply indebted to the man who pioneered and championed the revolutionary gospel mission to the Gentiles, as well as the writer who has given us thirteen of the twenty-seven books in our New Testament. This course is designed to study the life of the zealous Pharisee who was miraculously encountered by the risen Christ and called to proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles. We will rely upon the Acts narrative (chaps. 9-28) and the few autobiographical moments in Paul's letters in order to trace out his life as believer, missionary, and pastor. In the Fall term we will follow Paul from his conversion and call through his missionary journeys, his arrest and trials, his Roman imprisonment, and conclude with a possible reconstruction of his final years, thereby establishing the historical settings for his letters. In the Winter term we will study Paul's letters and theology.

### **Course Schedule**

#### Sept. 24-25

Prior to class, please read:

- 1) chaps. 6 & 7 in Carson, Moo, and Morris;
- 2) "Conversion and Call" (pp. 156-163) in Hawthorne and Martin;
- 3) Acts 9:1-31; 11:19-30; 21:37-22:21; 24:1-16; 26:1-23; and Gal. 1-2;

1. Introduction to Paul
  - Paul the Jew
  - Paul the Pharisee
  - Paul the Roman citizen
  - Paul's Hellenistic background
2. Overview of Acts
  - Authorship, Date, and Unity
  - Purpose: History and Theology
  - Major Themes
3. Paul's conversion and call
4. Beginnings of his ministry
5. Famine relief visit to Jerusalem
  - Chronological difficulties (Acts 11,15; Gal. 2)

### Oct. 22-23

Ministry chart due at the beginning of Friday class.

Prior to class, please read Acts 13-20.

6. First missionary journey
7. The Jerusalem Council
8. Second missionary journey
9. Third missionary journey

### Nov. 19-20

Fee book review due at the beginning of Friday class.

Prior to class, please read:

- 1) Acts 21-28;
  - 2) "Paul in Acts and Letters" (pp. 679-691) in Hawthorne and Martin
10. Arrest and trials
  11. Journey to Rome and imprisonment
  12. Return to the Aegean and second imprisonment
  13. Discussion of Fee, *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*

### **Course Requirements**

1. Attendance is mandatory. Due to the intensive nature of teaching this course over three weekends it is absolutely necessary that students attend all three weekends in their entirety. Assignments are due on the dates given. Extensions will be granted only in the case of extraordinary circumstances, and in consultation with both the instructor and the Academic Dean.

2. Complete a 5-6 page ministry chart that documents the proclamation, confirmation, reception, opposition, and instruction of Paul's message in each city he evangelised. Details on the manner in which this assignment is to be done will be given in our first class (Sept. 24). Due: Oct. 22.

3. Read *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God* and write a 5-6 page critical review. Due: Nov. 19.

4. Final Examination

Date of Exam: Dec. 99

Class participation	10 %
Fee book review	25 %
Ministry chart	25 %
Final exam	40 %

## **Required Texts**

New Testament.

Fee, Gordon D. *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996); 203 pp.

Wright, N.T. *What Saint Paul Really Said* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997); 173 pp. [to be used in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester]

## **On Reserve**

D.A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992).

G.F. Hawthorne, and R.P. Martin, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993).

## **Recommended Reading**

Bruce, F.F. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free* (Exeter: Paternoster, 1977).

Wenham, David. *Paul: Follower of Jesus or Founder of Christianity?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995).