



NT 507 – NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY
Spring 2017 • 2 Semester Hours
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I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In biblical theology, God’s revelation of himself and his purposes in Scripture is often compared to the gradual blossoming of a flower, with the New Testament presenting that flower in full bloom. This course provides an overview of New Testament theology, noting in particular the ways in which the key themes of God’s revelation throughout the various epochs of Old Testament redemptive history have blossomed to fulfillment in Christ and his Church. The course will also examine the essential theological unity of the New Testament within the rich diversity of its writers’ personalities and modes of expression while taking note of the progression of revelation even within the New Testament period. Prerequisite: At least two of the three course, NT 501-503.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To gain a deeper appreciation for the unity of God’s Word within the rich diversity of its revelation;
2. To appreciate the progressive nature of Scripture as it reveals God’s nature and his will for his people throughout the various epochs of redemptive history;
3. To grasp the distinctive character and unique focus of the various portions of the New Testament canon;
4. To appreciate the difference between the partial and shadowy revelation of the Old Testament and the more complete and substantial revelation in the New Testament;
5. To reflect deeply on particular theological themes as these have been progressively revealed from one redemptive epoch to another;
6. To grow in our commitment to grasping and obeying God’s Word in its New Testament fullness as it is understood in the light of the foreshadowing of the Old Testament revelation.

III. COURSE STRUCTURE

1. **Class Sessions:** Class sessions will meet for two fifty-minute class hours each week. The first class hour will be devoted to lectures that introduce the essential themes and structure of New Testament Biblical Theology. The second hour will provide opportunities for students to work together in small groups in a “Biblical Theology Workshop” to discuss important theological themes, build the skills necessary for developing an informed biblical-theological understanding, and clarify the differences between biblical and systematic theology.
2. **Lectures and Reading Assignments:** The lectures and assigned readings from Kruger text are crafted to work together in leading you through theological treatments of the major portions and themes of New Testament revelation. Thus the timely completion of each assigned reading is essential to fulfilling the learning goals of the course. Completion of the reading assignments will be assessed by alternating reading summaries and quizzes throughout the semester, each covering the week’s reading assignment. See the course calendar below for the specific weekly reading assignments.
3. **Research Paper:** Each student will have the opportunity to reflect in greater depth on a particular theological theme and to trace its development throughout the Bible, culminating in the NT era. While the paper should reflect on how the theme unfolded throughout the various periods of OT redemptive history, its focus should be on how the theme developed within and reached its culmination during the New Covenant era. For example, your paper could trace the theme of

sacrifice from the offering made by Abel and Cain to the believer’s current obligation to offer himself or herself as a living sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1-2). An “A” paper will be approximately 5,000 words in length (including bibliography) and will interact with at least 5 outside sources of published scholarly research (books or articles) that deal with biblical theology. The paper is due by 11:59 p.m. on May 11, 2013, and late papers will be downgraded at a rate of 10% per week. The theological theme to be dealt with in your paper should be announced by Feb. 16 and is subject to instructor approval.

4. **Student Presentation:** Each student will be responsible to present a 20-minute biblical-theological overview of the theme chosen for the exegetical paper. The presentation should focus on how the theme unfolds through the various periods of redemptive history and culminates in a full revelation in the era of the New Covenant. You should provide your fellow students with an outline of the presentation. The use of audio-visual media is optional. Presentation dates will be assigned randomly and will be announced on Feb. 23.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignment
Feb 6	Lect. 1: Introduction to NTBT	Introduction, pp. 21-27
Feb 13	Lect. 2: The Synoptic Vision: 3-D Gospel	Matthew, pp. 29-60
Feb 20	Lect. 3a: The Synoptic Vision: Mark and Matthew	Mark, pp. 61-92
Feb 27	Lect. 3b: The Synoptic Vision: Luke	Luke, pp. 93-114
Mar 6	Lect. 4: Jesus through John’s Eyes	John, pp. 115-136
Mar 13	Lect. 5: The Worldwide Gospel in Acts	Acts, pp. 137-168
Mar 20	Lect. 6: Paul’s Early Epistles	1-2 Thessalonians, pp. 321-348
Mar 27	<i>No Class--Spring Break</i>	
Apr 3	Lect. 7a: Paul’s Major Epistles: Romans	Romans, pp. 169-194
Apr 10	Lect. 7b: Paul’s Major Epistles: Galatians	Galatians, pp. 249-266
Apr 17	Lect. 8: Paul’s Later Epistles: The Pastorals	1 Timothy-Titus, pp. 357-400
Apr 24	Lect. 9: The General Epistles	Hebrews-James, pp. 411-452
May 1	Lect. 10: The Book of Revelation	Revelation, pp. 517-554
May 8	Student Presentation	NT Canon, pp. 555-566
May 15	<i>No Class--Term Paper Due by Midnight</i>	

IV. ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

Attendance at each two-hour class session is essential to integrating the material learned through the readings with the weekly lectures and workshop activities. However, because unexpected circumstances sometimes arise, two excused absences during the semester will be allowed without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5% diminishment of the final grade. Having more than four unexcused absences without prior approval by the instructor will normally result in a failing grade for the course. Excuses will be granted only for personal or family emergencies such as hospitalization or natural disaster, but do not include such things as difficulties in personal, family, or vocational scheduling or transportation issues.

Letter grades will be assigned using the scale presented in the seminary catalog. Your grade for this course will be weighted as follows:

1. Reading Quizzes: 25%
2. Biblical Theology Workshop Projects: 25%
3. Student Presentation: 25%
4. Research Paper: 25%

V. RESOURCES

Required Reading:

Kruger, Michael J., ed. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament*. Crossway, 2016, 1993.

Supplemental Reading (not required):

Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Banner Of Truth, 1994.

Ridderbos, Herman. *Redemptive History & the New Testament Scriptures*. P&R, 1988.

Morris, Leon. *New Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1991.