NT502: NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY II

Fall 2026 ● 2 Semester Hours

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I. PURPOSE

This course will survey the New Testament epistles of the Apostle Paul—Romans through Philemon. Paul was the early church's most brilliant theologian, and his letters form a virtual systematic theology of the church. Paul was also a caring pastor, and his letters reflect his pastoral concern to strengthen the infant churches by grounding them in the gospel of grace. Most of Paul's letters were addressed to particular churches and thus deal with the issues that were of concern those congregations. Reared in a Jewish home in the very Roman city of Tarsus, Paul was ideally suited to carry the gospel message "to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile." His theological, pastoral, and missionary insights will equip students with the knowledge and vision necessary to serve Christ effectively in today's world.

As a vital part of ministry preparation, this course is designed to give you exposure to the content and flow the Pauline epistles, Romans through Philemon. As you thoughtfully and prayerfully read through each of these books in an English translation, the lectures and assigned readings will assist you in discerning the major figures, events, and themes of each letter and how each writer's message fits into the canon of Scripture and the larger flow of biblical history. Understanding the purpose and historical setting of each letter will also help you gain the necessary perspective for good understanding and accurate interpretation. Reflection on the major theological themes of each letter will enable you to gain a balanced and comprehensive understanding of New Testament teaching.

II. EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

- To thoughtfully and reflectively read through each of the thirteen Pauline Epistles;
- To gain an overview of the historical context and background of each of these letters;
- To grasp the flow and theme of each of the Apostle's messages for the early church and in the larger context of God's redemptive program;
- To become personally engaged with the character and message of each letter and with the Lord who inspired these letters, with a view to their application in our lives;
- To explore ways in which these books can be used effectively for preaching and teaching the gospel in our current generation.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Class Structure: The course will meet for thirteen two-hour evening class sessions. Generally speaking, preparation for each week will include Bible reading, course textbook reading, and a reading report or quiz. To see a more detailed outline, refer to the schedule below. All assignments will be submitted online using the Canvas Learning Management System. Grading of assignments and tests will also be done in Canvas.

2. Reading Assignments: Since a limited amount of material can be communicated through the weekly lectures, and since thoughtful and critical reading is such an essential skill for your personal, pastoral, and academic development, reading assignments form an essential part of the learning process for this course.

The primary textbook for this inductive survey course is the Bible itself. Weekly readings from Romans through Philemon in a major English Bible translation (e.g., NKJV, NASV, NIV, ESV, NLT) have been assigned. It is highly recommended that you complete these weekly Bible readings by dividing them up into daily readings rather than attempting to burn through them in larger blocks. Daily reading will help ensure adequate time for reflection on the message of each book, especially when accompanied with prayer and an obedient heart. Daily reading also lightens the load, requiring only a few pages of Bible

reading per day. Progress in the Bible reading assignments will be assessed through weekly "honor system" reports on the percentage of the Bible assignment completed.

These weekly Bible readings will be supplemented with readings from D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, Second Edition (Zondervan, 2005), which will serve to put the biblical readings in historical perspective as well as to provide an overview of the structure, themes, and contents of each biblical book studied. Progress in the completion of the weekly Bible and textbook reading assignments will be assessed by alternating reading quizzes and assigned reading summaries covering each module's reading assignment.

4. Examinations: Midterm and final examinations containing true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in questions each will assess your familiarity with the lecture material for the course. Each exam will focus only on the lecture contents for the six weeks leading up to the exam. Both exams are "open Bible" and "open notes"—they may be completed using only the Bible and the notes taken while listening to the course lectures.

3. Student Presentation: Each student will be responsible to make a twenty-minute presentation on one of the letters being studied, or a portion thereof. The presentation should essentially build a bridge between the selected letter's message and our contemporary situation. Generally speaking, your presentation should offer 1) an overview of the key themes of the letter's message in its original historical setting, 2) an explanation of some relevant ways in which the apostle's message addresses our current situation, and 3) an outline of a series of four or more messages you would preach or teach applying the apostle's message to that congregation. This outline of sermons should contain a) a provocative title for each message, b) an outline of the major points of each message, c) a one-sentence summary of each major point, and d) a one-sentence summary of how hearers should respond to each message.

IV. GRADING

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

- 30%: Reading quizzes
- 25%: Midterm lecture exam
- 25%: Final lecture exam
- 20%: Student presentation

V. TEXTBOOKS

Required:

A major translation of the Bible (ESV, CSB, NASV, NIV, NKJV, NRSV, KJV).

D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo*, Introduction to the New Testament,* Second Edition (Zondervan, 2005), 781 pages. [This text will be used for all three New Testament Survey courses.]

Recommended:

Michael J. Kruger, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Crossway, 2016).

2026 Course Outline

Wk	Lecture Topics	Bible Reading	Textbook Reading (Carson/Moo)
1	Course Introduction	-----	Ch. 9, Paul: Apostle & Theologian, pp. 354-385
2	Galatians	Galatians	Ch. 12, Galatians, pp. 456-475
3	1-2 Thessalonians	1-2 Thessalonians	Ch. 16, 1-2 Thessalonians, pp. 532-551
4	1 Corinthians, pt. 1	1 Corinthians 1-8	Ch. 11a, 1-2 Corinthians, pp. 415-429
5	1 Corinthians, pt. 2	1 Corinthians 9-16	Ch. 11b, 1-2 Corinthians, pp. 429-436
6	2 Corinthians	2 Corinthians	Ch. 11c, 1-2 Corinthians, pp. 436-451
7	Romans, pt. 1	Romans 1-8	Ch. 10, Romans, pp. 391-401
	Midterm Lecture Test (online, from home, no class)		
8	Romans, pt. 2	Romans 9-16	Ch. 10, Romans, pp. 402-411
9	Ephesians	Ephesians	Ch. 13, Ephesians, pp. 479-496
10	Colossians & Philemon	Colossians & Philemon	Ch. 15, Colossians, pp. 516-529; Ch. 18, Philemon, pp. 588-594
11	Philippians	Philippians	Ch. 14, Philippians, pp. 498-513
12	Pastoral Epistles	1-2 Timothy, Titus	Ch. 17, Pastoral Epistles, pp. 554-584
13	**Student Presentations**		
	Final Lecture Test (online, from home, no class)		