**NT 520 PAULINE EPISTLES**

**(1 Corinthians through Philemon)**

**Reformed Theological Seminary**

**Dr. William Barcley**

**Spring, 2021**

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exposition of Paul’s epistles in chronological order that emphasizes the application of Paul’s theology to the pastoral needs of the churches of his day and ours (RTS Catalog).

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To understand Paul’s letters within their first century historical setting. Biblical studies must always begin with historical questions: Who wrote it? What were the particular circumstances of the author? To whom is it addressed? What were the circumstances of the addressees? What factors, either in the author’s life or in the lives of the addressees, might have caused the letter to be written?
2. To see clearly many of the implications of Paul’s letters both for theology and for daily life.
3. To gain a better understanding of the biblical foundation for many of the rich theological concepts presented in the letters. These include justification by faith, sanctification, union with Christ, redemption, reconciliation, covenant, propitiation and election.
4. To see how Paul applies his theology to situations facing his churches, and so to understand better the application of Paul’s theology to churches today.
5. To gain an appreciation for Paul not as “abstract theologian,” but as a missionary, and to see how Paul’s letters serve his missiological purposes.
6. To gain insight into the critical question, How does Paul describe the believer’s relationship to the Law? This has important implications both for understanding Paul and for understanding the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.
7. To understand some of the main lines of development in the history of interpreting Paul.

# TEXTS

The Bible

M. Kruger, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized (BTI)*

P. T. O’Brien, *Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul*

H. Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*

# EVALUATION

Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

1. A mid-term exam worth 40% of your final grade.
2. A final exam, worth 40% of your final grade.
3. Quizzes on the assigned reading from Ridderbos. Most Tuesdays we will have a short quiz covering the assigned reading from Ridderbos for that particular week. The quiz could be given at any time during the class period. These quizzes will be worth 10% of your grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
4. Periodic assignments closely examining a crucial text in the Pauline corpus. For those who have had Greek, the assignment will be to translate the passage into English (without using an English translation), to parse all verbs and verbal forms, and to list five exegetical insights per verse based on the Greek text. For non-Greeks (Paul calls you barbarians), the assignment is to outline the passage and list 15 exegetical, theological or practical observations per verse. These assignments are worth 10% of your grade. They are due at the beginning of the class period. Late papers will automatically lose one letter grade, and one letter grade will be deducted for every day late.
5. Class attendance is a requirement for this course. Students should notify the professor ahead of time, if possible, regarding any unavoidable absences. Unexcused absences may affect the student’s final grade.

# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(Note: All numbers in the assignment section indicate chapters, not pages.)

## Week

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)Dates

2/2

2/9

2/16

2/23

3/2

3/9

3/15-19

3/23

3/30Lecture and Assignments

Introduction

Galatians

BTI, 8; Ridderbos, 1-2

1 and 2 Thessalonians

BTI, 12-13; Ridderbos, 3

1 and 2 Corinthians

BTI, 7; Ridderbos, 4-6

1 and 2 Corinthians

**Assignment due: 2 Cor. 5:17-21**

**Mid-term exam**

**Spring Break**

Colossians

BTI, 11

**Assignment due: Col. 1:15-20**

Ephesians

BTI, 9; Ridderbos, 7

9)

10)

11)

12)

13)

4/6

4/13

4/20

4/27

5/4

Philippians

BTI, 10; Ridderbos, 8-9

Philemon

BTI, 18; Ridderbos, 10-11

New Perspective on Paul; Pastoral Epistles

BTI, 14-15; Ridderbos, 12; O’Brien, 1-2

Pastoral Epistles

BTI, 16-17;

Assignment due: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Catch Up/Review  
O’Brien, 3-6

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Pauline Epistles

Professor: Barcley

Campus: Charlotte

Date: Spring 2021

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| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.*  *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* | | **Rubric**   * Strong * Moderate * Minimal * None | **Mini-Justification** |
| **Articulation**  **(oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong |  |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong |  |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate |  |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong |  |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Strong |  |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Strong |  |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Moderate |  |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Minimal |  |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | Moderate |  |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal |  |