

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte

**GCTS NT 504: Paul and His Letters**

2012 Spring Session

**I. Course Instructor:** Paul Bowers

**II. Email contact:** bowersgcts@bellsouth.net

**III. Class Schedule:** January 16-20, 2012, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

**IV. Course Description.** Paul’s pastoral and missionary understanding of the Christian faith is examined by assessing the distinctive settings and themes of his letters in the context of his life and missionary labors.

**V. Course Relationship to the Curriculum.** NT 504 satisfies English Bible requirements for the MACC, MAR, and MACL programs, and is a general elective for all other degree programs.

**VI. Course Objectives.** On completing the course, the student should be able:

- to demonstrate a general familiarity with Paul’s first-century background and setting, and the chief issues in modern critical discussion of Paul;
- to demonstrate a more detailed acquaintance with the principal contours of Paul’s life, his letters, and his theology, including the basics of Pauline geography and chronology, and the particular occasion, structure, and themes of Paul’s individual letters;
- to demonstrate a growing awareness of the significance of Paul and his letters, and their relevance for life and ministry today.

**VII. Course Requirements.** Achievement of the course objectives will be facilitated through a variety of engagements and assignments. The successful completion of these will require each student to spend approximately 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and outside of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments. More specific description of the assignments are given below.

<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b>Expected Time Commitment</b>	<b>Student’s Actual Time Spent</b>
<i>Class sessions</i>	30 hours	
<i>Reading</i>	50 hours	
<i>Research papers</i>	45 hours	
<i>Final exam</i>	10 hours	

Using the above chart, students are to keep a record of time spent on each course-related task, and to submit a final report showing the actual hours spent on each task. The chart should be submitted to your instructor, along with the final exam and reading report, by March 19.

### VIII. Course Texts

- Bird, M. F. *Introducing Paul: The Man, His Mission, and His Message*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2008
- Hawthorne, G. F., *et al*, editors. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 1993
- Capes, D. B., R. Reeves, and E. Richards, *Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters and Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2007

**IX. Course Assignments.** Course assignments have been designed to maximize the benefit of the course for the student. The total span of assignments takes into account the GCTS expectation that for this post-graduate course the student should anticipate investing before, during, and after the week of class sessions approximately 105 hours of personal effort outside of class time.

**Important:** Before the beginning of the first class session the student is required to have read Capes *et al.*, pages 13-140. We have only a single week together for this intensive course. Essential to the usefulness of the week for all of us is therefore that this modest assignment should be fulfilled by everyone. Students will report at the beginning of the first class session whether the assignment has been completed as directed, and this report will be calculated into the final course grade.

The student is also encouraged, before the first class session, to work ahead: (1) by reading *Acts 13-28*, and *Romans—Philemon* (this reading must be done in a version other than the one the student normally uses); and/or (2) by reading the book by Bird.

- A. Reading. Given the nature of this course, the reading assignments are essential for its effectiveness, and are therefore mandatory. The grade for required reading will be based on timely completion of the assignments. A reading report sheet will be provided, and is to be submitted with the final exam, due by March 19, 2012. Confirmation of completion of all assigned reading is mandatory for receiving a final grade. The following is required reading:
- Capes *et al.*, pages 13-140, due by January 16, before the first class session begins; pages 141-308, due by January 30
  - New Testament: *Acts 13-28*, and *Romans—Philemon* [in a version other than that normally used], due by January 23
  - *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*: 200 columns, from articles in the listing given below; first 100 columns due by February 6; second 100 columns due by February 20
  - Bird, pages 11-171, due by March 5
- B. Research papers. The student is to submit three written papers, 1200-1500 words each, on:
1. a critical issue in the modern study of Paul (due by February 13)
  2. a major theological theme of Paul (due by February 27)
  3. a modern book about Paul (due by March 12)

In each case the student will select, with the instructor's concurrence, from a list of options provided below. The papers must be both descriptive and evaluative/reflective. They should be computer-generated and in proper academic format. Grading will take into consideration: neatness of presentation, effort, reliability, completeness, and quality of personal interaction.

The following specifications per paper should also be followed meticulously, point by point, in order to maximize the engagement as well as the grade.

1. The paper on a selected *critical issue* should: (a) describe the principal elements of the problem; (b) identify the principal positions held; (c) summarize some of the leading evidence; and (d) indicate the direction of the student's own critical reflection towards a solution.
2. The paper on a selected *theological theme* should: (a) offer overall orientation to the theme; (b) describe several principal elements of the theme; (c) reference several key Pauline texts illustrating the theme; (d) briefly indicate any major modern debate; and (e) suggest how the theme fits into Paul's larger theological framework.
3. The paper on a selected *modern book* should: (a) offer basic information about the author; (b) explain the intention of the book; (c) describe the book's content (but do *not* outline or summarize its content); (d) suggest the book's particular significance within modern Pauline studies; (e) offer some personal impressions about the book. (If the student can also reference one or more scholarly reviews of the book, it will enhance impressions when grading.)

For the first two papers, the student should expect to use material from Bird, Capes, the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, and the course bibliography. For the third paper, the student may also want to explore possible resources on the internet, especially for data on the book's author or for scholarly reviews of the book.

C. *Final exam.* The final exam will cover everything presented in class sessions. It will consist of objective questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. The student will be allowed two hours for the exam. The final exam will be due on or before **March 19**, together with the reading report, and the chart of time spent on course assignments.

**X. Course Submissions.** All required submissions, whether research papers, reading report, chart of time spent on course assignments, or final exam, should be posted (or handed in) to: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, attention Trish King, 14542 Choate Circle, Charlotte NC 28273. Or alternatively (with the exception of the final exam) they may be sent by email attachment to the instructor at: <bowersgts@bellsouth.net> .

## XI. Course Grading

required reading	20 %
research papers	30 %
final exam	50 %

A passing grade for the final examination is required for passing the course.

Grading scheme for required reading: A—all readings completed on time. B—all readings completed, at least 80% on time. C—all readings completed, at least 50% on time (but not 80%). D— all readings completed, but less than 50% on time. F—all readings not completed by March 19, 2012. Confirmation of completion of all assigned reading is mandatory for receiving a final grade.

## **XII. Course Administration**

*Attendance Policy:* With only a single week available for the course, faithful attendance is an essential part of this course. Students should take care to organize their schedules beforehand to avoid any absences. Emergencies will be handled according to the set seminary policies.

*Document Formatting and Citation Style Requirements:* All written assignments should be prepared in MS-Word format (no pdf files, .dat documents, or Word Perfect documents). Assignments should be presented in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable.

*Grade Penalty for Late Submissions.* Students are required to complete all required submissions by the stated due dates. If a student fails to submit his/her work by the due date, the professor has the right either to refuse the work or to accept it with applicable penalties. The penalty for late submission is one full letter grade at time of lateness, and a further full letter grade per week thereafter. Penalties do not apply to course work with approved extensions. Work turned in later than March 19, 2012 will normally require an extension approved by the Seminary.

*Final Exam Process.* The final exam will be handed out in class sealed, and will have space for a proctor's validating signature. The proctor (who must be neither a family member nor a GCTS student) will sign the exam in verification that it was opened, taken, and closed in the proctor's presence, completed at one sitting within the specified time frame, and that no study aids were used. The exam must either be handed in at the GCTS office by the stated due date, or be post-marked to the GCTS office by that date.

*Internet Use During Class Sessions.* Students are to refrain from accessing the internet at any time during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Surfing the web, checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to the conduct of class sessions, and prevent the student from participating to best personal advantage.

*Contact:* The instructor may be reached most conveniently by email at: <bowersgcts@bellsouth.net> Otherwise leave a message for the instructor with Trish King at the GCTS office (1-800-600-1212). In cases of special need, brief personal contact time prior to or following class sessions may be arranged on request.

## **XIII. Course Outline**

Monday:	Orientation; Paul's background; Paul the man; Paul's early life; conversion; modern Pauline studies
Tuesday	Literary issues: authenticity, integrity, provenance; destination/date; occasion; textual criticism
Wednesday	Paul's missionary career, letters; early letters, major letters, prison letters, final letters
Thursday	Paul's theology: core and frame; Christology; soteriology; ecclesiology; ethics; eschatology
Friday	Paul's final years; Paul's significance and relevance; direction for further study

**XIV. Selected issues, themes, books, and articles** for course assignments

*Selected critical issues:*

Paul's Damascus Experience; Destination of Galatians; The Ending of Romans;  
Provenance of the Prison Epistles; Integrity of 2 Corinthians; Authenticity of Ephesians;  
The Colossian Heresy

*Selected theological themes:*

Anthropology ; Christology ; The Church; Eschatology; Ethics; In Christ; The Law;  
Mission; Righteousness, Justification; Salvation; The Spirit

*Selected books:*

Barnett, Paul. *Paul: Missionary of Jesus*.  
Barrett, C. K. *Paul: An Introduction to His Thought*.  
Das, A. Andrew. *Paul and the Jews*.  
Dodd, B J. *The Problem with Paul*.  
Donfried, Karl P. *Paul, Thessalonica, and early Christianity*  
Donfried, Karl P. *The Romans Debate*. 2nd ed.  
Fee, Gordon. *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*.  
Gorman, Michael J. *Cruciformity : Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross*.  
Hengel, Martin. *The Pre-Christian Paul*.  
Horrell, David G. *An Introduction to the Study of Paul*.  
McRay, John. *Paul: His Life and Teaching*.  
Murphy-O'Connor, J. *Paul : A Critical Life*.  
Polhill, John B., *Paul and His Letters*.  
Schnabel, Eckhard J. *Paul the Missionary*.  
Schreiner, Thomas R. *Paul, Apostle of God's glory in Christ*  
Stirewalt, M. L. *Paul, the Letter Writer*.  
Thiselton, Anthony C. *The living Paul*  
Wenham, David. *Paul and Jesus: The True Story*.  
Westerholm, Stephen, *Understanding Paul : the early Christian worldview*  
Winter, Bruce W. *After Paul Left Corinth*  
Witherington, Ben. *The Paul Quest*.  
Wright, N. T. *Paul in Fresh Perspective*

*Selected articles:*

[articles in the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* suitable for the reading assignment]

Adam and Christ; Adoption; Apocalypticism; Apostasy; Apostle; Authority; Baptism;  
Body; Body of Christ; Canon; Center of Paul's Theology; Christ; Church; Church Order;  
Conversion; Covenant; Cross; Death of Christ; Dying and Rising with Christ; Election;  
Elements; Ethics; Expiation; Faith; Flesh; Freedom; Fruit of the Spirit; Gentiles; Gifts of  
the Spirit; Gospel; Hellenism; Hermeneutics; Holiness; Holy Spirit; Hymns; Imitation; In  
Christ; Israel; Itineraries; Jew/Paul the; Justification; Kingdom of God; Law; Letters;  
Lord; Lord's Supper; Man and Woman; Mission; Mystery; Opponents; OT in Paul; Paul  
and His Interpreters; Paul in Acts; Paul in Early Church Tradition; Prayer; Principalities;  
Prophecy; Psychology; Qumran; Religions; Greco-Roman; Resurrection; Righteousness;  
Sacrifice; Salvation; Satan; Sexuality; Signs; Wonders; Sin; Slave; Social Setting; Social-

Scientific Approaches; Son of God; Spirituality; Suffering; Textual Criticism; Tongues; Travel; Triumph; Universalism; Virtues; Wisdom; Works of Law; World; Worship; Wrath.

## XV. Assignment Schedule

### *due dates*

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| Jan 16 | Capes, et al., <i>Rediscovering Paul</i> , pages 13-140 [due before first session] |
| Jan 23 | <i>Acts 13-28, Romans—Philemon</i> [use a version other than that normally used]   |
| Jan 30 | Capes, et al., <i>Rediscovering Paul</i> , pages 141-308                           |
| Feb 6  | <i>Dictionary of Paul and His Letters</i> [100 columns from listed articles]       |
| Feb 13 | research paper on a critical issue in the modern study of Paul                     |
| Feb 20 | <i>Dictionary of Paul and His Letters</i> [100 more columns from listed articles]  |
| Feb 27 | research paper on a major theological theme of Paul                                |
| Mar 5  | Bird, M. F. <i>Introducing Paul</i> , pages 11-171                                 |
| Mar 12 | research paper due on a modern book about Paul                                     |
| Mar 19 | final exam—plus reading report, and chart of time spent on course assignments      |

## GCTS Syllabus Addendum

### **Academic Standards**

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

### **ADA Policy**

The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

### **Cancellation of Class**

In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancellation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up

weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your *Student Handbook*.

### **Extension Policy**

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s *Academic Calendar*, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

### **Grades**

Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals, who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

### **Returned Work**

Submitted course work will be returned to the student provided s/he provides a self addressed and postage paid envelope with his/her final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed once the grade has been assessed and issued.