In 2 Corinthians, Paul develops how theology is integrated with practice. Attention will be given to the historical context, to the central message, and to Paul’s style of communicating. 2 Corinthians is particularly helpful for developing principles for ministry, financial stewardship, communication with an antagonistic congregation, and the relationship between the two testaments. Class is oriented to students practicing Greek translation.

GOALS:

This course addresses the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Mission Statement by:

1. encouraging students to become more knowledgeable of the structure and theology of 2 Corinthians in its historical milieu and more competent in using interpretative and application skills learned in NT502 and Greek 1 & 11 (mission goal 1); Students will be encouraged to become creative, original, careful scholars who employ primary source materials and who allow their conclusions to flow from a careful reading of the text and to further an enjoyment and awe of God and of the New Testament.

2. introducing students to the Christian scholarship issues in 2 Corinthians (goal 2);

3. helping students mature in their character, outlook, conduct, relationships, and involvement in society by the teacher’s model, class dialogue, mentoring opportunities, and prayer (goal 4);

4. providing resources and strategies that will lead to effective local and global ministry, missions, evangelism, and discipleship as evident in 2 Corinthians (goals 3,5,6).

TEXT BOOKS (*required for reading):


Buy 1-2 good quality commentaries:


www.archive.org/details/criticalexegetic


or Nestle-Aland, Novum Testamentum Graece 28th ed. isbn 978-3-43805-160-8


Students may not use an interlinear or an analytical lexicon, except to confirm translation.


ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Complete a 3-5 pp. historical context study of 2 Corinthians by week 3, Sept. 26 (15%, grace Sept 30, 9 a.m. professor’s home). Use N.T. + ancient references.

2. Hand in an original 1 page “character” study and 1 page outline of 2 Corinthians by week 4, Oct. 3 (20%, grace Oct. 7, 9 a.m. professor’s house). The first two papers may be rewritten by week 8 if both drafts and original cover sheet are returned (Oct. 31).

3. Complete a well-integrated, original 8-12 pp. paper, double-spaced (50%) by week 9, Nov. 7 (grace Nov. 11). Papers may be re-written by week 13, Dec. 5 (include
original paper + original cover sheet). The student will be asked to share findings briefly in class.

All M. Div. candidates and M.A. New Testament majors must do at least two exegesis papers at the 600 level. The exegesis paper includes: lexical, grammatical, background, and literary studies, one study of a textual variation unit, a (1-2 page) application (sermon or lesson outline), an appendix (sentence flow, etc.), and a bibliography of books used. (Th.M. elevated 13-17 pp. required)

4. (13%) The highest of 2 quizzes will be recorded (5%). If only one quiz is taken, the grade will be reduced 10%. Students will translate the designated verses (7%), write 1-2 insights (1%) from the Greek, which should be shared in every class. Keep a journal (word list of Greek words & parsing not recognized, insights and questions encountered in reading 2 Corinthians, especially on what you have learned about God and ministry). After four hours of translation on a weekly assignment full credit may be received. Competence in Greek is necessary for a passing grade for the course.

5. (2%) Read in English Acts and all of Paul’s letters and other assigned books. Students will read The People’s Bible Commentary devotionals on 2 Corinthians only after own translation and insights are noted. Also, read a book related to 2 Corinthians from bibliography or with professor’s approval (@200 pp.). Hand in a 1 page review (summary and analysis) by last class day (grace on book review: Dec 12). (Th.M. elevated reading and review required of one additional book related to 2 Cor @200 pp.)

6. Attendance at every class session except for an emergency. Attendance, completion of required and optional reading assignments, and effort affect border grades.

**WEEKLY SESSIONS**

**Week 1 (Sept. 12)**

A. Introduction to course, procedures, and requirements.

B. Explain “character” study. Who is Paul? Highlights of his life.

**Assignments for next class:** Begin historical context study of 2 Corinthians due week 3. Read Acts (if possible before next class) and skim all of Paul’s letters. Reread 1 and 2 Corinthians with attention to the character of the Corinthians and significant events in the Corinthian ministry. Translate 2 Cor. 1:1-14 (opt. all 24 verses). Prepare for brief quiz from 1:1-14.

**Week 2 (Sept. 19)**

A. What was Corinth like? Visual presentation.


Week 3 (Sept 26)


B. 2 Corinthians 1-2. (Pure motive and godly sincerity 1-2.) Goal and Measure of Ministry.

Assignments: Complete character study and outline of 2 Corinthians by next week. (Read “Wider Context” pp. 14-18 only after all your work is done.) Do a sentence flow of 2 Cor. 3:4-6 (opt. 3:7-11) for class. Translate 2 Cor. 4. Read People’s 2 Corinthians, 13-73. Omit reading passage you will study until after exegesis.

Week 4 (Oct 3)

A. 2 Corinthians 3-5. (Competence comes from God.) Practice of sentence flow. Reasons for unity of Letter.
   Optional: Time and place of composition of 2 Corinthians. What were Corinthians like?

Assignments: Read Paul’s Literary Style, ch. 1 (optional ch. 3).
   Read People’s 2 Corinthians, 74-103. Read Theissen, Social Setting, ch. 2. Translate 2 Cor. 6. Begin work on final paper. Meet with professor about final paper.

Week 5 (Oct 10)


Week 6 (Oct 14-18) Reading Week – no class.

Week 7 (Oct 24)


   Examples of synecdoche and pleonasm.
Assignments: Read People’s 2 Corinthians, 130-163. Translate 2 Cor. 10:1-11. Work on final paper.

Week 8 (Oct. 31)
B. Read in Greek 2 Corinthians 10:1-11.

Assignment: Complete final paper (#3).

Week 9 (Nov. 7)
A. What can be learned about the opponents from 2 Corinthians.
B. 2 Corinthians 10 – 13. (Change so discipline not necessary.)
   Nature of Paul’s opponents – critical questions.

Assignments: Prepare for quiz on translation of 2 Cor.11:16-33 (Week 11). Read People’s 2 Corinthians, 164-187 and chs. 4 – 5, Paul’s Literary Style. Read “Makkoth” in The Mishnah. Read a book related to 2 Corinthians by the last class.

Week 10 (Nov. 11-15) Reading Week – no class.

Week 11 (Nov. 22) Quiz. Read in Greek 2 Corinthians 11:16-33.

Assignments: Translate 2 Cor 12:1-13; 13:4. Translation report is due the last class. Read People’s 2 Corinthians, 188-231. Bring one major thing you learned from this semester study of 2 Corinthians. Read “The Wise Fool & the Foolish Wise.”

Week 12 (Nov. 29) No class – thanksgiving

Week 13 (Dec. 5)
A. Read in Greek 2 Cor 12:1-13 +13:4
C. What is “weakness” in 2 Corinthians?
   Evaluation and discussion. What did you learn about God and ministry?

OTHER BOOKS (√=recommended for book review)


March 2013