GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Hispanic Ministries Program

The Cross & Joy of Ministry:
The Message of Philippians for Today
NT/SE 507

Professor: Rev. Eldin Villafañe, Ph.D.
(CUME) (617) 427-7293
Email: eldinv@aol.com

I. Course Objectives:

A. An expository and practical analysis of The Epistle to the Philippians for today

B. The development of a Christian mindset (phronesis) in light of the teachings of The Epistle to the Philippians

C. A better understanding of the Christian ministry in view of its struggles and joys

D. The development of a biblical ethic in the personal and social conduct of the ministry
II. Required Texts:


ISBN: 080282825117  
Price = $30.99  
at *Christian Book Distributor*  


ISBN: 0684815001  
Price = $7.99  
at *Christian Book Distributor*  


ISBN: 08286323X  
Price = $10.99  
at *Christian Book Distributor*  


ISBN: 1581348886  
Price = $11.49  
at *Christian Book Distributor*
III. Course Requirements:

A. Attendance and Punctuality

B. Participation in Assigned Study Group

C. Readings and Assignments (before course begins):

1. Read *The Epistle to the Philippians* no less than ten (10) times.


4. Read *Beyond Cheap Grace* by Eldin Villafañe.

5. Read *The Call to Joy and Pain* by Ajith Fernando.

6. Assignment due first day of class:
   
   Prepare a brief reflection paper (4-5 pages), responding to the following:

   a. Identify and correlate the teachings of Bonhoeffer, Villafañe, and Fernando about the crucified life and Paul’s teachings to the Philippians.

   b. Why and How are these teachings of great importance for Christian leadership today?
D. Final Paper (8 - 10 pages) due **August 23, 2013.**

[Base on class lectures, course required readings, bibliographical resources, and your knowledge and experience]

Prepare a brief academic paper, or a sermon, or a bible study for your congregation on one of the following themes: (Choose only one theme)

1. The Characteristics of a Christian leader according to *Philippians.*


3. *The Epistle to the Philippians* is viewed as a “letter of friendship.” What does it teach us about Christian friendship and the ministry?

4. *The Epistle to the Philippians* is viewed as a “letter of moral exhortation.” What does it teach us about our moral life?

5. The Christian mindset according to *Philippians* and our contemporary ministry.

(Course Outline)

I. Introduction to Course:
   A. “Knowing Each Other”
   B. Course Objectives and Requirements

II. The Epistle to the Philippians
   A. Introduction to the Epistle
   B. The Christian Mindset (*Phronesis*)
   C. Authentic Joy: Group and plenary exercises
   D. The Cross: Cruciformity and the Philippian Paradigm
   E. Marks of Authentic Community (*Koinonia*)

III. The Epistle to the Philippians: Biblical Reflections (Study Group)
   A. *Philippians* 1: 1-11
   B. *Philippians* 1: 12-30
   C. *Philippians* 2: 1-11
   D. *Philippians* 2: 12-18
   E. *Philippians* 2: 19-30
   F. *Philippians* 3: 1-11
   G. *Philippians* 3: 12-21
   H. *Philippians* 4: 1-9
   I. *Philippians* 4: 10-23
BIBLIOGRAPHY/BIBLIOGRAFIA
(Selective)

_The Bible, The Epistle to the Philippians_


Barth, Karl. _The Epistle to the Philippians_ (John Knox Press, Richard, Virginia, 1962)


Bonhoeffer. _Life Together_ (Harper San Francisco, San Francisco (1939), 1954)

Bruce, F.F. _Philippians_ (New International Bible Commentary; Peabody, 1989)


Hawthorne, Gerald F. _Philippians_ (Word Biblical Commentary; Waco, TX, 1983)

Martin, Ralph P. _Philippians_ (New Century Bible Commentary; Grand Rapids, 1980)

Motyer, J.A. _The Message of Philippians_ (Bible Speaks Today; Downers Grove, 1984)


Reumann, John. _Philippians_ (The Anchor Yale Bible; Yale University Press, New Haven, 2008)

