GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NT 920  Exegesis of Romans
Spring 2015. Mondays, 14:00 – 17:00 am.
Eckhard J. Schnabel. email: eschnabel@gcts.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Exegesis of the Greek text with examination of principal theological themes in the context of
Paul’s apostolic mission and his relationship to the church in Rome. Interpretation of Paul’s
letter to the Christians in the city of Rome, with special emphasis on Paul's teaching on
humankind and the power of sin (anthropology), God’s revelation in Jesus Christ and the
significance of Jesus’ death and resurrection (christology, soteriology), the righteousness of the
believer and the Holy Spirit (sanctification, pneumatology), salvation history (Israel, Jews, and
Gentiles), and Christian behavior (ethics). Prerequisite: GL502 and NT502.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will
• consolidate their competence in philological, historical, and theological hermeneutics. MS 1
• consolidate their skills in reading, analyzing, and translating Greek texts. MS 1
• learn to trace Paul’s argumentation in the context of the letter’s historical situation. MS 1,2.
• deepen knowledge of the foundation of the gospel as God’s revelation in Jesus Christ. MS 1
• integrate the history of interpretation of certain texts with questions of contextualizing the
statements of Paul for the church today. MS 4,5,6.

REQUIREMENTS
1. Read the text of Romans carefully, both in Greek and in English. Students are expected to
come to class prepared to discuss the Greek text that will be discussed as indicated in the
Course Calendar. No late papers will be accepted.
2. Analyze and translate the Greek text set for each class session, using Novum Testamentum
Graece, 27th or 28th Edition. Be prepared to answer questions on the syntax of the Greek
text in class (30% of the final grade).
3. Read the commentaries of Cranfield and Dunn as the course progresses.
4. Analysis of the Greek text at the beginning of each class session will test the student’s
familiarity with the Greek text.
5. Book report I: Jewett, Romans, 1–91 (1,000 words). For due date see Course Calendar.
6. Ten short exegetical papers (1,500 words maximum); for topics and due dates see Course
Calendar.

Summary of assignments relative to final grade:
Greek competency 30%; book report 20%; papers 50%

GUIDELINES FOR EXEGETICAL PAPERS
The paper should be based on research in the following areas:
(1) Analysis of the literary context of the passage.
(2) Discussion of the Old Testament and Jewish background of Paul’s statements.
(3) Discussion of the significance of relevant Greek-Roman traditions.
(4) Analysis of the sentences, clauses, phrases and words, with critical interaction with secondary sources (use at least four major commentaries and two monographs).
(5) Analysis of the main arguments of the text.
(6) Theological reflection and discussion of contemporary relevance.

Interact with both primary and secondary sources (consult Elenchus Bibliographicus Biblicus, New Testament Abstracts, ATLA; bibliographies in recent commentaries, monographs, articles), including:
advanced Greek grammars (BDF, Turner);
lexicons (BDAG, LSJ, LN, MM, Muraoka; HALOT, DCH);
exegetical dictionaries (TDNT, EDNT, NIDNTT, TLNT; TDOT, TLOT, NIDOTTE);
encyclopedias/dictionaries (ABD, ISBE, NIDB; DJG, DPL, DLNT, DNTB; EDEJ; BNP, OED);
commentaries on the original texts (AB, ICC, NIGTC, WBC; BECNT, NICNT, PNTC, ZECNT);
articles in journals (BBR, Bib, CBQ, FilN, JBL, JSNT, NTS, NovT, RB, RdQ, TynB, ZNW; JETS);
monographs, essays in essay collections.

For lexical semantics (word studies) and semantic structure analysis, see guides posted on Sakai.
For citations, footnotes and abbreviations, follow The SBL Handbook of Style (cf. guide posted on Sakai).
Formatting: size 12 font (Times New Roman), double spaced; footnotes: single spaced with size 10 font.

GREEK COMPETENCY QUIZ
A Greek Competency Quiz is required of every Greek exegesis class. Only those who receive a passing grade on this quiz will be allowed to remain in the class. The quiz is prepared by the director of the GCTS Greek language program and will be given the first class hour. It may include translation, parsing, identification of syntactical functions, and other grammatical questions. See blackboard for a sample test. The best way to review is to visit www.analytikon.org.

WARNING ON PLAGIARISM
Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found on the Indiana University website http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/plagarism.html. This document has the official recognition of the Gordon-Conwell faculty and provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare for your assignments.
Students who are caught plagiarizing will receive the consequences of this act according to the process established by the seminary.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:
To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.

INTERNET USAGE
Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.
TEXTS
   ISBN 978-0-800-66084-0

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES
Fitzmyer, Joseph A. Romans. AB 33. New York: Doubleday, 1993
Moo, Douglas. Romans. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996

FURTHER RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

OLDER IMPORTANT COMMENTARIES
Sanday, W. and A. C. Headlam. Epistle to the Romans. ICC. Edinburgh: Clark, 1902 [1895]
Morris, Leon. The Epistle to the Romans. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988
Luther, Martin. Lectures on Romans. Luther's Works 25. St. Louis: Concordia, 1972 [1515/1516]
Godet, Frédéric. Commentary on Romans. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1977 [1879]

HISTORY OF INTERPRETATION AND INTRODUCTIONS

PAUL AND PAULINE THEOLOGY
Ridderbos, Herman N. *Paul: An Outline of his Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975
Wenham, David. *Follower of Jesus or Founder of Christianity? A New Look at the Question of Paul and Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995
THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS: OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION 1:1-17

1. Praescript: Sender, address, and salutation 1:1-7
2. Prooemium: Thanksgiving, reason for writing, background 1:8-15
3. Theme 1:16-17

MAIN BODY OF THE LETTER 1:18-15:13

1. The justification of the sinner on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ 1:18-5:21
   1.1 The Gentiles and the Jews under God’s wrath 1:18-3:20
      a) The nature and the consequences of human sin: 1:18-32
         a1) Thesis: God’s condemnation is the result of unrighteousness and godlessness 18
         a2) Confirmation: the nature of human sin 19-23
         a3) Explication: the consequences of sin 24-31
         a4) Conclusion: The legitimacy, severity and scope of the divine condemnation 32
      b) The nonexemption of the Jews from God’s judgment: 2:1–3:20
         b1) The impartial judgment according to works for Jews and Gentiles 1-16
         b2) The judgment of the Jews despite the law and circumcision 17-29
         b3) Refutation of Jewish objections: 3:1-8
         b4) The biblical evidence for the charge that Jews are sinners deserving judgment: 3:9-20
   1.2 The justification of the godless on the basis of faith 3:21-5:21
      a) The revelation of the saving righteousness of God: 3:21-31
         a1) Justification by faith on the basis of God’s act of atonement in Christ’s death 21-26
         a2) The universality of justification by faith 27-31
      b) The creation of the universal people of God: 4:1-25
         b1) The basic criterion of the Abrahamic covenant: faith, not works 1-8
         b2) The basic principle of the Abrahamic covenant: righteousness 9-12
         b3) The present fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant: the faith of the nations 13-16
         b4) The nature of faith as trust in God’s promise 17-25
      c) The hope and peace of the justified sinners: 5:1-11
      d) The rule of grace over the rule of sin-Adam and Christ: 5:12-21

2. The reality of justification by faith in the life of the Christian 6:1-8:39
   2.1 The new life of true righteousness 6:1-23
      a) The new life as death and resurrection: 6:1-14
      b) The new life as freedom and obedience: 6:15-23
   2.2 The change from being in the flesh to being in the Spirit 7:1-8:17
      a) The change of command: 7:1-6
      b) The past: The sinner and the rule of sin and death: 7:7-25
         b1) The rule of sin in the sinner 7-12
         b2) The goodness of the law and the deceitfulness of sin 13-25
      c) The present: The believer and the rule of the Spirit of life: 8:1-17
   2.3 The believers’ suffering in hope and ultimate triumph 8:18-39

3. The reality of justification by faith in salvation history 9:1–11:36
   3.1 The intercession of the apostle for Israel 9:1-5
   3.2 God’s righteousness in the history of salvation 9:6-29
a) God’s free election and the true membership in Israel: 9:6-13
b) God’s free mercy and the true people of God: 9:14-29

3.3 **Israel’s resistance to God’s righteousness 9:30–10:21**
   a) Israel’s stumbling 9:30-33
   b) Israel’s failure to submit to the revelation of God’s righteousness 10:1-13
   c) Israel’s inexcusable unbelief 10:14-21

3.4 **The salvation of Israel 11:1-32**
   a) The election of a remnant in Israel: 11:1-10
   b) The purpose of Israel’s rejection: 11:11-24
   c) The fulfillment of the promise and the salvation of Israel: 11:25-32

3.5 **Praise of God’s righteousness 11:33-36**


4.1 The believers’ total commitment to God 12:1-2

4.2 The life of the community of believers 12:3–13:14
   a) Life in the community of believers 12:3-8
   b) Love as the criterion of behavior 12:9-21
   c) The obligation to the civic authorities 13:1-7
   d) The fulfillment of the Law 13:8-10
   e) The urgency of the present time 13:11-14

4.3 The unity of the believers in their diversity 14:1–15:13
   a) The divisions between the “weak” and the “strong” 14:1-12
   b) The renunciation of one’s freedom out of love 14:13-23
   c) The example of Jesus Christ 15:1-6
   d) The motivation of salvation history 15:7-13

**CONCLUSION 15:14–16:27**

1. Paul’s missionary work and future travel plans 15:14-33
   a) Paul’s missionary work 15:14-21
   b) Paul’s travel plans 15:22-33

2. Greetings 16:1-24
   a) Recommendation of Phoebe 16:1-2
   b) Greetings of coworkers and other believers 16:3-16
   c) Postscript on dangers facing the church 16:17-20
   d) Additional greetings 16:21-24

3. Final doxology 16:25-27
## Course Calendar

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<td>Feb 2</td>
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<td>Rom 1:18–32</td>
<td>Paper 1: Tradition history of “the wrath of God” (Rom 1:18)</td>
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