Alumni
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# Alumni Spotlight: Joel White (MDiv ’93, ThM ’00)

**Current title**: Professor of New Testament, Giessen School of Theology in Giessen, Germany

**Family:** Wife: Tatjana White; Children: 3 children & 5 grandchildren

**Favorite professors:** Dr. Scott Hafemann & Dr. Greg Beale

**Favorite class**: Old Testament Prophets with Dr. Meredith Kline

**Favorite memory**: My wife and I were part of a “covenant group” with three other students and their wives. We had wonderful times of fellowship together and still stay in touch.

**Please tell us about your area of expertise and what courses you teach.**

I teach a broad spectrum of courses in New Testament, in my research and writing I have concentrated on the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament and on Paul.

**How did God weave together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now?**

I came to Gordon-Conwell after serving as an associate church-planting missionary with Greater Europe Mission in Austria for five years. I had come to see the need for a good theological education by then and was hungry to learn. During my time at Gordon-Conwell, I became a member of the Lanesville Congregational Church in Gloucester, and they sent me out as a career-missionary after I received my MDiv. They have been supporting my ministry faithfully for over 30 years.

**What are some things you love about your roles as a faculty member, professor, and/or researcher?**

I love delving into God’s Word with the students or on my own in preparing an article. I feel my role is strategic due to the paucity of solid evangelical scholarship in the German Church. I speak regularly in churches throughout the country, especially on topics relating to Biblical sexual ethics.

**What are the current challenges of teaching in higher education, being a faculty member in general, and in your context specifically?**

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At my institution, we are trying to have an impact on German theology through high quality academic publications while at the same time not losing our focus on our main mission: training pastors. That is challenging! But God is blessing us. Rising from humble beginnings 50 years ago, we now train more students for pastoral ministry than any other theological university or theology department in Germany.

**How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in your academic work?**

The strong biblical-theological emphasis at Gordon-Conwell has served me well. I always felt encouraged to pursue my ministry of teaching in a foreign context by Gordon-Conwell. I was even asked to serve as an adjunct professor while on furlough.

**Do you have any publications or links you would like to share?**

Scholarly Monographs and Books

*Der Brief des Paulus an Philemon*. Historisch-Theologische Auslegung. Giessen: Brunnen / Witten: SCM Brockhaus, 2027 (anticipated).

*Was Gott sich dabei gedacht hat. Die biblische Basis einer christlichen Sexualethik*. Witten: SCM Brockhaus, 2021.

Articles in Academic Journals

"Who Was Philemon, What Did Paul Want from Him, and Why?", *Themelios* 49 (2024), 618-631.

"Das Verhältnis der Menschheit zur Schöpfung bei Paulus," *Biblisch erneuerte Theologie: Jahrbuch für Theologische Studien* 7 (2023), 67-89.

"John's Baptism as a Symbolic Enactment of the Return from Exile," *Tyndale Bulletin* 73 (2022), 201-220.

Articles in Edited Volumes

"Is God Concerned with Oxen? (1 Corinthians 9:9-10)," in *Animals in the New Testament: Perspectives from Animal Studies and Ancient Discourse.* Ed. Justin David Strong and Ruben Zimmermann. Library of New Testament Studies 701. London: T&T Clark, 2025, 149-159.

Articles for Lay-readers

"Jesus, Herr der Schöpfung," *Faszination Bibel Sonderheft* 2024, 72-74.

"Der über uns zu Gericht sitzt: Warum die Botschaft von Jesus als Richter heute noch bedeutsam ist," *Faszination Bibel Sonderheft* 2021, 56-57.