

NEW TESTAMENT DOCTORAL SEMINAR
NTGK9436 New Testament Exegesis: Romans (Greek)
Dr. Gerald L. Stevens
Spring 2006

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The exegetical doctoral seminars are designed for intensive exegetical work in selected portions of the New Testament. Attention is given to such introductory matters as date, authorship, occasion, and purpose. Exegesis of the Greek text is made with the help of the best critical literature available.

III. COURSE OUTCOMES:

Knowledge

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know a biographical outline of Paul's life and letters, with special focus on the historical background to letter to the Romans
- Know the major issues in the critical study of Paul's life and letters as these impact an interpretation of Romans
- Know the structural outline of the letter of Romans as presented in class and given in a class handout

Attitudes

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the richness of Romans for Christian doctrine over the centuries
- Recognize the importance of original language for sound exegesis
- Be more confident in interpreting Romans

Skills

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- Dialogue intelligently over current issues in Pauline study, as well as in the study of Romans in particular
- Provide critical commentary of any section of Romans demonstrating interaction with the text, an understanding of class lecture, and of commentary reading
- Participate in regional and national professional meetings, such as ETS and SBL, and be ready to present paper proposals for these meetings

IV. ASSIGNMENTS:

- (1) **Introductory Material:** mastery of introductory material, using both Fitzmyer (Anchor) and Dunn (Word)
- (2) **Text Summaries:** typed, single-spaced, *two-page summaries* of each book on the assigned dates with *copies for all seminar participants*
- (3) **Journal Summaries:** typed, single-spaced, *one page summary* for each of two up-to-date journal articles related to your major paper on the assigned dates with *copies for all seminar participants*

- (4) **Greek Translation:** a working knowledge of the assigned portions of the *Greek text* of Romans, including preparation to read and lead in seminar discussion at any point in exegesis, and familiarity with assigned commentary readings
 - (5) **Major Paper:** a seminar paper on a topic integral to the critical study of Romans, *all papers due on the same date*, as indicated in the syllabus with *copies for all seminar participants*. Use Turabian style, sixth edition, as supplemented by those form conventions in place at this institution (e.g., title page, single spaced). Successive seminar meetings will be discussions of these papers on assigned dates.
 - (6) **Paper Critiques:** typed, single spaced, *two-page critiques* of each seminar paper covering form, style and content with *copies for all seminar participants*
 - (7) **Lead Critique:** a typed, single-spaced, four-page *lead critique* of *one* seminar paper, as assigned in the syllabus, with *copies for all seminar participants*. This student will lead the discussion of that seminar paper on the assigned date. (When due, this is in lieu of the regular, two-page paper critique.)
 - (8) **Seminar Participation:** active participation in seminar discussion is an integral ingredient to the seminar grade
 - (9) **Final Exam:** comprehensive
- V. **TEXTS:**
- (1) *Greek New Testament*, 4th edition
 - (2) James D. G. Dunn, *Romans 1–8* and *Romans 9–16*, Vols. 38A, 38B in WBC
 - (3) Joseph A. Fitzmyer, *Romans*, Vol. 33 in The Anchor Bible
 - (4) E. Randolph Richards, *Paul and First-Century Letter Writing*
 - (5) Harry Gamble, Jr., *The Textual History of the Letter to the Romans: A Study in Textual and Literary Criticism*
 - (6) Karl P. Donfried, *The Romans Debate: Revised and Expanded*
 - (7) A. J. M. Wedderburn, *The Reasons for Romans*
 - (8) H. Christiaan Beker, *Paul the Apostle: The Triumph of God in Life and Thought*
 - (9) E. P. Sanders, *Paul and Palestinian Judaism: A Comparison of Patterns of Religion*
 - (10) Frank Thielman, *Paul and the Law*
 - (11) Bruce W. Longenecker, ed., *Narrative Dynamics in Paul*
 - (12) Francis Watson *Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith*
 - (13) Stanley K. Stowers, *A Rereading of Romans*

NTGK9436–ROMANS SEMINAR SCHEDULE (SPRING 2006)

WEEK 1: Jan. 23	(1) Organization of seminar (2) Discussion of Richards , <i>Paul and First-Century Letter Writing</i> (3) Discussion of Gamble , <i>The Textual History of the Letter to the Romans</i> (4) Discussion of Dunn and Fitzmyer, introductory material (5) Romans 16 (translation and exegesis): Dunn, Fitzmyer
WEEK 2: Jan. 30	(1) Rom. 1:1–15; Rom. 15:14–33 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Wedderburn , <i>The Reasons for Romans</i> (3) Discussion of Donfried , <i>The Romans Debate</i>
WEEK 3: Feb. 6	(1) Rom. 1:16–32 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Beker , <i>Paul the Apostle</i>
WEEK 4: Feb. 13	(1) Rom. 2:1–3:20 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Sanders , <i>Paul and Palestinian Judaism</i>
WEEK 5: Feb. 20	(1) Rom. 3:21–26 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Thielman , <i>Paul and the Law</i>
WEEK 6: _____ <i>Mardi Gras</i>	(1) Rom. 3:27–4:25 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Longenecker , <i>Narrative Dynamics in Paul</i>
WEEK 7: Mar. 6	(1) Rom. 5:1–7:25 (translation and exegesis) (2) Journal articles due
WEEK 8: Mar. 13	(1) Rom. 8:1–39 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Watson , <i>Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith</i>
Mar. 20	SPRING BREAK
WEEK 9: Mar. 27	(1) Rom. 9:1–11:36 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Stowers , <i>A Rereading of Romans</i>
WEEK 10: Apr. 3	(1) Rom. 12:1–13:14 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Turabian: Front matter—title page, table of contents, etc.
WEEK 11: Apr. 10	(1) Rom. 14:1–15:13 (translation and exegesis) (2) Discussion of Turabian: Body—headings, footnotes; End matter—bibliography, etc.
WEEK 12: Apr. 17	(1) Major papers due (2) Discussion
WEEK 13: Apr. 24	(1) Paper: _____ Discussion Leader: _____ (2) Paper: _____ Discussion Leader: _____ (3) Paper: _____ Discussion Leader: _____
WEEK 14: May 1	SEMINAR FINAL EXAM
WEEK 15: May 8	FINAL EXAMS

ROMANS STRUCTURE

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The key to Romans's structure is to observe Paul's use of summary or introductory statements at the end or beginning of major parts of the epistle outlining the logic flow. Two verses serve in this capacity, Rom. 11:32 and Rom. 12:1, verses that emphasize the coherent thought of divine grace. The main theme is the universal gospel calling the whole world to obedience to Jesus Christ. Thus, in brief, we have:

- Main Theme: The Universal Gospel
- Coherent Thought: The Divine Grace
- Part One: Theological Development of Main Theme (Romans 1–8)
Structure Verse: Rom. 11:32 (“For God has shut up all in disobedience that he might show mercy . . .”)
- Part Two: Historical Development of Main Theme (Romans 9–11)
Structure Verse: Rom. 11:32 (“ . . . to all.”)
- Part Three: Practical Development of Main Theme (Romans 12–15)
Structure Verse: Rom. 12:1 (“I beseech you therefore . . . by the mercies of God”)

Romans Outline

Introduction (1:1-15)

Main Theme (1:16-17): The Universal Gospel

PART ONE: Theological Development of Main Theme (Romans 1-8)

- I. The Universal Guilt in Disobedience (1:18-3:20)**
 (“For God has shut up all in disobedience . . .”)
 A. Disobedience against the Revealed Creator (1:18-32)
 B. Disobedience against the Revealed Law (2:1-3:20)
- II. The Universal Grace in Jesus Christ (3:21-8:39)**
 (“ . . . that He might show mercy . . .”)
 A. Jesus Christ, the Righteousness of Faith (3:21-4:25)
 B. Jesus Christ, the Reign of Grace (5:1-8:39)

PART TWO: Historical Development of Main Theme (Romans 9-11)

III. The Universal Salvation in the Promise to Abraham (9:1-11:32)

- (“ . . . to all.”)
- A. The Promise as Prevenient Grace (9:1-10:21)
- B. The Promise as Saving Remnant (11:1-32)

PART THREE: Practical Development of Main Theme (Romans 12-15)

IV. The Universal Basis of Daily Conduct (12:1-15:13)

- (“I beseech you . . . by the mercies of God . . .”)
- A. Principles of Service (12:1-16)
- B. Principles of Submission (12:17-13:14)
- C. Principles of Edification (14:1-15:13)
- V. The Universal Call to Cooperative Mission (15:14-33)**
 A. The Gospel Call to Mission (15:14-21)

B. The Gospel Call to Cooperation (15:22-29)

C. Appeal for Prayers for Safety (15:30-33)

Conclusion (16:1-24)

Supplemental Doxology (16:25-27)