

NTSR9302 Reading Colloquium: Spring 2008
NT Theology, Linguistics, and Johannine Studies
Dr. Charlie Ray

SEMINARY PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

DESCRIPTION

The PhD reading colloquiums in New Testament cover a variety of topics essential for a complete understanding of the field of New Testament studies. For each colloquium the student is expected to read thoroughly the assigned material and to participate actively in the monthly discussions of the material. Written reviews and summary of some work may be expected. This colloquium combines three diverse areas of study, New Testament theology, linguistics, and Johannine studies.

PURPOSE

Well-rounded scholars are expected to be conversant with areas of study that are not directly related to their areas of specialization. This colloquium will provide an introduction to three such areas. The student should be able to summarize accurately the major thesis, method of development, and strengths/weaknesses of each assigned book. In addition, the student should be able to communicate clearly those observations to the professor and to other colloquium members and to evaluate the contribution of the book in light of other work in the field.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Linguistics

- *Barr, James. *The Semantics of Biblical Language*. SCM, 1961. (out of print)
- Neill, Stephen, and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861-1986*. 2d ed. Oxford, 1988.
- The following volumes from the *Guides to Biblical Scholarship* series (Fortress):
 Beardslee, William. *Literary Criticism of the New Testament*.
- Powell, Mark Allan. *What Is Narrative Criticism?*
- Cotterell, Peter, and Max Turner. *Linguistics & Biblical Interpretation*. InterVarsity, 1989.

Johannine Studies

- Brown, Raymond. "Introduction." *The Epistles of John*. Vol. 30. The Anchor Bible. Doubleday, 1984.
- Koester, Craig R. *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel: Meaning, Mystery, Community*. Fortress, 1995.
- *Culpepper, R. Alan. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Fortress, 1983. (out of print)

- Culpepper, R. Alan, and C. Clifton Black, eds. *Exploring the Gospel of John: In Honor of D. Moody Smith*. Westminster/John Knox, 1996.

New Testament Theology

- Hays, Richard. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
- Ladd, George Elton. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. edited by Donald Hagner. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1993.
- Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Vol. 1. Fortress, 1992.
- *Dunn, James. *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament: An Inquiry into the Character of Earliest Christianity*. 2d ed. Trinity, 1990. (out of print)
- Balla, Peter. *Challenges to New Testament Theology: An Attempt to Justify the Enterprise*. Hendrickson, 1997.

All assigned books are on one-week reserve at the library. The three books marked with an asterisk are out of print, and extra copies have been requested from the North Georgia campus. We should have 4 copies of each of those books on reserve. All other books have been ordered by the bookstore and should be available at least one month before the assigned colloquium.

ASSIGNMENTS

- All assigned reading must be completed by the beginning of the colloquium meeting for which they were assigned. Class discussion will focus on books that are reviewed by all members, though members should be prepared to discuss any assigned books. All written assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the colloquium meeting and should be 4-5 pages single-spaced. Written assignments fall into one of two categories:
 1. Written reviews turned into the professor. The purpose of these assignments is to provide accountability for completing assignments. The review should include current biographical information about the author, the thesis and/or purpose of the book, a description of how the thesis was developed, critique of the arguments, and a short synopsis of 3 reviews of the book published in scholarly journals.
 2. Written summaries distributed to everyone in the seminar. The purpose of these assignments is to provide colloquium members with additional information about sections of books that they did not read. The summary should contain the purpose/thesis for the chapter and a more detailed summary of the chapter development. Biographical information and critique of arguments are not necessary. See the table at the end of the syllabus for chapter summary assignments.
- Because of the nature of the colloquium, attendance and participation are essential. If a student must be absent for any reason, the missed work must be made up. Attendance at every meeting is expected. More than one absence will result in the student repeating the colloquium. Active participation is expected.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- February 1 Read *The Interpretation of the New Testament*
Read and review *The Semantics of Biblical Language*
Read and summarize the assigned chapter/s in *Linguistics & Biblical Interpretation*
- March 7 Read and review *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel*
Read and review “Introduction” in *The Epistles of John*
Read and summarize the assigned chapters in *Exploring the Gospel of John*
- April 4 Read *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel*
Read and review the following chapters in *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*: Introduction, 6-7, 9-10, 16
Read and review the following chapters in *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament*: Introduction, ii, v, xi, and xv
- May 2 Read and review *Challenges to New Testament Theology*
Read and review *The New Testament and the People of God*
Read and summarize the assigned chapter in *A Theology of the New Testament*