

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Continuing Education Course**  
**Springfield, MO**  
**October 14-18, 2002**

**BNTM 533 STUDIES IN THE LETTERS OF PAUL: ROMANS**

**Isaac J. Canales, Ph.D.**

**Fall 2002**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Rome is one of the most important books in the Bible. It has captured the imagination of Christian and non-Christian thinkers throughout history. The powerful concepts contained within it propel Romans forwards as classical literature ahead of its time in many official areas of theological, psychological, social, ethical, and of course, ecclesiastical reflection. This greatest of Paul's epistles could very likely be viewed as the most polished and clearest expression of who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus Christ. This course will focus on the text of Romans with a view toward providing an in-depth understanding of its primary themes.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Understand the purpose and content of the book of Romans.
2. Develop a sound theological framework for interpreting the book of Romans in relation to other Pauline literature.
3. Appreciate the value of the Apostle Paul's contribution to biblical theology in his writing of the book of Romans.
4. Strengthen his/her personal commitment to serve God professionally and socially.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Fitzmeyer, Joseph, *Romans*. Anchor Bible Series, New York: Doubleday, 1995.

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

Lectures will evenly spread throughout the balance of the week, basically covering three Chapters of Roman per day.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Reading, lectures and discussion, and writing.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **A. Pre-session**

- 1) Read the book of Romans (translation of choice) in its entirety at least three times. The first reading should be done in one sitting in order to get a good overview of the basic flow and outline of the book. The second reading should be done in conjunction with the textbook by Joseph Fitzmeyer, which should be read in its entirety. The third reading should be done following the reading of the text with a view toward a more reflection on the key texts and themes of the book.
- 2) Prepare a signed reading report stating the percentage of completion of the pre-session reading. **Due the first day of class, Monday, October 14, 2002.**
- 3) Prepare an eight-ten page reflection paper on the book of Romans from your reading of the Bible and the course text. It should note the most significant elements of your reading and should seek to interpret them in light of your own personal theological understanding. Two-three pages should specifically interact with the Fitzmeyer text stating the areas of agreement/disagreement with his position and methodology. **Due the first day of class, Monday, October 14, 2002.**

#### **B. Session**

- 1) Participate in the lecture discussions based upon your observations and questions raised in the pre-session reflection paper.
- 2) Review the Fitzmeyer commentary for the proceeding class each day to be ready for further interaction/critique of his position.

**C. Post-session**

- 1) Read a minimum of an additional 750 pages from the selected bibliography. Prepare a signed reading report indicating the texts and the number of pages read in each.
- 2) WRITING OPTIONS:
  - a. OPTION ONE: Prepare an 18-20 page theological paper on a major topic in Romans. This paper should incorporate a larger understanding of Paul's biblical theology and the impact/contribution that his writing in Romans had on shaping it. Please communicate with the professor concerning the chosen topic for approval or suggestions on potential topics.
  - b. OPTION TWO: Prepare an 18-20 page exegetical paper on a key passage in the book of Romans. The paper should demonstrate the student's ability to analyze, diagram, outline, and interpret the passage within the context of the scholarly literature on the passage.
  - c. OPTION THREE: Prepare 3 sermon manuscripts (six-eight pages each) on the book of Romans. The student may choose a topical or expository methodology for constructing the sermons.

**DUE DATE for all post-session work: January 20, 2002 (Postmark Date)**

**Submit all assignments to: Dr. Isaac Canales  
415 W. Torrance Blvd.  
Carson, CA 90745**

**NOTE: The student may be charged a \$15.00 change of grade fee for all late work even if an extension has been granted by the professor.**

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Pre-Session Reading	25%
Pre-Session Reflection Paper	15%
Post-Session Reading	15%
Post-Session Writing Project	45%

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Achtemeier, Paul J. *Romans* Interpretation, a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.
- Barrett, C. K. *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper, 1957.
- Barth, Karl, and Edwyn Clement Hoskyns. *The Epistle to the Romans*. London: Oxford university press H. Milford, 1933.
- Black, Matthew. *Romans* New Century Bible. London: Oliphants, 1973.
- Bornkamm, Günther. *Paul, Paulus*. [1st U.S. ed.] ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1971.
- Bruce, F. F. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. 1st American ed. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
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W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1985.
- Cranfield, C. E. B., and W. Sanday. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. 6th ed. (entirely rewritten). ed. Edinburgh: Clark, 1975.
- Davies, William David. *Paul and Rabbinic Judaism : Some Rabbinic Elements in Pauline Theology*. 4th ed. ed. Philadelphia, Pa.: Fortress Press, 1980.
- Dodd, C. H. *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1932.
- Dunn, James D. G. *Romans 1-8* Word Biblical Commentary ; V. 38a. Dallas, Tex.: Word Books, 1988.
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- Furnish, Victor Paul, Eugene H. Lovering, and Jerry L. Sumney. *Theology and Ethics in Paul and His Interpreters : Essays in Honor of Victor Paul Furnish*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
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Sanday, W., and Arthur C. Headlam. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. 5th ed. ed. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1902.

Sanders, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism : A Comparison of Patterns of Religion*. London: S.C.M., 1977.

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**SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Isaac J. Canales, August 2002.