

1-1-2009

## NT 632 Exegesis of Philippians

James Miller

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## Syllabus

**Course:** NT632 O1 (SP 2009)

**Title:** Exegesis of Philippians

**Hours:** 3.00

**Published:** Yes, on 01/07/2009

**Prerequisites:**

NT500 and NT520

**Department:** New Testament

**Faculty:** Dr. James Miller



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### Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Thursday from 9:00a to 11:40a in EXLEXL.

**Maximum Registration:** 30

**Catalog Description:** An exegetical study of the letter to the Philippians which focuses upon the application of basic exegetical principles of the Greek text and understanding the text within the literary, linguistic, historical, and cultural contexts in which it was originally circulated. (May be taken by students in M.A. programs not requiring Greek by special arrangement with the professor.)

## Objectives:

NT 632 O1 Exegesis of Philippians

**NT 632 O1 Exegesis of Philippians**

**Spring Semester 2009**

**James C. Miller, PhD**

**Associate Professor of Inductive Biblical Studies and New Testament**

I will publish the syllabus on the first day of class. For now, here are the required texts. Note that the recommended texts are not required. Note also that I am working on obtaining permission to copy the articles listed below.

Jim

### Required Texts

1. For those with Comprehensive Greek, either the UBS 4 or NA 27 Greek New Testament For those with Concise Greek, a Greek/English interlinear using one of the recommended English translations cited below and a Greek version cited above.
2. A modern translation of the New Testament (NRSV, RSV, TNIV recommended; not acceptable KJV, NKJV or paraphrases such as the NLB or the Message)
3. Stephen Fowl. *Philippians*. Two Horizons Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.  
We will read only portions of Fowl. You should have this book to use as a reference work for future preaching/teaching from Philippians.

4. Richard B. Hays. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*. San Francisco: HarperSan Francisco, 1996.

We will begin reading from Hays's book right away.

5. David Alan Black. *It's Still Greek to Me*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

OR

Daniel B. Wallace. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000 (for those considering advanced New Testament study, I recommend this volume)

6. Richard Bauckham. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*.

Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

We will begin reading this book after our first session together.

7. The student will need access to Gerald F. Hawthorne, Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G.

Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

I recommend buying the volume, though a copy is available in the reference section of the Information Commons on campus.

I will also assign several articles and chapters from books. I am currently working on getting permission for us to photocopy needed material. These will include:

J. Ross Wagner. "Working Out Salvation: Holiness and Community in Philippians." In Kent E. Brower and Andy Johnson, eds. *Holiness and Ecclesiology in the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007): 257–74.

William S. Kurz. "Kenotic Imitation of Paul and of Christ in Philippians 2 and 3." In Fernando F. Segovia, ed. *Discipleship in the New Testament* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985): 76–102

### Recommended (only):

Advanced Commentaries:

P. T. O'Brien. *The Epistle to the Philippians*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

This is the best single commentary on the Greek text of Philippians.

Gordon D. Fee. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

For those who do not have the ability with Greek to take advantage of O'Brien, this is the next best choice. Issues related to the Greek text are found in the footnotes.

Moisés Silva. *Philippians*. 2d ed. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament.

Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Sensitive handling of the argument of the letter, with attention to the Greek text (though not dependent on Greek).

Other works:

Michael J. Gorman. *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

A detailed but challenging theology of discipleship in Paul.

Michael J. Gorman. *Reading Paul*. Cascade Companions. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008.

The best short introduction to Paul and his gospel.

D. A. Carson. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.

This is a detailed book highlighting common errors made in the process of exegesis.