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(1st Draft, 5/23/03; more to come)

NT 633 EXEGESIS OF COLOSSIANS (AND PHILEMON)

Summer Session 3, August 4-29

Class Meetings: August 4, 11, 18, 25, 29; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

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I. Course Description

A. Catalog

An exegetical study of the letter to the Colossians 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. Prerequisite: NT(IBS)510 or 511; NT520; and NT500 or 501/502 or equivalent. (May be taken by students in M.A. programs not requiring Greek by special arrangement with the professor.)

B. Course Learning Objectives:

Students successfully completing this course will

1. Become substantially familiar with the contents, arguments, historical context, and theology of Colossians and Philemon;
2. Be able to apply the rudiments of Greek grammar and syntax to the translation and exegesis of these NT letters;
3. Become competent in the following tasks of NT exegesis: word study (including both the use of lexical tools and inductive analysis), charting clause flow, engaging in backgrounds study, and engaging commentaries critically;
4. Appreciate the historical and hermeneutical distinctiveness of the NT letter genre and be able to make valid and meaningful appropriation of Colossians and Philemon for contemporary Christian life and ministry.

II. Course Materials

A. Assumed

1. Access to two modern translations of the NT, preferably at least one “literal” or formal equivalence (e.g., New American Standard, Revised Standard) and one “dynamic equivalence” translation (e.g., New Revised Standard, New International). Paraphrases (Living Bible, New Living Translation, *The Message*) are not suitable for the purposes of this course.
2. Access to a critical edition of the Greek text: e.g., United Bible Society (3rd or 4th ed.); Nestle-Aland (26th or 27th ed.), or to a Greek-English interlinear based on these Greek texts. **Students are expected to bring a copy of the Greek text of Colossians or an interlinear to class meetings.**
3. *Bibleworks 5.0* is highly recommended and will by itself satisfy 1 and 2.

B. Required Textbooks

Garland, David E. *Colossians and Philemon*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. ISBN: 0310484804

O'Brien, P. T. *Colossians, Philemon*. WBC Waco: Word, 1982. ISBN: 0849902436

Wallace, Daniel. *The Basics of New Testament Syntax*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. ISBN: 0310232295

Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Pastors and Students*. 3rd ed. Louisville: WJKP, 2002. ISBN: 0664223168

III. Recommended Exegetical Resources

A. General Exegetical Tools

1. Walter Bauer and Frederick W. Danker et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (3d ed.; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000). Though not cheap, this is a “must own” for serious students of the NT. Note that for a hefty fee (\$125, the same as for the hard copy) a module of BDAG is available for Bible Works 5.0.

2. Bible dictionary or encyclopedia:

a) Basic: Students should own at least one *basic* one-volume Bible dictionary.

Freedman, David N., ed. *Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000.

Wood, D. R. W. et al., eds. *The New Bible Dictionary*. 3d ed. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

b) Advanced:

Evans, Craig A., and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2000.

Freedman, David N., ed. *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

c) On the Pauline material in particular:

Martin, Ralph P., Gerald Hawthorne, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1993.

B. Colossians Commentaries

Barth, Markus and Helmut Blanke, *The Letter to Philemon*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000.

Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. NICNT, rev. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.

Dunn, James D. G. *The Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon* (NIGNT). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Harris, Murray J. *Colossians and Philemon*. EGNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Lohse, E. *Colossians and Philemon*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1971.

MacDonald, Margaret Y. *Colossians and Ephesians*. SP 17. Collegeville: Michael Glazier, 2000.

Wright, N. T. *Colossians and Philemon*. TNTC, rev.. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1986.

Fitzmyer, Joseph A.. *The Letter to Philemon*. AB. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

IV. Course Requirements

A. A Note on Work Load and Expectations

Students should be mindful that the expectation for out of class work is 105 hours (3 hours for each in class) or roughly 25 hours per week for each of our four weeks of meetings. The compressed or intensive summer schedule means that each day-long class session is roughly three weeks of class time as compared to a standard semester-length class.

B. Attendance and Participation

Since this course is pedagogically cumulative and participatory in style, preparation, presence, and participation in class are critical to the meeting of the learning objectives. This is all the more so because the course is in the compressed summer format. The course is more of a “skill” course than a “content” course. Therefore, students have a responsibility to themselves and to our learning community to be in attendance and to participate actively, attentively and respectfully. Students will receive a half-grade reduction for every half-day of class time missed. Students missing more than a day of class will not pass the class. Unavoidable, emergency, and excused absences can be made up with appropriate work at the professor’s discretion (at the normal rate of 3 hours per each class hour missed).