BT 661 Pauline Theology

Ben Witherington
BT661
PAULINE THEOLOGY
Spring 2000
Dr. Ben Witherington, III

OFFICE HOURS                 Phone:  606-858-2329
TRF:  8:00 a.m.– 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
( otras hours by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a detailed exegetical survey of the major topics of Pauline theology set in the 
context of his eschatological worldview. The implications of his theological thought for ethics 
will also be addressed without focusing primarily on the ethical material of the Pauline corpus.

COURSE GOALS
The major goal of this course is to give the student a sense of the scope and depth of Paul’s 
thought world, in order to provide a context out of which they may better interpret particular 
Pauline texts and concepts. A second goal is to familiarize the student with the ever-increasing 
literature on the Pauline corpus, so study may continue after this course is concluded. A further 
goal is to show how all of Paul’s thought is theologically grounded, and thus the necessity of 
relating ethics to its theological underpinning.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
4) B. Witherington, III, Paul’s Narrative Thought World: The Tapestry of Tragedy and 
Triumph (Louisville: Westminster, 1994).

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES
more traditional survey approach to Pauline theology may substitute Ziesler for Meeks]
2) E. P. Sanders, Paul and Palestinian Judaism (Phila: Fortress, 1977) PP. 431-523 [This 
book is not required to be purchased but will be on reserve and the student will be expected 
to read pp.431-523]
READING SCHEDULE
The student should begin by reading Paul’s Narrative Thought World: The Tapestry of Tragedy and Triumph to get a clear overview of the subject matter. This then can be followed by reading The Paul Quest and C.K. Barrett’s Paul in tandem, contrasting and comparing the two works. Finally, one should read Jesus, Paul and the End of the World toward the End of the Course.

EVALUATION COMPONENTS
There will be two exams and a paper of twenty pages for this course. The paper should be on some standing topic in Pauline theology (e.g. Paul’s view of the atonement, Paul’s Christology, etc.). Turabian format is to be preferred with footnotes rather than endnotes. APA with its parenthetical notation does not allow for evaluative comments in the notes. The paper is due the last Friday in March. The midterm and final exams will evaluate half of the course in each case. The former will likely be administered at the end of March or the beginning of April.