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NT 662 Exegesis of Philippians

M. Robert Mulholland

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PT 662  FALL 2000

NT 662 -- Philippians
Fall 2000  -- Dr. Mulholland

PERSPECTIVE: Nothing requires a deeper level of spiritual maturity than the exegetical study of God's Word. Nothing enhances our spiritual maturity more consistently than the exegetical study of God's Word. This symbiotic reality is the primary dynamic of biblical exegesis. All teaching and learning, in the Christian and biblical perspective, must be directly related to a personal and growing relationship with Jesus as Lord. It is my prayerful intention to seek to be all the Lord purposes for me to be in leading this class; and it is my prayerful hope that you will seek to allow the Lord to so guide your study and participation that His full purpose for you might be fulfilled in this course.

PURPOSE: We will seek to actualize God's purposes for us in this course through the development of a sound methodology of biblical exegesis and its application to Paul's letter to the Philippians.

PARTICULARS: It is prayerfully expected that your faithful stewardship and discipline in this course will be used of God to enable you to acquire the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

Understanding of the value of sound biblical exegesis in every phase of Christian life and ministry.

Cognizance of the best basic resources for biblical exegesis, knowledge of their use, and ability to employ them.

Acquisition of the necessary tools for sound biblical exegesis:

- The ability to establish:
  the textual context of a passage
  the text of a passage
  the literary context of a passage
  the historical context of a passage
  the theological context of a passage

- The ability to "translate" the passage into contemporary life.

Development of a sound exegetical methodology

PROCEDURES: The following will provide some of the scholarly spiritual disciplines of loving obedience and stewardship through which I trust the Lord will enable us to actualize His purposes for the course:

1. Texts: *Novum Testamentum Graece* (Nestle-Aland Version)
   *Toward an Exegetical Theology*, Walter C. Kaiser
   *Opening the Bible*, Thomas Merton

2. Preparation:
   a. It is hoped that you will enter into a covenant of prayer for the class and the course.
   b. It is urged that each period of individual study be started with prayer, interlaced with prayer and praise and dedicated to God in prayer at its close.
   c. It is expected that you will be a faithful steward of time in two areas:
      i. Consistent participation in class sessions.
      ii. Commit at least two hours to the Lord for prayer and study in preparation for each class hour.
d. It is expected that you will come to class fully prepared through disciplined prayer and study that you may be all God wants you to be in the class session.

e. It is presumed that you will exhibit graduate level competence in comprehension of reading, integration learning, and presentation of understanding.

3. Class Sessions:
Lecture-Discussion. The major source of the learning experience will be the class session. This phase will give high priority to class discussion of the various aspects of exegesis.
Labatory. This phase will focus upon the application of exegetical principles to Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

4. Written Assignments:
These will be in the form of assigned exercises as noted in the TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, and will be due on the date listed. These are to be not more than two, typed double-spaced pages in length. (Legibly handwritten assignments will be allowed when frequent use of the Greek words or phrases is required).

Those taking the class as an elective will develop their own exegetical project on Philippians (in consultation with the professor) to be turned in at the end of the course.

5. Final Exercise for the core exegesis requirement:
The final exercise will provide you the opportunity to reflect your grasp, integration, and utilization of the tools and methods of biblical exegesis.

6. The quality of written assignments and the final exercise should reflect work done “as unto the Lord” for they will reflect the cumulative results of the depth and faithfulness of your stewardship of time and study.

PERFORMANCE:

There are three levels of students in this class: (1) those who have had concise Greek, (2) those who have had comprehensive Greek, and (3) those who have taken the exegesis requirement and are taking this class as an elective. It is expected that each group will operate at a level of Greek proficiency commensurate with their background. It is also presumed that you are “up to speed” in Greek at the level of your training. Additionally, it is expected that you have taken the first IBS core course.

Your comprehension and integration of the particulars of the course will be evaluated on the basis of the written assignments and the final exercise. You are urged to consult with me if, at any time, you believe that you have not been fairly or accurately evaluated. A faithful, consistent, obedient stewardship of time and work, in which you seek to be faithful to the Lord’s purposes for you in the course, should result in acceptable work at the level of your contract.

As a student in this class, you are responsible for completing the assignments to the best of your ability. The work you submit must be your own, although it is permissible to work together in groups to develop the basic data upon which you will prepare your assignments.

As the professor in this class, I will do my best to be available to work with you individually or in groups as necessary. I will also be available by email (robert_mulholland@asburyseminary.edu) to answer questions or give guidance.
OFFICE HOURS: Because of the nature of my administrative responsibilities, it is not possible to hold particular hours each week for office hours. Stop in at my office in the Administration Building (second floor on the left between the Reception Desk and the Chapel) and if I am available I will see you. If I am not, my Administrative Assistant, Eileen Schmidt, or my Secretary, Barb Jaeger, will give you an appointment for my next available time. My office number is 858-2206, fax 858-2258. Home number is 858-4219 (please use only in case of emergency).

BIBLIOGRAPHY: The following list is neither inclusive nor exhaustive. It presents a few of the basic resources for exegesis.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

DICTIONARIES
   Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (10 vols.)
   Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible

GREEK RESOURCES
   Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament
   Moultan & Geden, Concordance to the Greek Testament
   Metzger, Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek
   Moule, Idiom Book of New Testament Greek
   Greenlee, A Concise Exegetical Grammar of New Testament Greek
   TDNT (Cf. Dictionaries)
   Word Study New Testament and Concordance
   Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament

TEXTUAL CRITICISM
   Metzger, The Text of the New Testament
   A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament

THE NEW TESTAMENT AND ITS TIME
   Bruce, New Testament History
   Feine, Behm, Kummel, Introduction to the New Testament
   Ferguson, Backgrounds of Early Christianity
   Guthrie, New Testament Introduction
   Peters, The Harvest of Hellenism

INTERNET RESOURCES

   http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/topsites.htm#Texts This is one of the best general sites for New Testament research. It contains a wealth of hyperlinks to a wide diversity of areas related to biblical studies.

   http://www.bham.ac.uk/theology/goodacre/links.htm This is an excellent site for New Testament research with a wealth of hyperlinks to diverse sites. Scroll down the index column on the left for links in a variety of areas of NT Study.
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<th>TOPIC</th>
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<td>9/7</td>
<td>Why Exegesis?</td>
<td>Be familiar with Hebrews 4:12-13 in Greek</td>
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<td>Where Exegesis?</td>
<td>Be familiar with Mark 12:18-27 in Greek</td>
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<td>Be familiar with Matt. 3:16-4:11 in Greek, Kaiser 17-66</td>
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<td>Kaiser 69-85, List Greek Sentences in Philippians*</td>
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<td>Outline Philippians from Greek Sentences* (S)</td>
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<td>9/14</td>
<td>Text Establishment</td>
<td>Metzger, <em>A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament</em>, xiii-xxxi (S)</td>
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<td>Cause of Variants</td>
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<td>Do the variant in Phil. 3:12* (S)</td>
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<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>Kaiser 105-129, 140-146</td>
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<td>Do a study of <em>fronew</em> and cognates* (S)</td>
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<td>Do a study of <em>teleioj</em> and cognates*</td>
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<td>Do a study of evxana, stasij and cognates*</td>
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<td>Historical Context</td>
<td>Read a NT Introduction, Commentary, or Dictionary on Authorship, Place, Date, etc. of Colossians</td>
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<td>Identify Jewish Elements in Phil 3:2-6* (S)</td>
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<td>Exegetical Sermons</td>
<td>Kaiser 149-163, 235-247</td>
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<td>Lab</td>
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**STEPS IN EXEGESIS:**

I. Outline the document according to its internal structure (GK)
   A. Develop the Major Units (I. II. III. etc.)
   B. Define the sub-divisions of each major unit (A, B, C)
   C. Clarify the parts of each sub-division (1, 2, 3, etc.)

II. Work with a sub-division (A, B, etc.) as the basic unit.
   A. Establish the text if necessary (Textual Criticism)
   B. Clarify the syntactical structures of the unit (Diagram)
   C. Identify focal contextual elements and research
      1. Literary Context:
         a. Syntax--identify, determine function
         b. Vocabulary--frequency, usage, meaning
         c. Form--identify, determine use
      2. Historical Context:
         a. Historical situation of the writing
         b. Jewish background (Palestine/Diaspora)
         c. Hellenistic background
      D. Determine the meaning of the text.
      E. View the text within its larger context

III. Write out a verse by verse commentary on the unit, drawing together the material from step II.

IV. Summarize the focal message of the text (Christian perspective/lifestyle)
   A. For the original readers.
   B. For your own spiritual life.
   C. For contemporary readers.

S = example provided in syllabys
* = assignments to be handed in
\* = That is, employ the whole exegetical process to arrive at as complete an understanding of the passage as it possible. Your written assignment will be steps III and IV of "Steps in Exegesis" below.