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NT 614 Exegesis of the Gospel of Mark

Ben Witherington

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Catalog Description

A study of earliest Gospel, this course will deal with the various textural, historical, rhetorical, exegetical, theological, and ethical concerns raised in the Gospel. The focus in the course will be on familiarizing the student not only with the content of this book, but also with the exegetical and hermeneutical issues that it raised and raises. 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.)

Introduction

The Gospel of Mark is one of the most fascinating documents in the NT canon, and as the earliest Gospel written it provides a unique window into the life of Jesus and his earliest disciples, written up in the form of an ancient biography with some rhetorical skill, but reflecting the Jewish apocalyptic mindset and eschatology so prevalent in that era amongst early Jews. In this course we will seek to do justice to both the Jewish content and Greco-Roman form of this Gospel which is addressed to Christians under duress in Rome shortly before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, participants should:

(1) be able to recognize the importance of a close reading of the text of Mark
(2) be able to begin to master the skills necessary to exegete the Greek text of this document
(3) grasp the importance of the structure of these works and their importance for understanding Markan Christology;
(4) understand the role of this work in the New Testament canon;
(5) be able to propose fruitful ways in which Mark’s Gospel may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;

Course Requirements and Reading

On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carol Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses, 11th ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.