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## BS 800 Biblical Studies Unit and Tour of the Holy Lands

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**BIBLICAL STUDIES UNIT AND TOUR OF THE HOLY LANDS**  
**BEESON PASTOR PROGRAM**  
**BS800 SYLLABUS**  
**WINTER 1999**  
**Dr. Ben Witherington, III**

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND TASKS BEFORE THE TOUR

The following books or portions of books should be read prior to the Tour in tandem with the accompanying videotapes.

1) Read my Paul's Narrative Thought World, (Louisville: Westminster, 1994) pb, and watch the first videotape of Peter and Paul and two of my Pauline Theology course videotapes (your choice). Write a two page review of the book including discussion of how recognizing Paul's Narrative Thought structure may help in the preaching and teaching of the Pauline corpus. To what degree did the videos help you visualize or clarify Paul's thought?

2) Read my The Christology of Jesus (Minn.: Fortress, 1990) pb and watch the second videotape of Zefferelli's Jesus of Nazareth, coupled with my NT History and Criticism lectures on the Parables and the Structure of the Gospels, and the Many Faces of the Christ lecture (first lecture of BT 606). Write a 2 page reflection paper on how your image or understanding of Jesus has changed or been enhanced by reflecting on this material. How will this affect your preaching and teaching in the future?

3) Read my Women and the Genesis of Christianity, (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1990) pb and watch my two hour video on women in their roles in the NT. Write a two page statement of what you have learned from these materials, focusing on articulating your own understanding of the relationship of women's roles in the family of faith as opposed to the physical family.

4) Read Bruce Malina's The New Testament World (Louisville: Westminster, 1996 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) pb and watch my two lectures on First Century Family values. Write a two page reflection paper on how the differences in first century culture and our culture affects our ability to translate first century principles into modern settings.

5) Read 150 pages in my The Acts of the Apostles, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997) pb and watch the first videotape of A. D. and my History and Criticism lecture on the hermeneutics of narrative texts. Write a two page reflection paper on how and in what way narrative portions of the canon can or should be used to establish modern church principles and practices. Discuss the problem of the uniqueness of all historical events. For extra credit watch my music video clips tape and analyze hermeneutically how they work to proclaim the Gospel.

6) The only component to be completed during the tour itself is your keeping a daily journal of your reflections about the Lands of the Bible and how seeing the sites will impact your teaching and preaching. There will be various lectures on the various sites.