

1-1-2003

BT 660 NT Theology

Ben Witherington

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Witherington, Ben, "BT 660 NT Theology" (2003). *Syllabi*. Book 2051.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/2051>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

BT 660 NT THEOLOGY

Ben Witherington, III, Instructor
Office: AD 412 • 859-858-2329
Study (Home): 859-223-6308
Ben_Witherington@asburyseminary.edu

Jan./Spring 2003
3 semester units
Enrollment Limit: None
Jan. 6-10 (Wilmore);
5 Saturdays (Orlando)

Catalog Description

This course treats the general content and historical development of New Testament theology from the perspective and methodology of the contemporary biblical theology discipline.

FOCUS OF THIS PARTICULAR INTENSIVE COURSE OFFERING

Since this course is taught intensively and it is not possible to adequately treat the gamut of NT theology in such a format, this form of this course will focus especially on Pauline theology, including an examination of Paul's symbolic universe, his storied world, his theologizing, and his theology. Attention will also be given to Johannine theology, the theology of Luke-Acts and other portions of the canon.

Introduction

The discussion of NT Theology necessarily involves the discussion of NT theologies, which is to say, the theologies of the various authors of the NT. This means that we can speak, for example of the theology (singular) of Luke-Acts or of the Pauline corpus or of the Johannine literature. In this course we will focus on describing and discussing the various theologies in the NT with especial focus on Paul's letters, but we will also compare these various theologies with a view to saying what a theology of the NT as a whole ought to look like.

Pre-requisites: NT 500 or 501/502, and IBS—1; or NT 520.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, participants should:

- (1) be able to recognize the importance of a theological reading of the texts of the NT
- (2) be able to begin to master the skills necessary to do an informed theological presentation of some major theological topic;
- (3) grasp the importance of the storied world and use of rhetoric for understanding Paul's theology and that of other NT authors;
- (4) understand the theological role of Paul's letters, the Gospels, Acts, the Revelation etc. in the New Testament canon;
- (5) be able to propose fruitful ways in which various theological portions of the NT may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;
- (6) have a heightened sense of and commitment to the Son of God and the cross-shaped discipleship to which the NT calls Christians.
- (7) have the ability to read the NT in ways that are spiritually formative.

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.

(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation: Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned textbooks; (2) taking notes on the Pauline text of the following epistles--- Galatians, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philippians. Those wishing to concentrate on other portions of the canon may take notes on the Gospels of Mark or John, or Hebrews, or Revelation. (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the textbooks. (15%).

Witherington, Ben The Paul Quest. The Search for the Jew of Tarsus, (Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1998) pb. This book should be read first as a general orientation to Pauline studies.

Witherington, Ben. Jesus, Paul, and the End of the World, (Downers Grove: InterVarsity P, 1992). This book should also be read first in order to gain an

understanding of the eschatological framework out of which Paul operates.

Witherington, Ben Paul's Narrative Thought World, (Louisville: Westminster/J. Knox, 1994), pb. This book should be read second, to give an overview of Pauline theology in its various topics.

Dunn, J.D.G. The Theology of Paul the Apostle, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998). Read 500 pages in this volume, your choice of which ones.

THE STUDENT WISHING TO FOCUS ON NON-PAULINE THEOLOGY IN THEIR WRITTEN WORK MAY READ 1500 PAGES FROM ANY OF THE TITLES LISTED IN THE ADDENDUM ALONG WITH CHOOSING FROM THE VOLUMES IN THE CAMBRIDGE NT THEOLOGY SERIES LISTED BELOW.

Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade, no more than one session may be missed.

(2) A Critical Review: A review of one of the following books, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the beginning of the first day of class. As a critical review, this essay should summarize the author's central theses; demonstrate the author's approach to the subject matter; and critique the author's analysis (e.g., with regard to the author's method, its faithfulness to the primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on). (25%)

THE STUDENT MAY PICK ANY OF THE VOLUMES IN THE SERIES ENTITLED NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY, (CAMBRIDGE: CAMBRIDGE U. PRESS, 1991FF.)

(3) A Research Assignment: A theology paper of approximately 20 pages (with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins), typed, with 1.5 or double spacing, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected topic within NT theology (e.g. Christology, eschatology, pneumatology ecclesiology). This paper should evidence *both* a close reading of the text *and* critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. (See the bibliographic resources in the textbooks, as well as *New Testament Abstracts* in the Library.) Due by 4:00 pm, January 17 2003 (Wilmore), April 1 (Orlando) (30%)

(4) A Final Exam: Comprehensive of the Lectures and content of the course (30%).

Reading Schedule

See the comments listed above with the textbooks.

Course Schedule

Prolegomena matters will be dealt with in the first class, after which we will be working through the standing topics of NT theology, including key anthropological terms. There will necessarily be an especial focus on Christology

Addendum

The student wishing to focus on other portions of the canon besides the Pauline corpus may choose to read from the following selections: 1) Witherington, The Many Faces of the Christ, (N.Y.: Crossroad, 1998). This is a survey of NT Christology; 2) Witherington, The Christology of Jesus (Minn.: Fortress, 1990). This deals with Jesus' theology and self understanding; 3) Witherington and L. Ice, The Shadow of the Almighty, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmann, 2001). This is a survey of the language about Father, Son and Spirit in the NT; 4) G.D. Fee, God's Empowering Presence, (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994). This major study deals in detail with every reference to the Holy Spirit in Paul's letters, which makes up about 60% of all references to the Spirit in the NT; 5) R.; Bauckham, The Theology of the Book of Revelation (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1993). This is clearly the best volume in the Cambridge series to date, and covers one of the most heavily theological and Christological works in the NT; 6) J. Lieu, The Theology of the Johannine Epistles, (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1991). 7) J.B. Green, The Theology of Luke, (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1997); 8) D. Moody Smith, The Theology of the Gospel of John, (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1995); 9) I.H. Marshall and D. Peterson, eds. Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts, (Grand

Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998); 10) A Chester and R.P. Martin, The Theology of James, Peter and Jude, (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1994).