



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

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BIB750 – New Testament Theology  
Summer 2009 - Module 3  
5:30-9:45 p.m. July 6-16, 2009

## ***Essential Information***

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at [http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential\\_Information](http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information). Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

## ***Instructor Information***

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Home: (913) 782-7313 Please do not call  
between 10:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

## ***Catalog Description***

A study of the faith affirmations of the New Testament, with special reference to the redeeming grace of God, the person and work of Christ, the new life in Christ, full salvation, the nature of the Church, and the Christian hope.

## ***Purpose and Place in the Curriculum***

New Testament Theology can fulfill the requirement for Biblical Theology in the M.Div. and M.A (Theol.) degree programs. It also can serve as an elective in any of the Master's level degree programs. BIB550, Biblical Hermeneutics, and the required exegesis courses are prerequisite. Thus the course is normally a senior level class designed to integrate and theologically synthesize the perspectives gained in previous biblical studies.

## ***Course Vision***

If God were to really bless this course, students would become forever enamored with a joyful conviction that the New Testament speaks with profoundly theological voices to the meaning of the kingdom of God, the transforming power of the gospel, and the formative power of ecclesiology. They would live in confidence that these theological voices and themes speak to the church today and that they (the students) are able to discern those theological voices and themes. This confidence would unleash a generation of preachers, teachers, and writers profoundly convinced that God has spoken a saving word to the world through Jesus Christ and that that word can be heard through the New Testament. Should this vision for students begin to happen the church would be shaped by biblical truth toward conformity with the will of God with a depth, power, and directness never before experienced. The world would discover fundamental differences of values and assumptions of reality between itself and the followers of Christ. The biblical vision of evangelism and discipleship would be fulfilled. May God rekindle and increase the vision of hearing him speak to us through his word!

## ***Course Outcomes***

At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:

- (1) Describe the historical development of biblical and New Testament Theology,
- (2) Articulate the major issues that presently confront New Testament Theology,
- (3) Articulate a theological relationship between the Old Testament as Christian Scripture and the New Testament as Christian Scripture,
- (4) Distinguish between futuristic, realized, and inaugurated eschatology as they pertain to the interpretation of the New Testament messages,
- (5) Describe the way in which the kingdom is already and is not yet,
- (6) Summarize Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God,
- (7) Summarize Jesus' message of salvation,
- (8) Articulate the biblical theological significance of the birth, baptism, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
- (9) Summarize the major theological emphases in Paul's writings,
- (10) Compare and contrast the major Pauline metaphors for salvation (reconciliation, redemption, justification, propitiation/expiation, adoption, and transformation,
- (11) Articulate the content and significance of the primary Christological titles used by Paul,
- (12) Articulate the content and significance of the Pauline teaching on the church,
- (13) Summarize the content and significance of the major themes of Johannine theology,
- (14) Summarize the content and significance of the major themes of the theology of the book of Hebrews,
- (15) Summarize the content and significance of the major themes of the theology of 1 Peter,
- (16) Summarize the content and major themes of the theology of Revelation, and
- (17) Articulate a synthesis of the primary New Testament witnesses to the meaning of Christ and the gospel.

## ***Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies***

**CN 10** Ability to summarize the significant life events of Jesus and Paul

- CN 11 Ability to identify the significant elements of the message of Jesus and Paul  
 CN 14 Ability to identify and describe the major theological concepts of the New Testament

### **Required Texts & Course Materials**

The Bible: If you do not work in the Hebrew and Greek text a modern translation such as NRSV or NASB should be used. The instructor will use the NRSV as his basic version in class with illustrations from other versions and his own translation.

Brower, Kent E. and Johnson, Andy, eds. *Holiness and Ecclesiology in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007.

Matera, Frank J. *New Testament Theology: Exploring Diversity and Unity*: Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Via, Dan O. *What Is New Testament Theology?* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.

Wright, N.T. *Paul: In Fresh Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

### **Course Outline and Schedule**

Day/Date	5:30-6:30	6:30-7:30	7:45-8:45	8:45-9:45
Mon. 7-6	Syllabus & Bibliography	History of NT Theology	History of NT Theology	Current Issues in NT Theology
Tues 7-7	Jesus and the Kingdom	Jesus and the Kingdom	Jesus and the Kingdom	Jesus and the Message of Salvation
Weds. 7-8	Jesus and the Message of Salvation	Jesus and the Message of Salvation	The Christology of Jesus	The Theological Significance of Jesus' Life
Thurs 7-9	The Theology of Mark	The Theology of Luke	The Theology of Matthew	The Theology of Acts
Fri. 7-10	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology
Mon 7-13	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology
Tues 7-14	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology	Pauline Theology	
Weds 7-15	Johannine Theology	Johannine Theology	Johannine Theology	Johannine Theology
Thurs 7-16	Theology of Hebrews	Theology of 1 Peter	Theology of the Apocalypse	Synthesis

### **Course Assignments & Requirements**

1. Reading the New Testament - You should read as much of the New Testament as often and as many times as you can from the time you first look at this syllabus through the end of your work for this class. There will not be a formal accountability structure for this reading, but it will enhance everything else you do for this course.

2. Textbook Reading - You should read the text by Via and the introduction in Matera's book during the week before July 6 and bring a list of questions that have arisen for you from that reading to class on July 6.

You should read Matera, pages 1-97, by July 10 and write an 800 word essay comparing and contrasting the material from those pages with the lecture material from July 7-9. This essay will be due on July 13.

You should read Matera, pp. 259-332, and write a 800 word essay summarizing and responding to the material that will be due on July 15.

You should read Matera, pp. 333-356, 373-383, and 400-422, and write two discussion questions for the theology of Hebrews, of 1 Peter, and of Revelation, for use in the discussion on July 16.

You should read Matera, pp. 99-258, and the book by Wright and write a 1500 word essay comparing and contrasting the treatments of Pauline theology by Matera, Wright, and the class lectures from July 10-14. This essay will be due July 20.

A 1000 word essay summarizing and responding to the material in the collection of essays edited by Brower and Johnson will be due July 31.

3. Theological Essays - A biblical theological essay will be due on July 24 and August 3. Each essay should be 1500-2000 words (typed, double-spaced) in length. They should demonstrate that you have researched the New Testament as the primary source. They should represent your conclusions on the subject. In order for this to be true you must "get inside" the subject and understand the issues before you begin to write. Appropriate use of secondary sources will be necessary for this to occur. The essays do not need to be heavily footnoted, but you should show your interaction with and use of secondary sources. At least one scholarly journal article must be appropriately used as a reference to receive a B grade and at least two scholarly journal articles must be appropriately used to receive an A grade on each essay. You may choose any two of the following subjects on which to write and they may be done in any order. The accompanying questions may help you "get inside" the subject. You don't have to "answer" each of them in the paper.

*The Atonement of Christ*

What is the nature and meaning of Christ's death? What terminology is used in the New Testament to express the cause and purpose of the cross? Are there objective and subjective phases to the work of Christ? What benefits come to believers from the death of Christ?

*The Resurrection of Christ*

What is the place of the resurrection in the thinking of the various witnesses of the New Testament? What theological and life results do the New Testament writers attribute to the resurrection? How is the resurrection attested in the New Testament? How is the resurrection connected to other theological affirmations?

*The Person of Christ*

How does the New Testament describe Christ? What titles are used and what is their significance for understanding the meaning of Christ? What significant differences in the view of the person Christ are found in the differing witnesses of the New Testament? How is the person of Christ related to the work of Christ?

*The Extent of Salvation*

How does the New Testament view salvation? When does it begin, how does it happen and when is it complete? What is the nature of sin and to what degree is the sin problem "solved?" How is it solved? How do different New Testament authors deal with this issue in different ways?

### *The Nature of the Church*

What are the various ways the New Testament describes the church? What role does the church play in the lives of individual believers? Is there chronological development in the concept of the church through the period of the New Testament? If not, how do you account for the different views given by different New Testament authors?

### *The Nature of Ministry*

How does the New Testament describe Christian ministry? How are the roles of the laity and the clergy distinguished in the New Testament? What theological foundations undergird the New Testament concept of ministry? What does the New Testament vocabulary relating to ministry suggest for a contemporary theology of ministry?

### *The Nature and Use of Scripture*

How does the New Testament use the Old Testament? What “view” of Scripture seems to be implicit in the New Testament? What does the concept of fulfillment mean for New Testament writers? Are there patterns to the roles Old Testament quotations, allusions, and illustrations play in their New Testament context?

These are to be essays in **New Testament Biblical Theology**, not Systematic Theology. General theological discussion of the subject will not receive a high grade. This must be a New Testament study and must include some analysis of the Old Testament influence on the New Testament treatment of the subject.

4. Final Exam - On August 7 a synthetic final exam will be due. The exam will be open book and open Bible. You may use whatever resources you wish and spend as much time as you wish in preparing your answers. The exam questions will be made available on the course Moodle site beginning July 20. However, if you submit your Final Exam before finishing your other course assignments, there will be a 15% reduction in grade.

5. Course Evaluation - On August 8 the course evaluation will be due. The course evaluation will be available after August 1. Your individual evaluation will not be seen by the professor for it will be turned in electronically to the Office of the Administrative Assistant for Academic Programs. Turning in the evaluation will account for 4% of the course grade as points for participation. If the evaluation is turned in before all other assignments are complete it will only receive 1% of the course grade points.

## **Course Grading**

The final grade will be calculated on the basis of the following percentages:

Via and Matera Questions for July 6	7%
Discussion Questions for July 16	5%
July 13 Essay	8%
July 15 Essay	8%
July 20 Essay	11%
July 31 Essay	9%
2 Theological Essays @ 15% each	30%

Final Exam	12%
Class Participation	6%
Course Evaluation	4%

It is the commitment of NTS and of this instructor to make every reasonable effort to facilitate the learning of students capable of graduate level seminary work. Any student who has a condition that may prevent full demonstration of her or his abilities (e.g. - difficulty seeing or hearing, dyslexia, or other learning disabilities) should contact the instructor immediately, or as soon as possible, to discuss learning needs, alternatives which have worked for the student in the past, and mutually acceptable accommodations to ensure the student's full participation and appropriate evaluation in the course.

Late work may be penalized at 10% of the grade for that assignment per day late.

## **Bibliography**

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