

## NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**BIB890 Holiness in the Gospels**  
**Spring Semester Module, January 2010**  
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### **Mobile (Cell) Phones**

Sending and receiving text messages or any other use of mobile (cell) phones during class sessions is not acceptable. Please ensure that your mobile (cell) phones are **SWITCHED OFF** [*OFF MEANS OFF, NOT SILENT*] and **PUT AWAY** during **ALL** class sessions.

### **Laptops and the Internet**

Since the lecture/discussion sessions will not be using the internet, there will be no need for laptops during the first week of class. If you must bring them to the lecture room, please leave them switched off.

## SYLLABUS

### **1 Aims**

This course unit is designed to contribute to the development of a critical and coherent biblical theology of Christian holiness based upon exegetical and theological engagement with the four gospels.

### **2 Intended Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course unit, you should

- have read and reflected upon the four gospels with a view to finding their contribution to a biblical theology of Christian holiness.
- have demonstrated the ability to interact with other students in arriving at informed theological perspectives.
- be able, on the basis of an adequate synthesis of the material in the course unit, to provide coherent answers to selected relevant questions.
- have reflected critically on the place of the doctrine of Christian holiness in the four gospels, and, in conversation with your own theological tradition, be able to articulate it in relation to the material in the course.

### **3 Texts**

Blomberg, Craig *Contagious Holiness*. NSBT 19. Downer's Grove: IVP, 2005.  
Brower, Kent. *Holiness in the Gospels*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2005. (Hereafter *HiG*.)  
Brower, Kent and Johnson Andy. *Holiness and Ecclesiology in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007. (Hereafter *HENT*)

## 4 Assessment

### 1 Pre-Session Reading and Critique.

- Each gospel read in a modern version at one sitting.
- Assigned pre-readings.

Please read through the following selected sections before the class begins.

Greathouse, W      *Wholeness in Christ*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1998, chapter 10.

Barton, Stephen C   *Holiness Past and Present*. London: T& T Clark, 2003, Part 2.

Thomas, G J        'A Holy God among a Holy People in a Holy Place: The Enduring Eschatological Hope,' in K E Brower & M W Elliott, eds, *Eschatology in Bible and Theology: Evangelical Essays at the Dawn of the New Millennium*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999, 53-69.

### 2 Pre-Session Critique. 750-1000 words *each* (total no less than 3000 and not more than 4000 words)

You are to read the four essays by Hagner, Brower, Thompson and Bauckham in *HENT* and, for *each* essay, answer four questions:

- What are the main points in the essay?
- What are the main strengths in the essay, if any?
- Where do you think the essay could be developed further, if at all?
- What advances has the essay made on your own current thought, if any?

Note: These critiques are to be submitted before the beginning of the second class (20 <sup>th</sup> January 2010) and are to be produced independently. Please follow the appropriate NTS Style Guide for Essay Writing.
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### 3 In-session workshops. You will function as part of a small group during the second week of the intensive. Each of you will be assigned a group during the last class of the first week.

#### a. Workshop Preparation

During this two hour daily session, each small group will develop answers to set questions for each of the gospels based upon the recommended biblical texts and in light of the earlier lectures.

#### b. Workshop

Each group will make its contribution to the workshop as the whole group tries to come to a comprehensive answer to the focus question.

#### c. Workshop Participation

Your attendance in the workshops *and participation* in the discussion is essential and will be considered in the course grade.

### 4 Final Examination.

This course unit will include a two-hour written examination on the final day based on the lectures and the assigned textbook, *Holiness in the Gospels*. The examination will be in essay form.

Students may choose instead to write a 2000 word critical review of the textbook by Craig Blomberg, *Contagious Holiness* (details above).

Due Date: **08 March 2010**. Late work will not be accepted without the written permission of the Dean or other appropriate authority at NTS.

#### 5 Post-Course Unit Work

An essay – **not a research paper** – of not more than 2000 words answering the question, *What contribution do the gospels make to a biblical theology of Christian Holiness?* The essay should reflect on the content of the course unit itself including the workshops, the required reading, and the lectures. The key point of the essay, however, is to show precisely how what you have learned can be integrated into an understanding of Christian holiness that takes the gospels seriously as contributors to the development of Christian doctrine.

Due Date: **08 March 2010**. Late work will not be accepted without the written permission of the Dean or other appropriate authority at NTS.

It is the commitment of NTS 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 inform 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.

### **5 Course Unit Grading**

NOTE: You cannot pass the course unless ALL course work is satisfactory.

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

Critique of the four essays	30%
Final Examination or Critical review	25%
Reflective Essay	25%
Workshop Participation	20%

[This section of the course will be student assessed. You will each be asked to assess the contribution of your fellow students to this part of the course.]

## 6 Tentative Outline

Week One

	<b>8:00-9:15 AM</b>	<b>0915</b>	<b>9:30-10:45 PM</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>11:00-12:15 PM</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion	Break	Lecture/Discussion

Week Two

	8:00-9:45 AM	0945	10:15-12:15 PM
25 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop Preparation on Matthew	Break	Workshop on Matthew
29 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop Preparation on Mark	Break	Workshop on Mark
27 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop Preparation on Luke	Break	Workshop on Luke
28 <sup>st</sup>	Workshop Preparation on John	Break	Workshop on John
29 <sup>th</sup>	Examination Revision		Final Examination

## 7 Select Bibliography

These selections are representative of some of the more recent books and articles that might contribute to your thinking. Needless to say, their inclusion in the list does not imply endorsement of the views within them.

- Barton, Stephen C     *Holiness Past and Present*. London: T& T Clark, 2003.
- Bassett, Paul M     “Jesus' Call to Perfection” in *Biblical Resources for Holiness Preaching*. Vol 2. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1993, 37-47.
- Borg, Marcus J     *Conflict, Holiness and Politics in the Teaching of Jesus*. Harrisburg: TPI, 1998, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, chapters 3 - 7.
- Brower, Kent     “Blessed are the Pure in Heart (Matt 5:8.” In *BRHP 2*, 15-26.
- \_\_\_\_\_     *Holiness in the Gospels*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_     “‘Let the Reader Understand’: Temple and Eschatology in Mark” in *Eschatology in Bible and Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999, 119-144.
- \_\_\_\_\_     “‘We are Able’: Cross-bearing discipleship and the Way of the Lord in Mark” in *Horizons in Biblical Theology 29* (2007), 177-201.
- \_\_\_\_\_     ‘Who then is this?’ – christological questions in Mark 4:35 – 5:43” in *EvQ 81* (2009), 291–305.
- Brower, Kent & Johnson, Andy, ed.     *Holiness and Ecclesiology in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Blomberg, Craig     *Contagious Holiness*. Downer’s Grove: IVP, 2005.
- Chilton, Bruce & Evans, Craig     *Jesus in Context: Temple Purity and Restoration*. Leiden: Brill, 1997.
- Clendenin, Daniel B     *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: A Western Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994, chapter 6.
- Coppedge, Allan     *Portraits of God: A Biblical Theology of Holiness*. Downers Grove, IVP, 2001.
- Cunningham, David S     *These Three are One: The Practice of Trinitarian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998.
- Deasley, A R G     *The Shape of Qumran Theology*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2001.
- Dunning H R & N B Wiseman (eds.)     *Biblical Resources for Holiness Preaching*. Vol. 1; Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1990.
- Dunning H R (ed.)     *Biblical Resources for Holiness Preaching*. Vol 2; Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1993.
- Greathouse, W     *Wholeness in Christ*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1998.
- Green, Joel B     *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke*. New Testament Theology.

- Cambridge: CUP, 1995.
- Green, S 'An OT Call to Perfection (Gen 17:1)' in *Biblical Resources for Holiness Preaching*. Vol 1. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 1990.
- Gunton, Colin E *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.
- Klawans, Jonathan *Impurity and Sin in Ancient Judaism*. Oxford: OUP, 2000.
- Kupp, David D *Matthew's Emmanuel: Divine Presence and God's People in the First Gospel*. SNTSMS 90. Cambridge: CUP, 1996.
- Luz, Ulrich *The Theology of the Gospel of Matthew*. NTT, translated by J Bradford Robinson; Cambridge: CUP, 1995ET.
- Maccoby, Hyam *Ritual and Morality: The Ritual Purity System and Its Place in Judaism*. Cambridge: CUP, 1999.
- Marcus, Joel *The Way of the Lord: Christological Exegesis of the Old Testament in the Gospel of Mark*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.
- McKnight, Scot *A New Vision for Israel: The Teachings of Jesus in National Context*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Meyer, Ben F *The Aims of Jesus*. Princeton Theological Monograph Series 48. Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2002 (reprint of London: SCM, 1979 edition.)
- Mullen, J Patrick *Dining with Pharisees*: Collegeville: Michael Glazier, 2004.
- Newman, Carey C, ed. *Jesus and the Restoration of Israel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999.
- Oswalt J N *Called To Be Holy: A Biblical Perspective*. Nappanee, Indiana: Evangel Publishing House, 1999.
- Peterson, D *Possessed by God*. Leicester: IVP, 1995.
- Pinnock, Clark H *Flame of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
- Poorthuis, M J H M & J Schwartz *Purity and Holiness: The Heritage of Leviticus*. Jewish and Christian Perspectives 2. Leiden: Brill, 2000.
- Stanton, G N *A Gospel for a New People*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1992.
- Stavropoulos, Christoforos "Partakers of Divine Nature" in *Eastern Orthodox Theology: A Contemporary Reader*. Ed Daniel B Clendenin; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995, 183-192.
- Swanson, D D "Offerings for Sin in Leviticus and John Wesley's Definition" in *European Explorations in Christian Holiness* 1 (1999), 9-22.
- Swanson, D D, ed *European Explorations in Christian Holiness*. Vol 2. 2001.
- Swartley, W M *Mark: The Way for All Nations*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2000 (reprint of Scottsdale, Penn: Herald, 1981 revised edition).
- Turner, Max *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts Then and Now*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1996.
- Webster, John *Holiness*. London: SCM, 2003.
- Wells, Jo Bailey *God's Holy People: A Theme in Biblical Theology*. JSOTSS 305. Sheffield: SAP, 2000.
- Wright, N T *The New Testament and the People of God*. Vol 1 of *Christian Origins and the Question of God*. London: SPCK, 1992, chapters 9, 10, 13.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Vol 2 of *Christian Origins and the Question of God*. London: SPCK, 1992, chapters 9, 10, 12.

## **Workshop One** **Holiness in Mark**

### 1 OT Antecedents

Gen 12:1-3	(Call and obedience)	Ps 78	(Israel's corporate failure)
Gen 22:1-19	(Priorities)	Isa 8:16	(Preservation of teaching)
Deut 8:1-10	(Discipline)	Isa 35/40:3	('The Way' wilderness motif)
I Kgs 19:19-21	(Apprenticeship, the spirit of Elijah)		

### 2 NT Focus

Mark 1:1-14; 1:27; 3:11; 9:7; 15:39	(Jesus' identity)	Mark 13:35-37 & 14:34-51	(Promise & failure)
Mark 8:22 – 10:52	(Discipleship)	Mark 14:27f & 16:7-8	(Failure & restoration)
Mark 12:28-34	(Great commandments)		

### 3 Questions for guidance in the study

- 1 What is the significance of Jesus' identity for understanding discipleship in Mark?
- 2 What are the foundations for the view that the holy life in Mark is one of following Jesus?
- 3 Explain the importance of 8:22-26 and 10:46-52 as literary markers for the central section of the gospel. How does this central section advance our understanding of discipleship in Mark's gospel. What other examples of Mark's literary skill might contribute to our study?
- 4 How does the passion narrative contribute to our understanding of the new covenant community?
- 5 Does the story of Jesus' own path from baptism to Gethsemane have any relevance for those who are disciples of Jesus AFTER Easter and Pentecost?
- 6 Does the story of the first disciples' struggle to understand who Jesus was and what discipleship meant have any relevance for those who are disciples of Jesus AFTER Easter and Pentecost?
- 7 Discuss the adequacy of the salient features for the disciples in Mark as outlined in the book *Holiness in the Gospels*.
- 8 What might be the implications of this study for understanding, living and proclaiming Christian holiness?

## **Workshop Two**

## Holiness in Matthew

### 1 OT Antecedents

Gen 17:1	(Call and obedience)	Deut 18:13	(Heb. <i>tamim</i> = LXX <i>teleios</i> )
Deut 6-8	(Fulfilling all righteousness)	Ps 24:3-4	(Prerequisites for acceptable worship)

### 2 NT Focus

Matt 4:23—9:35	(Sermon on the identity)	Matt 5:48	(Perfection)
Matt 5:8	(Purity of heart)	Matt 19:16-22	(‘if you would be perfect’)
Matt 5:20	(Greater righteousness)		

### 3 Questions for guidance in the study

- 1 A key question in Matthew emerges from the use of the term ‘perfection’. To what extent can this term contribute to our understanding of holiness in Matthew?
- 2 What is the historical context of the SM? What is the literary context?
- 3 In the light of the literary context of the SM, what interpretative framework can we develop for our understanding of the Sermon?
- 4 What is the relationship between 5:17-21 and 5:48?
- 5 How can the trap of ‘works righteousness’ be avoided in interpreting the imperatives of Gen 17:1 & Matt 5:48?
- 6 What is the relation of discipleship as noted in the previous seminar (which included the possibility of failure) with the call in Matt 5:48?
- 7 What might be the implications of this study for understanding, living and proclaiming Christian holiness?

## **Workshop Three** **Holiness in Luke**

### 1 OT Antecedents

Num 11:26-29	Moses' wish for all Israel to have the spirit and to prophesy	Isa 61:1-4	Spirit bringing deliverance
Isa 4:2-4	Spirit of judgement	Ezek 36:24-27	New spirit
Isa 11:1-5	Spirit of wisdom	Joel 2:28-29	Promise of universal outpouring linked to prophecy
Isa 42:1-4	Spirit bringing justice		

### 2 NT Focus

Luke 1:35	Jesus conceived by the Spirit	Luke 4:1	Jesus led by the Spirit into temptation
Luke 3:15-17	Jesus expected to baptise with the Spirit and fire	Luke 4:16-21	Jesus anointed by the Spirit to bring deliverance
Luke 3:21-22	Jesus descended upon by the Spirit after his baptism	Luke 11:13; 24:49	Jesus' free offer of the Spirit / promise of power from on high

### 3 Questions for guidance in the study:

- 1 What OT expectations of the Spirit's work are carried forward into Luke 1-2?
- 2 To what extent, if at all, is Jesus' own initiatory experience at the Jordan a paradigm for Christian water and Spirit baptism?
- 3 In what ways does Jesus' ministry express the wide-ranging concerns of the Spirit in the OT?
- 4 What role does the Spirit play in the life and ministry of Jesus in Luke?
- 5 What are the implications of the Christology of Luke for Christian holiness?
- 6 To what extent does Luke point towards a social justice and missional dimension to holiness and holy living?
- 7 What might be the implications of this study for understanding, living and proclaiming Christian holiness?

## **Workshop Four** **Holiness in John**

### 1 OT Antecedents

Gen 1:28	(Humanity created in the likeness of the Triune God)		
Deut 6:4-5	(Whole-hearted love of God)	Prov 4	(Wisdom from a 'father')

### 2 NT Focus

John 13:34-35	The new commandment: love for one another	John 15:1-6	Bearing fruit through abiding in Jesus
John 14:7-11	The mutual indwelling of Father and Son	John 15:7	Having Jesus' words in us
John 14:12	Doing the works of Jesus	John 15:11, 18-24	Sharing Jesus' joy and persecution
John 14:15-18	The interchangeability of Son and Spirit	John 16:13	Knowing the truth and the future through the Spirit
John 14:20; 17:21-24	Christians entering the mutuality of Father and Son	John 20:21-23	Being sent on Christ's mission in the power of the Spirit to forgive sins
John 14:15, 23-24; 15:10	Loving Jesus entails obeying his commandments		

### 3 Notes for guidance in the study

- 1 What is the relationship between Father and Son in the Fourth Gospel. To what extent might one speak of a Trinitarian shape to John's theology?
- 2 Who is the *Paraclete* and what is the significance of the *Paraclete* in John's theology?
- 3 To what extent are disciples invited to share in the mutual indwelling of the Trinity?
- 4 What are the implications of mutual indwelling for the life and mission of the church? of the individual?
- 5 What biblical support, if any, is there in the Fourth Gospel for the notions of perichoresis and theosis?
- 6 To what extent might Christian holiness in the Fourth Gospel be described in terms of 'love'?
- 7 What might be the implications of this study for understanding, living and proclaiming Christian holiness?