

BIB361 Early Pauline Epistles
Pacific Life Bible College
Fall 2013
Thursday 8:00-11:20am

Instructor: Brad Copp, bcopp@pacificlife.edu , (604) 868-1162

College Mission Statement:

At Pacific Life Bible College, our purpose is to equip Christian men and women "for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11). We assist your local church in fulfilling the Great Commission by helping develop the character, knowledge, and skills you need to reach your world for Jesus.

Character Development

Your character development is encouraged through courses that emphasize personal integrity, dynamic classroom and chapel experiences, an on-going mentoring program, and a community of supportive faculty, friends, and fellow students. We consider character qualities to be the main criteria for assessing leadership potential (1 Timothy 3).

Academic Excellence

On the foundation of godly character, we add knowledge: systematic instruction from God's Word, applied to a changing world. Leaders that make an eternal difference in their world have a thoroughly Christian worldview, understanding people and current events from the timeless perspective of Scripture.

Ministry Experience

While we strive to instill in you a sense of academic excellence, we don't end the process there. Hearers of the Word are to also be doers of the Word. We help you apply learning to practical service to others through connecting to local church leadership for guided hands-on practicums and internship programs. Our goal is to help you become a leader, firmly founded on sound doctrine and reaching out in the effective power of the Spirit.

Course Description:

This course will provide a foundational overview of some key historical, cultural, linguistic, philosophical, theological and hermeneutical issues related to Paul's early Epistles: I and II Thessalonians, Galatians, and I and II Corinthians. Also, biblical doctrines from the Old Testament and the Gospels which saturate Paul's doctrine and shape his practice will be considered.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand and articulate the historical background, occasion and purpose of each of these five epistles.
2. Understand and articulate the organization and development of the argument of each of these five epistles.
3. Understand and articulate the major theological themes of these five epistles and how they apply to all of life and ministry.
4. Understand and imitate how Paul takes Gospel truth and applies it in a pastorally sensitive manner to various particular situations and challenges.
5. Demonstrate a worldview and lifestyle conformed to the good news of Jesus Christ as communicated in these five epistles.
6. Demonstrate a growing skill in interpreting NT epistles and applying their message to all of life and ministry.
7. Demonstrate a deeper relationship with the ultimate author of these epistles, which has been strengthened through the interaction with the message of these epistles, thereby effecting a closer conformity to the image of His Son.
8. Continue a lifetime of research and study in these books, building on the foundational understanding from this class.
9. Have an increasing esteem and love for Jesus Christ and these five Biblical books.

Course Textbooks:

Holy Bible – formal equivalent or functional equivalent translation (no paraphrase)
Barnett, Paul, The Message of 2 Corinthians – The Bible Speaks Today, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1988.

Blomberg, Craig L., The NIV Application Commentary – 1 Corinthians, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994.

Carson, D.A., The Cross and Christian Ministry – Leadership Lessons from I Corinthians, Grand Rapids, Baker, 2004.

Morris, Leon, 1 and 2 Thessalonians – Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1984.

Schreiner, Thomas R., Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament – Galatians, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2010.

Course Requirements:

1. **Class attendance** – The student is to be present, to be on time, and to actively participate in class discussion and activity. See the PLBC attendance policy below.
2. **Bible Reading** – Student is to read all of the passages to be covered in class before the beginning of the class period. The completion of the reading will be reported on each weekly Exegesis Exercise
3. **Exegetical Exercises** – The student is to choose one of the passages (as listed in the attached assignment sheet). The student will complete an exegetical exercise on that passage according to the instructions found on the attached assignment sheet. **Due Weekly**
4. **Reading Response** – Students will read the Carson textbook in its entirety, and write a 1000-1500 word critical review. The review must be typewritten and contain the following items:
 - 1) Describe the overall thesis/message of the book.
 - 2) Summarize each of the chapters and how each chapter contributes to the overall message.
 - 3) Describe what about the book impacted you the most and how it will impact your life and ministry.
 - 4) Describe the action steps you plan to take to implement and apply what you have learned and gained from reading this book.

Due Thurs. Nov. 7th, 8:00am.

5. **Term Project** – The student is to choose from the topics given in the attached assignment sheet or submit a theme topic from any of the five books for instructor approval. The student will research its use throughout the relevant epistles. The student will write a 2500-3500 word paper which will demonstrate an understanding of Paul's teaching on the subject, but which will concentrate on the application of that theme for today. See the attached assignment sheet for topics and instructions.

Due Mon. Dec. 16th, at 5pm.

6. **Midterm Exam** – Student is to write a 60 minute exam covering Galatians and First & Second Thessalonians. **Thursday Oct. 24th, 8:00-9:00am.**
7. **Final Exam** – Student is to write a 120 minute exam covering First and Second Corinthians. **Thursday Dec. 19th, 8:00-11:20am.**

Course Evaluation:

Exegetical Exercises	35%
Reading Response	15%
Term Project	20%
Midterm Exam (Gal. 1&2 Thess.)	15%
Final Exam (1&2 Cor.)	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Course Calendar

Dates	1 st hour	2 nd hour	3 rd hour	Assignment Due
Wk. 1 Sept. 12	Course Intro. & Syllabus	Interpreting Epistles	Intro. to Galatians	None
Wk. 2 Sept. 19	Gal. 1:1-2:14	Gal. 2:15-21	Gal. ch. 3	EE1 Due
Wk. 3 Sept. 26	Gal. ch. 4	Gal. ch. 5	Gal. ch. 6	EE2 Due
Wk. 4 Oct. 3	The New Perspective	Intro. to 1 Thessalonians	1 Thess. chs. 1-3	EE3 Due
Wk. 5 Oct. 10	1 Thess. chs. 4-5	Intro. to 2 Thessalonians	2 Thess. 1:1-2:12	EE4 Due
Wk. 6 Oct. 17	2 Thess. 2:13-3:18	Intro. to 1 Corinthians 1 Cor. 1:1-17	1 Cor. 1:18-31	EE5 Due
Wk. 7 Oct. 24	Midterm Exam	1 Cor. ch. 2	1 Cor. chs. 3-4	Midterm Exam EE6 Due
Wk. 8 Oct. 31	1 Cor. chs. 5-6	1 Cor. chs. 7-8	1 Cor. chs. 9-10	EE7 Due
Wk. 9 Nov. 7	1 Cor. 11:1-12:31	1 Cor. 12:31-14:5	1 Cor. 14:6-15:28	Carson Reading Report Due EE8 Due
Wk. 10 Nov. 14	1 Cor. 15:29-16:24	Intro. to 2 Corinthians	2 Cor. 1:1-2:13	EE9 Due
Wk. 11 Nov. 21	2 Cor. 2:14-3:18	2 Cor. 3:19-4:15	2 Cor. 4:16-6:2	EE10 Due
Wk. 12 Nov. 28	Reading Break NO CLASS			
Wk. 13 Dec. 5	2 Cor. chs. 6-7	2 Cor. chs. 8-9	2 Cor. ch. 10	EE11 Due
Wk. 14 Dec. 12	2 Cor. ch. 11	2 Cor. ch. 12	2 Cor. ch. 13	EE12 Due (Thurs.) Term Project Due (Dec.16, 5pm)
Final Exam Thursday December 19 th , 8:00-11:20am				

Course Bibliography

General Reference

- Beale, G.K. and D. A. Carson, Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament, Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2007.
- Bruce, F.F., Paul – Apostle of the Heart Set Free, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1977.
- Carson, D. A., and Douglas Moo, An Introduction to the New Testament- 2nd ed., Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2005.
- Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1993.
- Ladd, George Eldon, A Theology of the New Testament- rev. ed., Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1993.
- Longnecker, Richard N., “On the Form, Function, and Authority of the New Testament Letters,” in D.A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge eds., Scripture and Truth, Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 1992.
- O’Brien, P.T., Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul, Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 1993.

Interpretation

- Bock, Darrell L. and Buist M. Fanning eds., Interpreting the New Testament Text, Wheaton, Crossway, 2006.
- Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays, Grasping God’s Word- 2nd ed., Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2005.
- Fee, Gordon D., New Testament Exegesis- 3rd ed., Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth- 3rd ed., Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2003.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme, Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 2006.
- Kaiser, Walter C. and Moises Silva, An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994.
- Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg and Robert L. Hubbard Jr., Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics- rev. ed., Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1993.
- Lubeck, Ray, Read the Bible for a Change, Federal Way, Authentic Media, 2005.
- Osborne, Grant R., The Hermeneutical Spiral, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1991.
- Silva, Moises, Interpreting Galatians, Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2001.
- Schreiner, Thomas R., Interpreting the Pauline Epistles, Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 1990.
- , Paul, Apostle of God’s Glory in Christ: A Pauline Theology, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 2006.

Commentary on Galatians

Fung, Ronald Y.K., The Epistle to the Galatians – NICNT, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1988.

Longnecker, Richard N., WBC – Galatians, Waco TX, Word Books, 1990.

Luther, Martin, Galatians, Wheaton, Crossway, 1998 [1531].

Morris, Leon, Galatians, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1996.

Ryken, Philip Graham, Galatians – REC, Phillipsburg NJ, P&R Publishers, 2005.

Stott, John, “The Pervasive Influence of the Cross” in The Cross of Christ, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1986.

Commentary on 1 and/or 2 Thessalonians

Bruce, F.F., WBC – 1&2 Thessalonians, Waco TX, Word Books, 1982.

Fee, Gordon D., The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians – NICNT, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2009.

Green, Gene L., The Letters to the Thessalonians PNTC, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2002.

Commentary on 1 and/or 2 Corinthians

Carson, D.A., Showing the Spirit – A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-14, Grand Rapids, Baker, 1987.

-----, A Model of Christian Maturity – An Exposition of 2 Corinthians 10-13, Grand Rapids, Baker, 1984.

Fee, Gordon D., The First Epistle to the Corinthians – NICNT, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1987.

Martin, Ralph P., WBC – 2 Corinthians, Waco TX, Word Books, 1986.

Redpath, Alan, The Royal Route to Heaven – Studies in First Corinthians, Grand Rapids, Flemming H. Revell, 1990.

PLBC Academic Freedom Statement

PLBC Faculty and students are granted academic freedom within the context of submission to God’s revealed truth. The Scripture is the final and primary functional authority on all questions of truth, value and practice. Instructors should model a passionate pursuit of truth wherever it leads, fairly present all major sides of controversial issues, demonstrate academic integrity in evaluating diverse truth claims, extend gracious, loving respect toward those who disagree, and exemplify courageous faithfulness in holding to those truths that are Biblically justified. Instructors need to demonstrate unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials and charity in all things. Students should follow and embrace the Biblical ideal of passion for truth in a context of intellectual freedom under humble submission to God and love for one another.

PLBC Absence Policy:

Students are expected to be present, prepared and on time for all classes. Instructors will mark attendance for each class. Unexcused absences and tardiness may result in lowering the final grade. Total absences in excess of 25% of classes may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the class with a fail. Students are expected to schedule all other appointments after class hours. If at any time during the semester, you are absent or late for a class, you are required to check with the instructor before the next class period to see what assignments and/or tests you may have missed, as you are responsible for all assignments.

PLBC Course Extension Policy

Instructors are able to grant students an informal extension of one week after the PLBC assignment deadline date. If more time is required, the student must apply and pay for the formal extension (maximum extension of one month from the school assignment deadline date at the end of the term). The formal request for an extension must be made before the end of the semester. Valid reasons for extensions consist of issues such as a death in the family, a family emergency, personal health issues, or a documented learning disability. The instructor has the right to deny any extension request. The request will most likely be denied if the student has demonstrated a lack of diligence and discipline throughout the term. When an extension is approved the final course grade will be set to "I" (Incomplete) and after the one month extension has expired, a grade is assigned to the student based on the course work received to date. A fee of \$15 per credit hour is charged for course extensions.

Class Policies

In order to be fair to all students, to organize my workweek, and to be prompt with marking, the following policies will be adhered to. It is also an important aspect of preparation for life after PLBC that students should learn to plan and use their time effectively so as to meet deadlines, and learn also to work within the parameters set for assignments.

- Assignments may be submitted in class, posted on Populi, send via e-mail, or delivered to the PLBC office (make sure it is time and date stamped by the receptionist). I would prefer they be posted in Populi, but feel free to use whichever method is convenient.
- Electronic Submissions will be accepted in docx, doc, odt or pdf formats. Any other format must be cleared with the instructor prior to submission.
- All assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the date they are due. If class will be missed because of illness, assignments may be submitted *before* scheduled class time. Any assignment not submitted at the requested time will be considered late.
- Late work will receive a deduction of 10% per day late (excluding weekends) up to 50% deduction. You may submit a late assignment either in class, via e-mail, via Populi or via the PLBC office.
- Extensions for late work may be given for a short period when circumstances arise which in my view could not reasonably have been foreseen and which are sufficiently serious to warrant an exception to the rule.
- All work must be typewritten (except exams), neat and legible.
- All assignments must be your own work. Work sharing and plagiarism are not acceptable.
- Because of the limited number of language and exegesis tools in the library, I ask that you be considerate of others and not monopolize the resources. I would also ask that dorm students give priority to off campus students or those with more limited schedules.
- Because of the uneven quality of the information, Wikipedia and other similar information sharing resources are not acceptable reference for this class.
- I expect all students (because you are adults) to be considerate to the instructor and fellow students by being fully engaged in all class sessions. Boredom is a two way street. You cannot be bored without your willing consent and participation. Even if the course material is not presented in a dynamic, entertaining fashion, it is the student's responsibility to actively engage and get the most out of the course material. Think of this as getting your money's worth out of the class. Also think of this as going "All In" in this aspect of your discipleship. God deserves your Very Best, even in classroom attention.

- The Myth of Multi-tasking is a lie. It has been proven that the human brain cannot give quality attention to multiple tasks at once (that is why cell phone usage while driving is illegal). Therefore, it is counter-productive to yourselves and the people around you to engage in non-class related activities while class is in session. Students should not facebook, text, play video games, engage in non-class related conversation, etc. in class. It is not only a hindrance to your learning process; it is incredibly rude to the instructor and your fellow students. Please refrain from these activities until break time. Students are encouraged to politely request their neighbors to cease these activities if they are observed during class time.
- I expect all students to think critically and be willing to disagree with the texts, teacher, or each other. I am confident that all of you will do so in manner fitting Bible College students and ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Helpful Information

- Your best resource for this course is the people around you. The instructor is willing and available to help you as much as my very busy schedule will allow. However, your peers are also an invaluable source of insight. And you will be wise to share with other students outside of class and help each other explore and develop, meditate upon and apply the concepts of this course.
- I cannot read minds. If you don't understand something or are struggling, I want to help. But in many cases I won't become aware of the problem until it is too late. Please feel free to take the initiative and approach me with questions or problems and I will do my best to help.
- Course Stuff will be posted on Populi and the course website. If you go to my profile (search on 'Brad Copp') and go to "Bulletin Board" and click "Follow Brad", then any updates I post for this class will automatically be posted to your home page on Populi. Please check back often because the class section will be regularly updated.
- In addition, I will put course material including study guides, reviews, and practice quizzes on my website. Go to my homepage and follow the appropriate link. The address is www.bradcopp.com. Please check back often as the website will be updated on a regular basis.
- Please realize that, at best, this course can only be an introduction to these five books. It is hoped that this course will give you a foundation upon which to launch a lifetime of study, devotion, teaching and preaching. Be encouraged to continue in your study of these books even after the course.
- Finally, do not lose God in the process of education. Take advantage of the College student ministry and discipleship opportunities. Take time to interact with Jesus about every part of your life. Specifically, invite the Lord to teach and lead you in the course material. The Bible was written out of lives of prayer, worship, devotion and wisdom's wrestling with life and the Mighty Acts of God. It would be a tragedy and violation of these books if you treated this course as only an intellectual exercise. I also hope that you learn to rely on Him for the strength to learn and grow and fulfill all of the expectations placed on you at PLBC. "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God." Phillips Brooks.

Course Presuppositions:

The motivation for teaching a course on an overview of the Old Testament is rooted in our presuppositions and the implications of those presuppositions regarding the nature and function of God's Holy Word, the Bible. These introductory words will serve to articulate our core values concerning the Scripture and provide a framework for the task being learned and practiced.

Our presuppositions regarding the Scriptures cover the nature of the Bible, core values regarding the interpretation of the Bible, and the implication of the above for the church. In terms of the nature of Scripture we affirm the following:

- We affirm that “the Bible is a supernatural book, God’s written revelation to his people given through prepared and selected spokespersons by the process of inspiration.”¹
- We affirm that the Bible is God’s infallible, inerrant Word and is authoritatively true and is effectual in accomplishing its purpose.
- We affirm that “the Bible manifests unparalleled spiritual worth and a capacity to change lives. The Bible has the unique power to affect the reader spiritually.”²
- We affirm that the Bible is characterized by both unity and diversity. It is diverse in that it represents a variety of human authors, different languages, different cultures, and a variety of literary genre that comes to us over a vast span of time. It is unified in that the Bible possesses an inherent unity because ultimately it has one divine author.³
- We affirm “that the Bible is understandable; it is an accessible book. It presents a clear message to anyone willing to read it, and that is why people throughout history have understood its teachings.”⁴
- As spiritual descendants of the Great Reformation “we accept the 66 books of the canon as the entirety of God’s scriptural record to his people.”⁵

In terms of interpreting the Scripture we affirm the following:

- We affirm that truth and meaning are to be found in the text. We deny that truth and meaning are dependent upon the reader or the interpreter. Meaning is not to be imposed on the text, rather, the reader or interpreter will gain

¹ Klein, Dr. William W. and Blomberg, Dr. Craig L. and Hubbard, Jr., Dr. Robert L. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Dallas, London, Vancouver, Melbourne: Word Publishing, 1993. (88)

² Ibid (91)

³ Ibid (91-92)

⁴ Ibid (92)

⁵ Ibid (92)

understanding by submitting to the authority of the Bible, applying sound interpretive technique, and heeding the presence of the Holy Spirit who brings understanding through illumination.

- We affirm that a text contains only one meaning, however, in some cases there may be many appropriate applications of a text to life.
- We affirm that proper interpretation must take into account issues of continuity and discontinuity in the relationship between the Testaments. This means that we recognize a promise/fulfilment motif with Jesus Christ being the ultimate fulfilment of God's redemptive plan.

These affirmations regarding the Scripture and its interpretation form the basis on which to place the techniques which will be learned in this course of study. It is of utmost importance that exegetical procedures be performed with these core values in mind.

It is not enough, however, to merely learn responsible hermeneutical procedures without thinking of applying truth to the lives of God's people. In light of this we affirm the following in regards to God's church:

- We affirm that the church is in constant need of reformation.
- We affirm that sound theology based on biblical exegesis is one of the primary means God uses to bring reformation about.
- We affirm that the ideal for the Christian is a synthesis of intellectual excellence and a relational, passionate faith. Whenever reformation has occurred, the Church has been able to achieve something of this synthesis. This synthesis is accomplished through bringing all of life under the authority of God's Word, which is the goal of exegesis.
- We affirm that the health of the church depends on its use of the Scriptures. The authority of the Scriptures must be believed and practiced in every aspect of the life of the church. The mission of the church as salt and light is gauged in part by its' use and treatment of the Scriptures.

The presuppositions articulated in this prologue provide you, the student, with a frame of reference that reveals our positions on important matters regarding the nature and function of the Word of God. We have not attempted to defend our positions in this prologue. We have merely put them forward and we are committed to conducting ourselves in such a way that we will be faithful to these core values.