

Class Objectives – After this class you will be able to:

- Critique the synthesis of NT scholar F. C. Baur.
- Identify the term *Hauptbriefe*.
- Discuss the position of NT scholar E. P. Sanders.
- Explain the South Galatian theory.
- Summarize the distinct purposes of the individual Pauline letters.
- Discuss the importance of viewing the NT both historically and theologically.
- Defend the position that there is a synthetic unity to the NT.

Key Terms:

- Thesis / Antithesis / Synthesis
- Occasion
- *Hauptbriefe*
- Covenantal Nomism

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel” — Paul and His Gospel

I. Introduction to Pauline Theology:

A. Issues of Contemporary Scholarship

1. The Legacy of the Tübingen School

Paul versus Peter

Authenticity of Paul’s Letters and the *Hauptbriefe*

2. The Legacy of the Historical Jesus Quest and 19th c. Liberalism

Paul as Founder of Christianity

3. The “New Perspective on Paul”

E. P. Sanders, Pharisees, and Covenantal Nomism

James D. G. Dunn and Jewish Identity Markers

N. T. Wright and a more Evangelical “new perspective”

- B. Theological Themes in Paul – [see Ladd]

II. Galatians:

1. Galatians as a Lightning Rod of Contemporary Scholarship
2. Dating and Locating Galatians

III. Romans:

- A. Purpose(s) of the Epistle

1. chpts. 1-5: A theology of salvation
2. chpts. 6-8: A theology of Christian living
3. chpts. 9-11: A theology of Israel and the church
4. chpts. 12-15: A letter encouraging harmony between Jew & Gentile
5. chpts. 15-16: A letter preparing for a trip to Rome and Spain

IV. Occasions and Purposes of Paul's Letters:

Galatians	Written to oppose those who would require that Galatian Christians submit to the law in addition to Christ, especially with regard to circumcision.
1 & 2 Thessalonians	While 1 Thessalonians seems to be a general letter of encouragement in response to Timothy's report (see 3:6), 2 Thessalonians is written in part to oppose the idea that Jesus had already returned (see 2:1ff.).
1 Corinthians	With significant divisions in the Corinthian church, Paul writes to encourage unity, to argue persuasively for the resurrection of the body, and to answer some key questions (e.g. over immorality, lawsuits, marriage and singleness, food sacrificed to idols, the Lord's supper and tongues).
2 Corinthians	As Paul sends Titus to Corinth (8:16ff.) to collect the church's gift to the needy saints, he also re-asserts his apostolic credentials as a suffering servant of the gospel in order to further move the church at Corinth to repentant obedience.
Romans	Paul prepares the Roman Christians to help him in his desire to come through there and to pass on into Spain. In the process he lays out his gospel, answers some objections, encourages the faithful, and especially directs himself to issues of Jews and Gentiles in the church.
Philippians	Writing from prison in response to a gift from the church, Paul also commends to them Epaphroditus and speaks of Paul's own desire to see them, while he encourages them with his example and that of Christ.
Colossians	A letter bearing some cautions against a dangerous hybrid religious philosophy, but largely containing general encouragement in Christian living.
Philemon	A letter written to Philemon to ask for leniency in his treatment of the run-away slave Onesimus.
Ephesians	An apparently circular letter written to encourage the churches in Asia Minor with the gospel, with the gospel's implications for Jewish and Gentile relations, and with advice in walking the Christian walk.
1 & 2 Timothy	Pastoral instruction for Paul's "son" in the Lord, Timothy, concerning his responsibilities over the church in Ephesus. In 2 Timothy, Paul also asks that Timothy come to him.
Titus	Pastoral advice for Paul's faithful fellow servant concerning his responsibilities over the church in Crete.

Toward a New Testament Theology: The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ

V. Purposes and Goals in this Course:

A. Course objectives:

1. Critique current scholarly approaches to New Testament study, and develop a working methodology of how one can better study the New Testament historically and theologically.
2. Survey the historical contexts and purposes of individual New Testament books.
3. Consider major theological themes in the New Testament author by author, and (more particularly) delve into the riches of each New Testament author's understanding of the cross of Christ.
4. Promote appreciation for the organic unity of New Testament theology in the midst of the diversity of its expression.
5. Provide a climate which encourages the practical application of New Testament teaching.

