

Advanced Exegesis of Romans (NT 2063)

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Spring 2010

Professor: Susan R. Garrett

Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30 – 9:50 a.m., Schlegel 120

Course Description:

The power of Paul's Epistle to the Romans is evident from its record of profound influence on Christian history and theology. Yet, in many churches today Romans is underused because it is regarded by both pastors and laity as too difficult. Thus the church is deprived of one of its great treasures! The course will address this problem by introducing students to the exegetical and theological issues and the homiletical potential in this great letter. Specific topics to be addressed include the righteousness of God and the fate of Israel, the significance of Christ's death and the community's participation in its effects, Paul's attitude toward the Jewish Law, the role of apocalyptic eschatology in Paul's thought, the political significance of claiming Jesus as *kyrios*, and the communal practice of welcoming one another in the church despite differences. The format for class sessions will be seminar discussion; the instructor will from time to time provide overview and summary.

Intended Major Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Discuss major interpretive theories for the occasion and purpose of the letter;
2. Identify passages of the letter that have stimulated significant controversy among interpreters, and explain the exegetical crux involved in each;
3. Recite 30 verses of the epistle from memory, giving chapter and verse citations;
4. Offer detailed exegetical analysis of a passage from Romans; and
5. Speak cogently about ways to preach or teach from Romans in order to benefit the church.

Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Perfect or near-perfect class attendance and active and informed participation (*please note attendance and makeup policy in appendix below*). For each class session: careful reading and study of the assigned verses of the text; also reading (*prior* to the session) of corresponding sections in commentaries and any other materials designated for that day. Students should come to class with notes on readings and with points or questions in mind for discussion. *Worth @20% of final grade.*
2. An oral test, in front of the class, reciting memorized verses (see #3 above) and giving chapter and verse citations. Students will choose the due date for this assignment (must be completed by April 16). *Worth @20% of final grade.*
3. One-half to one-page (double-spaced) reviews of five sermons from Rutledge, *Not Ashamed of the Gospel* (sermons to be assigned by professor). Each review should indicate the text from Romans upon which the sermon is based and summarize the main lines of the exegesis as well as the "takeaway" point(s). Critique of the sermon may be included if desired. Each

review must be submitted electronically to the professor by the *day before the date on which the text in question is being discussed*; the reviews will be shared with the rest of the class. Late reviews will not be accepted (no exceptions, so do them early). *Worth @10% of final grade.*

4. One exegesis paper, @10 pp in length (*passage to be decided in consultation with the professor*). The paper will treat the given passage exegetically, and will conclude with reflections on how you might preach from the passage to an audience that you specify. *Worth @ 25% of final grade. Please note carefully the policy on plagiarism in the appendix below.*
5. An essay-type final examination, due **May 20** (*take-home and open-book, with extended period for completion; may be done cooperatively with one other student*). *Worth @25% of final grade.*

Textbooks:

Required:

1. A study version of the Bible (e.g., *The Catholic Study Bible*, *The HarperCollins Study Bible*) in any one of the following translations: New revised Standard Version, New American Standard, Revised English Bible, New International Version. Multiple versions may be consulted.
2. Achtemeier, Paul. J. *Romans* (Interpretation, A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching). Westminster John Knox, 1985. ISBN 978-0804231374.
3. Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Reading Romans: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Smyth and Helwys, 2008. ISBN 978-1573122764
4. Reasoner, Mark. *Romans in Full Circle : A History of Interpretation*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0664228736.
5. Rutledge, Fleming. *Not Ashamed of the Gospel: Sermons from Paul's letter to the Romans*. William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2007. ISBN 978-0802827371.
6. Sanders, E. P. *Paul (A Brief Insight)*. Sterling, 2009. ISBN 978-1402768859

Recommended (to refer to as needed):

1. *The New Interpreter's Bible: Acts – First Corinthians* (Volume 10). Abingdon, 2002. ISBN 978-0687278237

Tentative Schedule:

Friday, February 12. Orientation to class. Issues in the study of Romans.

Wednesday, February 17. The work and thought of Paul the Apostle: An Introductory Overview

- *Reading:* Sanders, chaps. 1–6

Friday, February 19. Romans: An Introductory Overview.

- *Reading:* Romans 1–8; Achtemeier, 1-26; Sanders, chaps. 7–9; Johnson, 1-18; ; Reasoner, ix-9; Rutledge, 1-13

Wednesday, February 24. Romans: An Introductory Overview (continued).

- *Reading:* Romans 9–16; Sanders, chaps. 10–11

Friday, February 26. NO CLASS**Wednesday, March 3.** Romans 1:1-32

- *Reading:* Achtemeier, 27-43; Johnson, 19-36; Reasoner, 10-21; *recommended:* Rutledge, 27-49

Friday, March 5. Romans 2:1–3:8

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 43-58; Johnson, 37-45

Wednesday, March 10. Romans 3:9-20

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 58-66; Johnson, 45-50; *recommended:* Rutledge, 50-68

Friday, March 12. Romans 3:21-31

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 66-76; Johnson, 51-65; Reasoner, 23-41 Recommended: Rutledge, 69-105

Wednesday, March 17. Romans 4:1-25

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 76-85; Johnson, 67-81; Recommended: Rutledge, 106-41

Friday, March 19. Romans 5:1-11

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 87-95; Johnson, 83-92; Recommended: Rutledge, 142-56

March 24 and 26: *Research and study week: NO CLASS***Wednesday, March 31.** Romans 5:12-21

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 95-102; Johnson, 92-99; Reasoner, 55-66; Recommended: Rutledge, 157-80

Friday, April 2. NO CLASS**Wednesday, April 7.** Romans 6:1-23

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 102-113; Johnson, 101-12; *recommended:* Rutledge, 181-207

Friday, April 9. Romans 7:1-25

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 113-30; Johnson, 112-23; Reasoner, 67-84; Stanley K. Stowers, “Romans 7.7-25 as a Speech-in-Character (PROSOPOPOIIA)” (on e-reserve); *recommended:* Rutledge, 208-28

Wednesday, April 14. Romans 8:1-17

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 130-41; Johnson, 125-35; *recommended:* Rutledge, 211-35

Friday, April 16. Romans 8:18-39

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 141-52; Johnson, 135-48; Reasoner, 85-94; *recommended:* Rutledge, 236-70

Wednesday, April 21. Romans 9:1-29

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 153-65; Johnson, 149-166; Reasoner, 95-112; *recommended:* Rutledge, 273-86

Friday, April 23. Romans 9:30–11:6

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 167-78; Johnson, 166-177; Reasoner, 113-19; *recommended:* Rutledge, 297-323

Wednesday, April 28. Romans 11:7-36.

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 178-92; Johnson, 177-86; Reasoner, 121-28; *recommended:* Rutledge, 287-94, 324-52

Friday, April 30. Romans 12:1-21

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 193-203; Johnson, 187-197; *recommended:* Rutledge, 353-75

Wednesday, May 5. Romans 13:1-14.

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 203-214; Johnson, 197-207; Reasoner, 129-42; *recommended:* Rutledge, 376-84

Friday, May 7: Romans 14:1–15:13.

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 214-28; Johnson, 209-21; *recommended:* Rutledge, 385-411

Wednesday, May 12. Romans 15:14–16:27.

- *Readings:* Achtemeier, 228-41; Johnson, 223-39; <http://Gal328.org/articles/Hutson-Laborers.html>

Friday, May 14. Summary: The Purpose and Theology of Romans.

- *Readings:* Reasoner, 143-49

Appendix: Course Policies

Policy on Inclusive Language:

In speech and in written assignments, please avoid divisive terms that reinforce stereotypes or are pejorative. Do not use language that leaves out part of the population, perpetuates stereotyping, or diminishes importance. Do not use male pronouns (such as “men”) to refer to a group that includes females as well. Consult the Academic Support Center for additional guidance if necessary.

Policy on Plagiarism:

Prohibition of plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Ideas and words (even short phrases, if distinctive) drawn from print, Internet, or other sources should be fully documented. Any student work in which plagiarism is discovered will receive an automatic F with no possibility of redoing the assignment. Use great care!!!

Policy on Attendance and Makeup for Missed sessions:

Perfect or near-perfect attendance is expected, and roll will be taken. If you must miss class for any reason, you should turn in a page of typed notes on the readings for the class you missed. These will be due to the professor in electronic form by the start of the second class session after the one that was missed. Thus, if you miss class on February 17, notes should be submitted electronically by the start of class on February 24 at the latest. In case of scheduled days off, the deadline is one calendar week from the missed class. It is the students' responsibility to keep track of any classes missed and make-up notes due; the professor will not send notices or follow-ups, nor will late notes be accepted. Too many missed classes will adversely affect class participation grade even if make-up notes are turned in.

Policy on Use of Electronic Devices in Class

All cell phones should be turned off during class unless waiting for an important call, in which case you should let the professor know ahead of time. When using computers in class do not access the Internet unless specifically for purposes relevant to the course. Checking of email or Facebook will be grounds for dismissal from the session and will adversely affect one's class participation grade.