



BIBS 322/423

The Epistles

Distance/Campus Course Description

Lecturer: Prof Paul Trebilco

Brief Introduction to the Paper

This course provides a detailed discussion of important themes in Paul's theology and in the interpretation of Paul's letters, with exegesis of selected texts.

The course is in two parts. Firstly, we will deal with a range of significant issues in the interpretation of Paul's thought. These are:

- Paul's Conversion and Call and Paul's Background
- Paul's Christology
- "In Christ" in Paul
- Justification by faith and the New Perspective on Paul
- "Faith in Christ" and "The Faithfulness of Christ" in Paul
- Paul and the Gift
- Paul's Understanding of the Spirit
- The Death of the Christ in Paul
- Paul's Understanding of the Church and ministry

Secondly, we will discuss why Paul wrote Romans and then do detailed exegesis of Romans 3:21-7:25.

Assessment

BIBS 322: A 2,000-word essay (25% each); a 2,000-word exegesis (25%), and a two-hour exam (50%).

BIBS 423: This paper is fully internally assessed. There is no examination.

Assessment is a 2,500 word essay (35%), a 3,000 word exegesis (40%), two 700 word responses to the exegetical assignment written by other students (10% each) and a written response to the students who responded to your exegesis (5%).

Teaching Schedule

The **campus class** will be taught through one 2hr class each week.

The **distance class** will be taught through 4 2-hour video-conferences, plus a teaching day. The teaching day is either in-person in Wellington, or online (depending on travel restrictions).

Timetable details are available at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/> (See the hyperlinks under “Timetables”, on the right hand side)

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the paper at 300-level should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of key themes of Pauline theology;
- identify and discuss selected key issues in the interpretation of Paul’s letters; and
- undertake exegesis of a selected text from Paul’s Epistles, employing the appropriate critical tools and methods.

In addition to those at 300-level, students who successfully complete the paper at 400-level should also be able to:

- develop research skills in a subject so that you can analyse and critically evaluate contemporary research in that area;
- demonstrate the ability to clarify differing intellectual approaches to evidence; and
- present an exegetical assignment in which in-depth exegetical skills are demonstrated.
- respond to the exegeses of others, demonstrating the ability to critically analyse an argument.

For more information

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

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