

**SSB- 618 “Necessity is laid upon me”:
Mission in the New Testament**

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

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Course Description. Witnessing the Faith: Confession, Proclamation, and Witness in the New Testament. How and why did mission become a basic component of early Christianity? We will seek to answer this question by looking at different materials from the NT: Paul, Matthew, Acts, 1 Peter, etc. Will ask for thme impelling force, the style of missioni and its relation to the twenty-first century.

Practical Matters

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Schedule for the week (negotiable):

AM: 8:30-11:30 (with 10 minute [!!] midway break)

PM: 1:30-2:30 or 3:00-4:00

Course Schedule

In each period we will look at an aspect of Mission in the NT.

Monday: Conversion: How and why; Acts Narratives

Tuesday: Paul on Mission: 1 Cor, Rom 15, 1 Thess,

Wednesday: Women and Mission. House churches, etc

Thursday: Matthew: Witness, Baptism, Teaching

Friday: Money and Mission: Philippians, Synoptics, Didache



Objectives:

1. Reading the NT with new questions
2. Understanding of the center of the theology of witness
3. Appreciation of the NT's variety
4. Development of an adult education program for evangelism

Course Textbooks Required [Note alternatives!]

1. *Novum Testamentum Graece*. Ed. Barbara and Kurt Aland. 27th ed. New York: American Bible Society, 2004. ISBN 3-438-05100-1 REQUIRED OF STUDENTS WHO KNOW GREEK
2. *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*. By Donald Senior and Carroll Stuhlmacher. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1983. ISBN 0-88344-047-4 REQUIRED.

3. *A Woman's Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*. By Carolyn Osiek and Margaret Y. MacDonald. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006. ISBN 0-8006-3690-2 REQUIRED
4. *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. By Wayne A. Meeks. 2nd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003. ISBN 0-300-09861-8 REQUIRED

Recommended Texts:

1. *Mission in the New Testament: An Evangelical Approach*. Ed. by William J. Larkin Jr. and Joel F. Williams. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998. ISBN 1-57075-169-2. RECOMMENDED
2. Each student should have a good annotated English Bible. I recommend the following [though Oxford Annotated is also good]: *The Harper Collins Study Bible*. New Annotated Edition by the Society of Biblical Literature. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006. ISBN 0-06-078685-X [This comes in a number of different formats and costs. RECOMMENDED.
3. *Paul Missionary of Jesus*. By Paul Barnett. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8028-4891-8 (they do not list one in only 10 numbers). RECOMMENDED
4. Arland Hultgren. *Paul's Gospel and Mission*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
5. Overman, J. Andrew. *Church and Community in Crisis: the Gospel according to Matthew*. Valley Forge: Trinity Press International, 1996.
6. Bring what commentaries you own on 1 Thessalonians, Philippians 1 Corinthians, Romans and Matthew. I list some recent ones [NOT REQUIRED]

1 Thessalonians

Malherbe, Abraham. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. AB. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

Richard, E. *First and Second Thessalonians*. Sacra Pagina 11. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1995.

Philippians

Bockmuehl, Markus. *The Epistle to the Philippians*. BNTC. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1998.

1 Corinthians

Collins, Raymond. *1 Corinthians*. Sacra Pagina. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1995.

Matthew

• Harrington, Dan. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Sacra Pagina 1. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press. A Michael Glazier Book, 1991. ISBN 0-8146-5803-2

Overman, J. Andrew. *Church and Community in Crisis: the Gospel according to Matthew*. Valley Forge: Trinity Press International, 1996.

Advance Preparation

1. Read each of these books to master outlines, basic themes, and distinctive vocabulary.
2. Isolate and list the passages in each that relate to proclamation and mission
3. Read a good New Testament introduction on each of these books,
4. Decide which of these NT books most appeals to you. This book will become your special interest during and after the course.

If you have questions about any of the above items, send me e-mail Edgar Krentz <ekrentz@sbcglobal.net> or <ekrentz@lstc.edu>

I will provide some material on each of these letters in the class sessions. As you might imagine, the bibliography on each letter is rich and varied.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance at all class sessions, with active participation in discussions.

2. Reading of commentary and monograph material related to the daily discussions.
3. Reflection papers on each of the required monographs. Each paper should indicate (1) What in the presentation was new to you; (2) what preaching themes arise from the reading; and (3) your personal reaction to the presentation.
4. Write one of the following papers [or suggest another option]. These papers are **due in my hands by September 20, 2008**. The faster, the better. Strike while the iron is hot.
 - (a) Select a sequence of texts and prepare a series of sermon studies on them. OR
 - (b) Prepare a six-week adult education syllabus on the gospel of Ephesians to use alongside six sermons on the book.
 - (c) Write a more traditional paper on one of the great themes of that occur in these three letters; e.g. ministry, unity, worship; document it from the biblical (Greek) text and some of the modern bibliographic resources
 - (d) A creative piece: a chancel drama, a series of art pieces, clip art for weekly service folders, etc. that illustrate significant features of Luke's message or theology.
5. I will assign specific texts to participants for class room report during the week. Reports are to present key problems in interpretation, isolate ambiguous terminology, suggest interpretations, and stimulate discussion of preaching values in these texts. If possible, prepare hand outs for the class.

Recent Introductions to the New Testament

- Brown, Raymond. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York, et al.: Doubleday, 1997. ISBN 0-385-24767-2.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. ISBN 0-19-508481-0.
- Schnelle, Udo. *The History and Theology of the New Testament Writings*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998. ISBN 0-8006-2952-3.

Bibliography

Conversion

- Bornkamm, Günther, "The Isis Initiation in Apuleius and Related Initiatory Rites," *Conflict at Colossae*. Rev. ed. by Fred O. Francis and Wayne A. Meeks. SBLSPS 4. Missoula: SWcholars Press, 1975: 61-121.
- Cancik, Hubert. "Lucian on Conversion: Remarks on Lucian's Dialogue *Nigrinos*," *Ancient and Modern Perspectives on the Bible and Culture. Essays in Honor of Hans Dieter Betz*, ed. Adela Yarbro Collins. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998: 26-48. Response: Edgar Krentz, "Conversion in Early Christianity," *ibid*, 49-58.
- Goodman, Martin. *Mission and Conversion: Proselytizing in the Religious History of the Roman Empire*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994.
- Nock, Arthur Darby. *Conversion: The Old and the New in Religion from Alexander the Great to Augustine of Hippo*. London: Oxford University Press, 1961 = 1933.

General and Paul

- Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1962 (reprint).
- Barclay, William. "A Comparison of Paul's Missionary Preaching and Preaching to the Church," in *Apostolic Preaching and the Gospel*, ed. W. W. Gasque and R. P. Martin. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1970: 165-75.

- Finn, Thomas M. *From Death to Rebirth: Ritual and Conversion in Antiquity*. New York, Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1997.
- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts. *From Darkness to Light: Aspects of Conversion in the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
- Gilliland, Dean S. *Pauline theology and Mission Practice*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1983.
- Hahn, Ferdinand. *Mission in the New Testament*. SBT 47. Naperville: Alec R. Allenson, 1965.
- Joachim Jeremias. *Jesus' Promise to the Nations*. London: SCM Press, 1958.
- Kertelge, Karl, ed. *Mission im Neuen Testament*. Freiburg: Herder, 1982.
- Larkin, William J., and Joel F. Williams, ed. *Mission in the New Testament: An Evangelical Approach*. American Society of Missiology Series, No. 27. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1999.
- MacMullen, Ramsay. *Christianizing the Roman Empire (A.D. 100-400)*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984.
- Rambo, Lewis R. "Conversion," *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. Mircea Eliade. New York: Macmillan; London: Collier Macmillan, 1987: 4.73-78.
- Segal, Alan F. *Paul the Convert: The Apostolate and Apostasy of Saul the Pharisee*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1990.
- Senior, Donald. "The Struggle to Be Universal: Mission as Vantage Point for New Testament Investigation," *CBQ* 46 (1984) 63-81.
- , and Carroll Stuhlmueller. *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1983.
- Stendahl, Krister. *Paul Among Jews and Gentiles*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1976.