

Romans and Galatians

Fall 2020

Course Description:

Together, these two books bring into the Christian community certain vital doctrines regarding sin and salvation, faith and grace. An in-depth textual course.

Instructor:

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Course Objectives:

1. To learn what these two letters have to teach us about God, people, and God's plan for reuniting the two.
2. To observe how Paul communicated with these two groups of congregations on God's behalf and how that can inform our own ministries.
3. To apply what we find in the text to be more closely conformed to the image of Jesus.

Textbooks:

1. A Bible. You may use the version(s) of your choice, but I recommend picking one version for your memory work.

Course Requirements:

1. Reading: Students are expected to read through the books of Romans and Galatians at least once during the semester. Ideally, students should stay at least one week ahead of the schedule printed under "Weekly Assignment" in the course outline below. Doing so will mean that the student has read the material to be discussed on a given day. I will assess this reading in two ways:
 - a. Class Participation: Students should jot down questions/observations about the text as they read. Please share these at an appropriate time in class. Students are expected to ask a question/make an observation at least once per class period.
 - b. Weekly Assignments: Beginning Week 2, an assignment is due at 9:00 PM each Sunday night (except Week 11) covering the material listed under "Weekly Assignment" in the course outline below. If all goes according to plan, the weekly assignments will call for answering some questions about the text and reflecting on our classroom discussions the previous week. If we fall behind schedule (quite likely in my text classes, as previous students can attest), the weekly assignments will remain the

same, but will consist of only the textual component (since, in that case, we will not have discussed the passage in class yet).

2. Memory Work: I will be distributing a list of key passages to memorize over the course of the semester. You may use any of the following versions: ASV, CSB, ESV, HCSB, KJV, LEB, NET Bible, NASB, NIV, NKJV, NLT, NRSV, and RSV. The memory work will be assessed on the quizzes.
3. Quizzes: There will be a total of three quizzes spread across the semester. The first quiz covers Romans 1–8, the second quiz covers Romans 9–16, and the third covers Galatians.
4. Paper/Presentation: Students are expected to prepare a lesson manuscript (Bible class/sermon) based on a section of either Romans or Galatians. Please choose the text you wish to cover by class time on Week 8. The final product is due by class time on Week 13, but if you get a draft to me by class time on Week 11, I will return it to you with comments in time for you to revise it and submit the final copy on Week 13. This project consists of two parts:
 - a. Written: The written manuscript should be roughly 2,000 words long. Please type this assignment in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced. Please cite at least 7 sources. Footnote formatting should follow the *SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd edition. The bibliography at the end of the paper should contain everything cited in the footnotes. Papers should address each of the following questions clearly:
 - (1) How does this passage relate to the rest of the book?
 - (2) What are the relevant features of the historical/cultural background?
 - (3) What is the main idea of the passage?
 - (4) How does Paul support this main idea?
 - (5) How does this main idea affect our lives today?
 - b. Oral: The oral presentation should be about 10 minutes. This will probably involve abridging the paper. The format for this presentation will be discussed closer to the due date, as how much class time can be devoted to this depends on factors that are hard to predict in advance.
5. Grade breakdown:
 - a. Class Participation (10%)
 - b. Weekly Assignments (15%)
 - c. Quizzes (45%)
 - d. Paper/Presentation (30%)

Projected Course Outline:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture/Class Discussion</u>	<u>Weekly Assignment</u>	<u>Major Assignments</u>
1	Romans: Background, Salutation, Thanksgiving,		

	Thesis Statement		
2	Romans: The Problem	Romans 1:1-17	
3	Romans: The Solution and the New Situation (Part 1)	Romans 1:18-3:20	
4	The New Situation (Part 2)	Romans 3:21-5:21	
5		Romans 6:1-8:39	Exam 1 (Romans 1-8)
6	What about Israel (Part 1)?		
7	What about Israel (Part 2)?	Romans 9:1-10:13	
8	Romans: Individual Living Sacrifices	Romans 10:14-11:36	Paper Topic Due
9	Romans: Communal Living Sacrifices and Closing	Romans 12:1-13:14	
10		Romans 14:1-16:27	Exam 2 (Romans 9-16)
11	Galatians: Background, Opening, Paul's Authority (Part 1)		(Rough Draft of Paper)
12	Paul's Authority (Part 2), Paul's Defense (Part 1)	Galatians 1:1-24	
13	Paul's Defense (Part 2)	Galatians 2:1-3:6	Paper Due
14	Galatians: Christian Freedom, Encouragement, and Closing	Galatians 3:7-4:31	
15		Galatians 5:1-6:18	Exam 3 (Galatians)

Class Policies:

Attendance (From the GLBC Catalogue)

Students are required to attend classes regularly. One unexcused absence for every credit hour in a given course may be permitted, i.e. per one-hour class. Two percent (2%) of the course grade per academic hour for each hour of classroom instruction missed may be deducted for each unexcused absence beyond the above.

Late Work (From the GLBC Catalogue)

Assignments for the term are listed in the syllabus supplied for each course. Every assignment so listed must be completed to pass the course. Late submission of assignments need not be accepted by the instructor. Extenuating circumstances and emergencies will be taken into consideration. If a late assignment is accepted, a grade reduction of 5% per instructional day may be assessed.

Selected Bibliography:

Batey, Richard A. *The Letter of Paul to the Romans*. Living Word 7. Austin, TX: Sweet, 1969.

Bruce, F.F. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

Dunn, James D.G. *Romans*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary 38. Dallas, TX: Word, 1988.

Johnson, Robert L. *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians*. Living Word 10. Austin, TX: Sweet, 1969.

Lard, Moses E. *Commentary on Romans*. N.p.: Christian Board of Publication, 1914.

Lightfoot, J.B. *The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians*. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971.

Lipscomb, David. *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles, Volume 1: Romans*. Edited by J.W. Shepherd. Second edition. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 1964.

Longenecker, Richard N. *Galatians*. Word Biblical Commentary 41. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1990.

McGarvey, J.W., and Philip Y. Pendleton. *Thessalonians, Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans*. The Standard Bible Commentary. Cincinnati, OH: Standard Publishing, n.d.

Whiteside, Robertson L. *A New Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Saints at Rome*. Fourth edition. Fort Worth, TX: Manney, 1955.