

New Testament II

A Chronological Study

Living Water ONE Association
Northeast Ohio School of Ministry
Spring Term 2020

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, Instructor

878 Clearview Circle
Wadsworth, OH 44281
+1-330.338.1176(c)
ddoty1@neo.rr.com

Course Description:

An overview and analysis of the evolution of the Christian corpus. This course will emphasize the structural and literary content of the first writings about Jesus of Nazareth (Ephesians – 2 Peter). Particular attention will be paid to the way the first century Jewish Rabbi Jesus became the Christ of faith. Theological, hermeneutical and liturgical disciplines will also be addressed.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the nature, form, history and function of the early writings and how they shaped the evolving image of Jesus
2. To provide a general overview and outline of each work and its *sitz im leben*
3. To gain a functional knowledge of the current strains regarding the scholarly study of these books.
4. To develop skills in integrating critical study of the Christian Scriptures into ministry.

Course Work: (but not limited to)

1. Complete all course readings and engage in class dialogue.
2. Reflect in small group settings and in the larger class group on the structure, form and theological themes of the these works.
2. Prepare an introduction to one of the books we study in class (see Assignments below) for class presentation.
3. Prepare a final project given the options in the Assignment section below.

Required Texts:

Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were

Written, Marcus Borg 2013 (Harper One)

A modern English Study Bible with Apocrypha (NRSV preferred)

Good examples are the Harper Collins Study Bible, The New Interpreters Study Bible, The Oxford Annotated Study Bible, etc.)

Other Resources:

The HarperCollins Visual Guide to the New Testament: What Archaeology Reveals about the First Christians, Jonathon L. Reed, 2007 (HarperOne)

Who Wrote the New Testament?: The Making of Christian Myth, Burton L. Mack, 1995 (Harper Collins)

Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts, K. C. Hanson & Douglas E. Oakman, 2008 (Augsburg Fortress)

The New Greek English Interlinear New Testament (Personal Size), ed. Brown, Comfort and Douglas, 1990, (Tyndale House)

Course Outline:

- I. Eight Sessions – Monday, March 23 – May 18, 2020 - 6:00-8:00 pm (**NO** class April 7)
 - a. Session One – March 23 – Introductions/The Case for a Chronological Approach/Ephesians
 - i. Readings:
 1. In Class Handouts, etc.
 2. BRING Bible, and text
 - a. Borg, ppg. 351-362
 - ii. Introduction to course
 1. Class introductions
 2. Syllabus
 3. Talk about Other Resources mentioned above
 4. The Case for a Chronological Approach
 5. Overview of Ephesians
 - b. Session Two – March 30 – Revelation
 - i. Readings:
 1. Borg, ppg. 363-399
 2. Bible: Revelation
 - c. Session Three – April 13 – Jude/1, 2 & 3 John
 - i. Readings –
 1. Borg: ppg. 401-421
 2. Bible: Jude/1, 2 & 3 John
 - d. Session Four – April 20 – The Gospel According to Luke
 - i. Readings –
 1. Borg: ppg. 423-488
 2. Bible: Luke
 - ii. Present Introductions

- e. Session Five – **Tuesday, April 28** – Acts
 - i. Readings –
 - 1. Borg: ppg. 489-546
 - 2. Bible: Acts
- f. Session Six – May 4 – 2 Thessalonians/1 Peter
 - i. Readings –
 - 1. Borg: ppg. 547-562
 - 2. Bible: 2 Thessalonians/1 Peter
- g. Session Seven – May 11 – 1 & 2 Timothy
 - i. Readings –
 - 1. Borg: ppg. 563-582
 - 2. Bible: 1 & 2 Timothy
- h. Session Eight – **Thursday, May 21** – Titus/2 Peter/Wrap-up, Assignments due, etc.
 - i. Readings –
 - 1. Borg: ppg. 583-593
 - 2. Bible: Titus/2 Peter

Assignments:

- I. Complete all course readings
- II. Participate in class (both small group and large group) discussions
- III. Book Introduction – due April 17 (25%)
 - a. Choose a book from the list we are studying this term
 - i. Prepare an Introduction to the book (3-4 Pages)
 - 1. Give relevant information as to (but not limited to):
 - a. Author/Audience
 - b. Historical Setting/Date of Writing
 - c. Place in the chronology and how it impacts the book
 - d. Genre of Writing (w/brief discussion of genre as it impacts the writing)
 - e. Your Own Suggested Outline
 - f. Overarching Themes
 - g. Pertinent verses
 - h. Personal Reflection on book as a whole
 - ii. Present your introduction in class
- IV. Final Project Options – due May 15 (75%)
 - a. Options 1 – Passage Paper
 - i. Choose a passage from the Revised Common Lectionary
 - 1. Choose a selection from a normal Sunday lection
 - a. i.e. don't pick a holiday, feast day, etc.
 - ii. Write an 8-12 page paper demonstrating knowledge of:
 - 1. Historical scholarly understandings of the passage
 - 2. Contemporary scholarly understandings of the passage

3. Informed conclusions as to the overall meaning of the passage in situ as well and the book's "narrative" as a whole
 4. How does the chronology of the book in light of our study change your understanding or shed light on what we might find exegetically in the passage
- b. Option 2 – Bible Study
- i. Design a four-part bible study on one of the books we've studied (8-10 pages)
 1. Include relevant information as to author, date, genre, etc. (see Assignments III., a., i., 1. above)
 2. In particular include significant reference to historical and contemporary scholarly understandings of the book as a whole and major themes
 3. Be sure to include how the chronological placement of this book effects the developing Christian movement