

St. Louis Christian College
BNT401N ROMANS
Professor Jim Claycomb
3 credit hours

Spring Semester, 2012

Course Prerequisites: BNT 101, BNT 102, BNT 202

Thursdays

6 – 10 pm

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students culminate their Bible and theology education as they interact with the crucial Christian theology of this vital epistle in a verse-by-verse approach. The nature of man, the grace of God and the spiritual dynamics of the Christian life are key topics of study.

This course seeks sound doctrinal understanding of the closest writing to a systematic theology found in the New Testament. Here indeed is the most comprehensive explanation of the doctrine of the Glorious Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

COURSE RATIONALE

If the major themes of Scripture find their root in Genesis and their branch in Isaiah, they flower in Romans. Few books, if any, have received accolades quite like this “*cathedral of the Christian faith*” as it was called by Frederick Godet. Coleridge called Romans “*the most profound book in existence.*” Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (347 – c.407AD), had it read to him 2x weekly.

Luther, in his famous preface, said, “*This epistle is the real chief part of the New Testament and the very purest gospel, which, indeed, deserves that a Christian not only know it word for word by heart but deal with it daily as with daily bread of the soul. For it can never be read or considered too much or too well, and the more it is handled, the more delightful it becomes, and the better it tastes.*”

The Reformer Melancthon, to make it more perfectly his own, hand copied it twice. John Calvin wrote, “*If a man understands Romans, he has a sure road open to him to the understanding of the whole Scripture.*” Gleason Archer wrote, “*There is no more complete compendium of the Christian doctrine in the sixty-six books of the Bible than the Epistle to the Romans.*” Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones called it “*a colossal and incomparable statement of Christian truth.*”

The Reformation, of which we are blessed heirs, was built on the foundation of this epistle to the Romans; as well as the epistle to the Galatians. The great Lutheran scholar Lenski said, “*To this day the truth laid down in Romans forms the Gibraltar basis of doctrine, teaching, and confession in the true evangelical church... The verdict must stand that the men of the Reformation and the post-Reformation era brought out in strong relief the doctrinal contents of Romans and made them the actual spiritual possession of the church. As far as the*

teaching of Romans is concerned, all succeeding generations can do only one thing: enter into the fruits of their labors.”

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Course objectives are related to the following selected Divisional Objectives which are being addressed in this course:

1. Given instruction in the Bible and in biblical theology, the student will exhibit knowledge of the messages of the various Old and New Testament books and the saving message of the Bible as a whole.
2. Shown how to use tools and sound methods for interpreting the Bible, the student will demonstrate the ability to properly interpret, apply and communicate Scripture.
3. Presented with the Biblical message, mandate and models, the students will know how to witness effectively within various cultural contexts leading to the worship of God.

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe the background of Romans
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of Romans, including structure, doctrinal development of thought and exegesis of selected passages.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the history of the interpretation of Romans.
4. Apply the sacred scripture of Romans to the student's spiritual growth in Christ as well as contemporary issues within the Church.

COURSE TEXTS

The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross, by Leon Morris

The Epistle to the Romans, vol. 1 (chapters 1 - 8) by John MacArthur

Romans, by F. Leroy Forlines

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **You are expected to turn in a hand written copy of the first eight chapters of Romans** by the 2nd session. This must be legibly written. It must be from an *essentially literalistic* translation (like the ESV, NASV, KJV or NKJV). This comprises 5% of your final grade.
2. **Students will read through the entire book of Romans** twice (2x) prior to the first session. The individual readings must be either through the epistle, as a whole, at one sitting, or broken into two sittings (chapters 1–8 and then 9–16). An audio of the first eight chapters can be listened to in less than one hour. You may not be accustomed to reading through an epistle as a whole. Thus the concept may seem overwhelming. It is not. It may be a first but you will be blessed by this ancient mode of interaction with Holy Scripture. Again, the translation used should be guided by the above stated criteria.

3. **Students will memorize assigned Scripture passages** using only the English Standard Version (ESV). At the beginning of each session students will write legibly from memory the assigned passages for that session.

Session One	Romans 1:16-17
Session Two	Romans 1:16-18
Session Three	Romans 1:16-18; 3:21-22
Session Four	Romans 1:16-18; 3:21-24
Session Five	Romans 1:16-18; 3:21-26

Students will memorize the Outline of Romans (pg 7 of Syllabus); emboldened portions only. This will provide 10% of your Final Exam grade.

4. **Students will turn in a Head Heart & Hand (HHH) Reflection each class session.** Each is due based on the readings assigned for each session. Each is due on the session they are named. Exactly five are due; one for each session; not one for each book assigned, but only one per session for all the readings of that session. This is a **typed** response telling me what happened to you through the readings assigned for that session. How were you impacted on a **head** or intellectual level? How has your understanding of God's Word been changed, made stronger or more firmly rooted? How were you impacted on a **heart** level? Was there a new conviction of sin or of duty in your life or your church? How has your position in Christ been solidified or your feelings/affections toward God intensified? How were you impacted on a **hand** level; in other words, what behavioral change will you pursue as a result of the reading for this session? Be specific. No generalities. I will assess, in no small part, your growth in this class through each of your five Head Heart & Hand Reflections. A Heart & Hand Reflection should be 1-2 pages in length; single spaced, times new roman, font 12, black ink.

5. **Sermon/Lesson Outlines**

Two (2) typed Doctrinal Outlines, in either "sermon" or "lesson" form, are assigned & due on the scheduled dates. The outlines must heavily take into account what you are learning through the readings & lectures. Listed below are the topics & sessions due:

Session Two – *"The wrath of God"*

Session Four – *"The righteousness of God revealed in the Gospel"*

6. **A Doctrinal Study** shall be mailed to the professor one week after the final session. The envelope must be postmarked no more than one week following the final session. The paper shall have as its focus - *"The Righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ"*. It is your purpose to demonstrate a sound understanding of the fundamental doctrines that undergird the offer of this gift from God to sinners as revealed in Romans. Address its foundations, meaning & implications. Provide thoughtful application that is both personal and corporate

(the Church you attend.) The paper shall be 8–12 pages (2500–3600 words) in length, using MLA style, single spaced, times new roman, font 12, black ink.

7. **Attendance Policy** – There being just five sessions, the expectation is that students will be neither tardy nor absent.

COURSE SCHEDULE

SESSION ONE (These are **pre-class readings**) Romans 1:1 – 3:20

Forlines, *General Editor & Author's Preface* & pages 1 - 80

MacArthur, "Introduction" & chapters 1-14

SESSION TWO - Romans 3:21 – 4:25

Forlines, pages 80 - 120

MacArthur, chapters 15 – 19

Morris, chapters 5 & 6 on "Propitiation" & chapters 8 & 9 on "Justification"

OUTLINE DUE - *The wrath of God*

SESSION THREE - Romans 5 – 8

Forlines, pages 120 - 248

MacArthur, chapters 20 - 36

Witherington, Ben. *The Problem with Evangelical Theology*. "Overture," pp. ix-xi and chap 1 "Oh Adam, Where Art Thou?", & chap 2 "Squinting at the Pauline 'I' chart", pp. 3-37 (copies of articles are in the SLCC Library)

SESSION FOUR - Romans 9 – 11

Bercot, David W., Ed. *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*. "Free Will and Predestination," pages 285-296 (copies of article are in Library)

Forlines, pages 249 – 318

OUTLINE DUE - *The righteousness of God revealed in the Gospel*

SESSION FIVE - Romans 12 - 16

Forlines, pages 319 – 377

COURSE ASSESSMENT (EVALUATION)

10% of the final grade is based on the HHH Reflections, class participation & pop quizzes

10% of the final grade is based on your Scripture memory assignments

10% of the final grade is based on the Doctrinal Outlines

35% of the final grade is based on the typed Doctrinal Study

35% of the final grade will be the Final Exam

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work: Assignments are due on stated dates at the beginning of the class period. Late work for extenuating circumstances (illness, emergency, etc...) will be accepted for full credit. Other late assignments will be accepted on the basis of a 10% reduction in grade per each week late. All extenuating circumstances must be explained in written form.

Incompletes: See college catalog for the conditions under which an incomplete may be granted.

Special Circumstances – Students with a diagnosed learning disability will need to see The Hundred (Student Center for Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance the learning experience.

Academic Honesty: Dishonesty will result in a grade of F (zero) for the assignment involved. See the college catalog.

Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to modify the course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even assignments so long as the change does not add to the student's work load.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anglican

Stott, John, *The Message of Romans*, Downers Grove, Chicago: InterVarsity, 1994.

Baptist

Wiersbe, Warren, *Romans*, Chicago: David C. Cook Publishers, 2008

Mounce, Robert H. *Romans*, The New American Commentary. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.

Freewill Baptist

F. Leroy Forlines, *Romans*, Randall House Publications, 1987.

Robert E. Picirilli, *The book of Romans*, Randall House Publications, 1975.

Church of the Brethren

Bruce, F.F. *Romans*, Twentieth Century New Testament. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1985.

Lutheran

Lenski, R.C.H. *The Interpretation of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans*, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1936

Nygren, Anders, *Commentary on Romans*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Fortress Press, 1949.

Methodist

Barrett, Charles K. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*, NY: Harper & Row, 1991.

Bence, Clarence, *Romans: A Bible Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition*, Wesleyan Publishing House, 1995.

Cranfield, C.E.B. *Romans: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987.

Dunn, James, *Romans*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary, 1988

Witherington, Ben. *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Eerdmans, 2004.

Reformed

Calvin, John, *Romans-Galatians. Calvin's Commentaries*. Wilmington: Associated Publishers and Authors. n.d.

Hodge, Charles, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*, New York: Armstrong & Son, 1893.

MacArthur, John, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1-8*, 2nd vol. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1991.

Moo, Douglas, *The Epistle to the Romans*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1996.

Murray, John, *The Epistle to the Romans*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1977

Sproul, R.C. *The Gospel of God*, Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-shire, IV20 ITW, Scotland, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1999

Liberal (on conservative side)

Barth, Karl, *The Epistle to the Romans*, English translation from 6th German edition. Oxford, 1933.

Outline of the Epistle to the Romans

Prologue (1:1-15)

- I. Theme: The righteousness of God (1:16-17)**

- II. The wrath of God revealed (1:18 - 3:20)**
 - A. On the Pagan (1:18-32)
 - B. On the Moralist (2:1-16)
 - C. On the Jew (2:17-3:8)
 - D. On all Mankind (3:9-20)

- III. The gift of God's righteousness revealed (3:21 - 5:21)**
 - A. *At the Cross steadfast love and faithfulness met; righteousness and peace kissed each other*" (Psalm 85 & Rom 3:21-31)
 - B. Two Old Testament precedents (4:1-8)
 - C. Abraham Justified by Faith (4:9-25)
 - D. Christ's righteousness triumphs over Wrath (5:1-11)
 - E. Christ's righteousness triumphs over the first Adam's Sin (5:12-21)

- IV. The way of holiness (6:1 - 8:39)**
 - A. Christ's righteousness triumphs over Sin (6:1-23)
 - B. Christ's righteousness triumphs over Law (7:1-25)
 - C. Christ's righteousness triumphs over Death (8:1-39)

- V. Divine sovereignty & human responsibility (9:1 - 11:36)**
 - A. Israel's Unbelief (9:1-5)
 - B. God's Sovereign Choices (9:6-29)
 - C. Human Responsibility (9:30-10:21)
 - D. God's Sovereign Purposes (11:1-32)
 - E. Doxology to God's Sovereignty (11:33-36)

- VI. The Christian life (12:1 - 15:13)**
 - A. Manifold Practical Duties (12:1-21)
 - B. The Christian and the State (13:1-7)
 - C. The Primacy of Love (13:8-10)

- VII. The approaching Consummation (13:11 - 14)**

- VIII. Christian liberty & charity (14:1 - 15:6)**
 - A. Christian Liberty (14:1-12)
 - B. Christian Charity (14:13-23)
 - C. Christ's Example (15:1-6)

- IX. Christ the hope of Jew & Gentile (15:7 - 13)**

Epilogue & Doxology (15:14 – 16:27)