

BIB 504: Topics in New Testament Exegesis  
(An Overview of Romans)

Course Texts: John Murray. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Grand Rapids. Wm Erdmann's, 1968

Anders Nygren. *Commentary on Romans*. Philadelphia. Fortress Press, 1975

F.F. Bruce. *Romans*. Grand Rapids. Wm Erdmann's, 1990

F.F. Bruce *Paul An Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids. Wm Erdmann's, 1977

Course Purpose: Romans as Martin Luther said is "as rightly the chief part of the New Testament and the clearest gospel of all." Accordingly, he urged believers to memorize it in its entirety so that a Christian could recite it from memory. No, we are not setting out to memorize this book, but rather to study it in its entirety; since it presents the Gospel, as Luther concurred, more clearly than any other writing in the New Testament. Paul begins with the proclamation, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also the Greek." But what is this Gospel; how is it different from other religious meditations, what are the essential elements one must come to terms with, why does it grant salvation and not other religions, and how does it grant one a relationship with God, and how does that relationship effect my life now and in the future? These are the kinds of questions regarding religion and one's relationship to God the book addresses and explains how it is "the power of God unto salvation."

Course Goals:

1. To understand *the argument* of the book, so that what the Gospel is not, teachings that are more often set forth as the Gospel but are actually not the Gospel itself are clarified. And that each aspect of the Gospel message is identified and the interconnectedness of those truths are understood.
2. To discover and comprehend the major *theological terms* that are the building blocks of the Gospel. These terms include *Sin, Depravity, Justification, Propitiation, Redemption, Reconciliation, Sanctification, Glorification*, and even arguments that demonstrate the existence of God from creation and morality, and the replacement of the Old Covenant by the New Covenant.
3. To gain some workable tools *for New Testament epistolary exegesis*. And to learn how to use this tools, so that the students gain basic ability to do New Testament Epistolary exegesis.

Course Objective: Paul's original words read "By faith the just shall live" This book, as previous stated, most clearly states *faith* verses religious "law-works", and *life* which issues forth from Biblical faith. Coming to terms with these concepts and the principles upon which they are built, are the keys to understanding true Christian salvation.

### Course Assignments:

- 1) Students will be required to read through the book of Romans in a recommended New Testament text. This will be done in expository fashion, from chapter to chapter, verse by verse consecutively. Taking notes on his findings. And more importantly, actually doing exegetical study of the texts.
- 2) The required companion commentary is Paul's Commentary on Romans by John Murray in the ICC commentary series. Summaries of the major sections of the epistles shall be noted.
- 3) One other Commentary and one other book on Pauline theology shall be read.
- 4) A research paper of 4-6 pages shall be written on a significant concept of the book.
- 5) An open book final will also be taken, which will focus on exegesis and theology of the book.

### Overview of Class Readings and Assignments

- 1) Introduction: Overview and Background
- 2) The Pagan's Man's Failure: The Doctrine of Sin & Responsibility 1:18-32
- 3) The Religious and Moral Man's Failure: The nature of conscience and the doctrine of depravity 2:1-3:18
- 4) God's Provision of Salvation: The Doctrine of Justification vs. "Law-Works" 3:19-4:25
- 5) The Method of Salvation: The Principle of Representative Headship 5:1-21
- 6) The Benefit of Salvation: Power over Sin- The New Man in Christ 6:1-23
- 7) The Benefit of Salvation: Power over the Law 7:1-25
- 8) The Benefit of Salvation: Power by the Spirit 8:1-39
- 9) The Reason for Salvation: The Doctrine of Election and God's Sovereign Grace 9:1-11:36
- 10) The Response to Salvation: Personal Transformation and Koininia relationships 12:1-2, vs 3-13:14
- 11) The Problem of Doubtful Things; The role of the conscience in neutral areas :Romans 14:-15:13
- 12) Summary and Review