



Paul and His Letters BVNT 311 (3cr/6p)

Level: Major Core/Advanced level

Subject: Bible Studies/New Testament exegesis / Bibelvetenskap

Course code: BVNT 311

Instructor: Dr. Göran Lennartsson

Course Requirements

BVNT 200 Biblical Greek, BV 200 Introduction to Exegetical Methodology, BV 201 Biblical Hermeneutics

Course Goals

Deepen the understanding of Paul's letters by making the student more familiar with scholarly literature and recent research concerning the historical setting och Paul's letters. To enable the student to use up to date scientific methods in analyzing ancient letters.

Course Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to obtain

- a. deepened understanding of the historical and cultural background of the person and letters of one of the most influential personalities in earliest Christianity.
- b. familiarity with and ability to evaluate various methods in analyzing ancient letters.
- c. knowledge and insights in first century Judaism.
- d. ability to discuss contemporary scholarly issues and problems.
- e. a developed ability to express exegetical discussion in writing.
- f. ability to compare the ancient world with our own as well to reflect on how we can learn from that.

Knowledge and Understanding

-be familiar with the political, religious and socioeconomic background of Paul as person, and the recipients of his letters

-have a good knowledge of the historical criticisms such as rhetorical criticism, canon criticism, sociology, archaeology, and comparative religion.

-account for the basic structure and outline of each Gospel

-be familiar with the criteria of authenticity

-account for the chronology of the life of Paul, his development in Judaism and apostle och Christ.

-geographically identify on a map significant places in Paul's ministry

- reflection on re-addressing the content in Paul's letters to western as well as other cultures in our contemporary world

Skills and Abilities

- use and make reference to commentaries on Paul's letters
- write a well-structured and well-argued paper on a topic in Paul's letters, using various sources, such as monographs, journals, commentaries and dictionary articles
- write book reports, identifying key points and formulate a reasoned and pertinent assessment of the work in question
- analysing and summarise articles

Course Contents

A study of the life and teheology of the apostle Paul through his letters. The course is naturally divided in three parts. 1) Paul and his literature. 2) Pauline thinking and theology. 3) Independent writing of paper.

Course Procedures

The teaching has the form of 30 prerecorded lectures via internet. Each approx. 45 min. The bulk of literature in total is in all approx 1200 pages.

Examination

Evaluation Procedures:

A = 90-100	Excellent knowledge and a high degree of independent thinking
B = 80-89	Good level of knowledge and some independent thinking
C = 70-79	Basic knowledge and abilities
D = 60-69	Fulfilment of minimum requirements
F = below 60	Fail

Final exam	30%
Research paper	40%
Other papers/book report	<u>30%</u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>100 %</i>

Final examination consists of an online written test on the main course literature and lectures. The research paper should be 20 pages long. (Times New Roman 12, double.spaced.) The synthesis paper/book report about two pages long.

Study & Assignment Schedule:

Week 1: Lesson 1-2 *Paul and His Letters*, Introduction and content of the course. How Paul have been viewed in history. *Hermeneutics*, how to study ancient letters. Schreiner: Interpreting the Pauline Letters.

Week 2: Lesson 3-4 *Structure of Pauline letters*. Different parts of the letter. *Hermeneutics & Exegetical toolbox*, genre, communication, to think exegetically,

Week 3: Lesson 5-6 *Hermenutics*, Rhetorical Criticism, Historical Criticism, 'mirror-reading'. *Textual Criticism*, Cultural backdrop. Mentality criticism.

Week 4: Lesson 7-8 *Social Criticism*, lexical studies. Paul: *Apostle in two worlds*, first century Judaism. Diaspora Judaism.

SUMMARY (Shreiners book)

Week 5: Lesson 9-10 **Paul's upbringing**, Tarsus, studies in Jerusalem, **Conversion**, calling, early travels among Jews and God-fearers.

Week 6: Lesson 11-12 **First journey**, Clash with Peter in Antioch. **Jerusalem conference**, Letter to Galatia.

SUMMARY (articles and Moyses)

Week 7: Lesson 13-14 **Second Journey**, Timothy, Philippi. **Greece**, Athens, Corinth and letters to Thessalonica.

Week 8: Lesson 15-16 **Third Missionary Journey**, Ephesus, Corinthian correspondence. **To Jerusalem**, collection to the poor, Christianity in Rome.

PAPER (outline)

Week 9: Lesson 17-18 **Paul's Apostolic Judaism**, the formative background to Paul's theology. **God the Father**, Christology: Jesus the Messiah and Christ.

Week 10: Lesson 19-20 **Jesus the Lord**, meaning of *kyrios* (Jhwh). **Soteriology**, The cross, salvation-words.

Week 11: Lesson 21-22 **Paul Old and New**, Lutherdom and Paul-research the last 50 years, lecture a and b.

SUMMARY (articles of choice)

Week 12: Lesson 23-24 **Christology**, Phil 2, Shema. **Ecclesiology**, Church in the OT, ecclesia as unity of Jewish and Gentile Jesus believers.

Week 13: Lesson 25-26 **Leadership**, organisation and services in the church.

Pneumatology, charismatic ministries.

Week 14: Lesson 27-28 **Paul's eschatology**, Jesus' return and restoration. **Ethics & the Life** of the Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, revelation and formation.

PAPER (presentation)

Week 15: Lesson 29-30 **Israelology**, The relationship between Jews and the Gentile in the Church and Christianity. **Scripture & Hermeneutics**, Paul's view on the Scripture and his hermeneutical treatment of the Tanach.

SUMMARY (Porter)

FINAL EXAM

Course literature

a) Compulsary (including interpretation 800 pages)

Stanley Porter. *The Apostle Paul: His Life, Thought, and Letters*. 2016, Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. (Pages 1- 447)

Levine Amy-Jill and Marc Zvi Brettler (Editors). *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Second Edition 2017. Oxford University Press, London. (Pages 592-623; 633-670; 741-746; 759-765).

Steve Moyise. *The Old Testament in the New. An Introduction*. Second edition. Revised and expanded. 2015. Bloomsbury, London. (Pages 1-27, 117-148)

Schreiner Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. Second edition. Baker 2011. (Pages 1-163).

Articles

Kugel, J. L. (2010). "Early Jewish Biblical Interpretation". I J. J. Collins & D. C. Harlow (Eds), *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism* (ss 121–141). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Keener, Craig. 'Acts and Paul', in Craig S. Keener. *Acts an Exegetical Commentary. Vol 1*. Baker Academic 2012. Pages 222-258.

Harink, D. 'On supersessionism' (2013). *Paul among the Postliberals: Pauline Theology beyond Christendom and Modernity* (pp 151–207). Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock.

Chancey, Mark A. "Foreword" in *Paul and Palestinian Judaism: A Comparison of Patterns of Religion* (40th Anniversary Edition, ss xi–xxvi). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017.

Zetterholm, Magnus. "Paul within Judaism: The State of the Questions". I M. D. Nanos & M. Zetterholm (Eds), *Paul within Judaism: Restoring the First-Century Context to the Apostle* (pp 31–50). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2015 (19 p).

Schnabel, E. J. *Paul the Missionary: Realities, Strategies and Methods* (pp 256–373). Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.

b) Student's choice (approx. 200 pages)

Free choice of reading in agreement with the teacher on various aspects such as archaeology, sociology, hermeneutics, history, gender, Jewish background, intertextuality. Or following suggestions:

Paul and Jesus:

- Select 75 pages in *Paul, Follower of Jesus or Founder of Christianity*. David Wenham, Eerdmans 1995.
- Stettler, Hanna. 'Did Paul invent Justification by Faith?' (Luke 18:9-14 & Righteousness by Faith), Pp.161-196 in *Tyndale Bulletin* 66.2 (2015).
- <https://legacy.tyndalehouse.com/Bulletin/66=2015/Stettler-36.pdf>

Archaeology and sociology:

- Meyers, E. M., & Chancey, M. A. (2012). *Alexander to Constantine: Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*. (J. J. Collins, Red) (Vol 3, ss 204–207). New Haven; London: Yale University Press.
- Ehud Netzer. *A New Reconstruction of Paul's Prison* (Antonia, Jerusalem temple). *Biblical Archaeology Review*. January/Feb 2009. Pp 45-51, 71 (8 pages).

Paul in the Roman Empire:

- Why did Paul go west? Mendels, D. (2013). *Why Did Paul Go West?: Jewish Historical Narrative and Thought*. (J. H. Charlesworth, Red) (ss 1–11). London; New Delhi; New York; Sydney: Bloomsbury.
- Glen L. Thomson and Mark Wilson, 'The Route of Paul's Second Journey in Asia Minor'. Pages 217-246 in *Tyndale Bulletin*, 67.2 / 2016 Cambridge.

Paul on Scripture and hermeneutic:

- Ellis E E. 'Biblical Interpretation in the New Testament Church'. Pp 691-725 in Moulder, Jan Martin and Harry Sysling, *Mikra, text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity*. Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1988.
- Bakhos, C. (2010). "Midrash, Midrashim". I J. J. Collins & D. C. Harlow (Eds), *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism* (ss 944–947). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Shulam, Joseph. *Hidden Treasures. The first Century Jewish Way of Understanding the Scriptures*. Jerusalem, 2008. (126 p.)
- Hobbel, Arne Jarand. 'Hermeneutics in Talmud, Midrash and the New Testament'. Pp 132-146 in *Immanuel 24/25*, 1990 Ed. Malcom Lowe. FS in honor of David Flusser. Published by the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel.

Paul and Luke:

- Oliver, I. W. (2016). The "Historical Paul" and the Paul of Acts: Which Is More Jewish? I G. Boccaccini & C. A. Segovia (Eds), *Paul the Jew: Rereading the Apostle as a Figure of Second Temple Judaism* (s 51). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press;

Ideology criticism:

Campbell, William S. *Paul and the Creation of Christian Identity*. T&T Clark, London 2008.

Paul in his Jewish context:

- *Testament*. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. Second edition. Oxford 2017.
- Ed Kessler. *The New Testament and Jewish-Christian Relations*. Article in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. Second edition. Oxford 2017.
- 'Paul and the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ'. Pp 137-165 in Rowland, Christopher and R.A.Morray-Jones, *The Mystery of God*. Brill, Leiden 2009.

Family, ladies and household:

- *A Woman's place. House Churches in Earliest Christianity*. Carolun Osiek, Margaret Y. McDonald och Janet H. Tulloch. Fortress Press, 2005.
- Ross S. Kraemer. Jewish family life in first century CE. Article in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. Second edition. Oxford 2017.

Paul in Judaism:

- Jacob Neusner. A Jewish reflection on Christian claims. Article in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. Second edition. Oxford 2017.
- Amy-Jill Levine. *Bearing False Witness. Common Errors...* Article in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. Second edition. Oxford 2017.
- Shaye, J. D. Cohen. *Judaism and Jewishness*. Article in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. Second edition. Oxford 2017.

Paul on leadership and as strategic thinker:

- Thompson, A. J. (2018). “Paul as Pastor in Acts: Modelling and Teaching Perseverance in the Faith”. I B. S. Rosner, A. S. Malone, & T. J. Burke (Eds), *Paul as Pastor* (ss 1–30). London; Oxford; New York; New Delhi; Sydney: Bloomsbury; Bloomsbury T&T Clark: An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

Paul on spirituality and Charismatic gifts:

- Paul and prayer: Selection from Carson, D. A. (2014). *Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation* (Second Edition, s 21). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Keener, C. S. (2016). [*The Mind of the Spirit: Paul's Approach to Transformed Thinking*](#) (ss xv–xxii). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic: A Division of Baker Publishing Group.
- Fee, Gordon D. *God's Empowering Presence. The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*. Hendrickson, 1995. (selection)
- Fee, Gordon D. *Pauline Christology*. Hendrickson, 2007 (selection).