

Romans & Galatians

(BENT-4110) Spring, 2008

Professor: Dr. Chris Miller
Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 2:00–4:00 by appointment

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DEPARTMENT MISSION

Bible Minor Mission: We exist to equip every Cedarville University student with Biblical knowledge, a theological framework, and skills for a lifetime of continuing study; to encourage students to embrace a process of spiritual formation characterized by intentional growth within the context of a Christian community; and to equip students to engage the world in a culturally sensitive, Christ-like manner.

Bible Major Mission: We also exist to equip Bible Department majors for ministry or graduate studies by further *deepening their biblical, theological and philosophical knowledge*, developing a theoretical framework for life and ministry, and sharpening their ministry skills.

Objectives

1. Knows the facts, theories and languages that are necessary for entrance into graduate/seminary programs, and evaluates scholarly materials from a Biblical worldview (all majors).
2. Develop an effective and adaptable biblical approach to ministry planning and implementation (majors in vocational ministry programs).

1A COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical study with stress upon Paul's logical development of doctrinal themes, the relationship of Israel to God's redemptive program, and practical Christian living.

2A COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1B The learner will become aware of the progressive nature of revelation in the New Testament and will begin to interpret individual books of the New Testament (especially Hebrews, Acts, Galatians & Romans) with more sensitivity to their unique historical, cultural, and theological context. Thus, the New Testament will no longer be considered a homogeneous source of theology.
- 2B The learner will practice daily the skill of interpreting each passage of a book within the context of that book's unique message.
- 3B The learner will research one particular exegetical / theological problem, analyze major arguments and articulate a solution in a scholarly manner.
- 4B The learner will articulate the nature of the Jewish / Gentile issues as they were understood in the first century *vis a vis* the time of Martin Luther.
- 5B The learner will trace and synthesize Paul's arguments through both books in a summary fashion.
- 6B The learner will compare his / her lifestyle to the demands of the main messages of both Romans and Galatians.

3A COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

- 1B *Nature of the class:* This class will often make your head hurt. It is a 400 level class. Much of the material and information presented will probably be new to you. You will be asked to move between micro and macro-levels of theology as we navigate the hermeneutical spiral. You will be stretched and challenged to think critically about the themes of the nature of the Law and exactly how everything changes when Messiah comes. The class will not try to be devotional *per se* but it will be spiritually challenging and beneficial as we honor God by loving him with our minds and hearts. The prerequisites for the class are at least Old and New Testament Literature as they will serve as foundational material for understanding these books.

You will definitely need to be an active learner to get the most out of this class. The ultimate success of this class will depend more on you than on me. When you come to class you must be prepared and ready to dialogue with me and with your neighbors. Each absence during the first 7 weeks will result in a 5% deduction from the final grade unless prior approval is received from the Prof or unless you are so contagious with something that you're pretty sure at least half the class would be struck down with a very distasteful plague. More than two absences during the second half of the class will be rewarded with the same motivation. Class will begin at 12:30 p.m.

- 2B *Reading:* Having read through each night's reading assignment is a pre-requisite to coming to class. Some nights have very little reading and research and others are very challenging so please plan ahead and don't get caught without time to prepare. In addition to the readings assigned in class, we will also generally read through each book we're studying (either Galatians or Romans) once each week or so.
- 3B *Quizzes:* will be given out like medicine, and hopefully have the same effect. These simply provide a little extra motivation to be prepared for class.
- 4B *Study questions:* will focus your research and study. You will need to study the text on your own and with the aid of research tools (Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias, Logos, introductions etc.) answer the questions which will serve as the basis of class discussion and lecture. Normally class will begin at 12:30 or before with each learning group comparing and discussing their answers to the previous night's study questions in preparation for the rest of the day's discussion / quiz.
- 5B *Research projects:* One major reflection paper will be written on textual or theological problem in either Romans or Galatians.
- 6B *Exams:* One will be given over each of the major books: Galatians for the mid-term and Romans for the final. This will most likely be a combination of some multiple choice with short answer essays as well.
- 7B *Scoring:*
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| Study Questions/Quizzes | 30% |
| Exams | 50% |
| Projects | 10% |
| Class participation | 10% |

Daily schedule, content, objectives and homework

<i>pd</i>	Date	Material	Objectives	Homework
1	1-8	Syllabus & Introduction	Overview Paul & Law	
2	1-10	Hebrews contribution to the Canon	See how Hebrews fits into the progress of revelation in the NT? Explore the intertestamental period to understand the background of racial hatred between Jews & Gentiles.	Read Appendix 1: Hebrews
3	1-15	Cornelius	Understand the role which race relations plays in the spread of the gospel	Read Appendix 2: Cornelius
4	1-17	Jerusalem Council	Get the big idea of Galatians	Read Appendix 3: Jerusalem Council
5	1-22	Acts 21	Review and introduction of Galatians	Read Appendix 4: Acts 21
6	1-24	Galatians 1	Big idea of chapter 1	
7	1-29	Galatians 2:1-14 Gal 2:11-21	The two gospels and missions to different people with different obligations! Faithfulness of Christ as the object of Salvation.	Read Appendix 5: Galatians 1-2
8	1-31	Gal 3:1-9	Works/faith antithesis fleshed out	Read Galatians once
9	2-5	Gal 3:10-14 3:15-21	Law brings a curse on Jewish people and is not the means of salvation or blessing. Seed vs seeds: a fine hermeneutical distinction or just plain OT Lit common sense?	
10	2-7	3:22-29	A role of the law in salvation history <i>heilsgeschichte</i>	Read Galatians once
11	2-12	4:1-20 4:21-31	Personal argumentation The allegory & Hosea / Gomer allusion	
12	2-19	5:1-26	How circumcision can mean “nothing” and yet be valid (as is gender).	Read Galatians once
13	2-21	6:1-18 Q/A	Walking in the Spirit. Synthesis	
14	2-26	Exam #1 Background	take home? Paul’s Missionary Journeys	
15	2-28	1:1-20 1:21-32	Introduction to the letter God’s redemptive purposes in depravity	Read Romans once
16	3-11	Jews & Gentiles in chapter 2	Establish that chapter 2 refers to Jews & unsaved or saved Gentiles	
17	3-13	3:1-31	Appreciate the theology of redemption	Read Romans once
18	3-18	4:1-25	Articulate biblical faith	
19	3-20	5: 1-21	Appreciate the foundational contrast of Adam & Christ	Read Romans once
20	3-25	6:1-23	The concept of choice	
21	3-27	7:1-25	Reality of sinful choices	Read Romans once
22	4-1	8:1-39	Focus on the Holy Spirit	
23	4-3	9:1-33	Why God is not to blame	

<i>pd</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Homework</i>
24	4-24	10:1-21	Why Israel is to blame	Read Romans once
25	4-15	11:1-33	God's genius & providence, Eschatology	
26	4-17	12-13	How not to think like the world	
27	4-22	14-15	Climax	Read Romans once
28	4-24		Review	Read Romans once
29	5-1	Thursday, 10:30	Romans Final	