

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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TITLE: Pauline Exegetes and Protestant Theology

YEAR: Spring 2021-2022

PROFESSOR: Edwin Chr. van Driel

CREDITS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: No limit

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Many contemporary Pauline scholars offer a “new perspective” on or an “apocalyptic interpretation” of Paul, claiming that these exegetical approaches show that a reading of Paul as the champion of a Protestant understanding of justification by faith and salvation is deeply flawed. This course asks the question: If these exegetes are correct, what does this mean for Protestant theology? The aim is thus not so much to evaluate the work of the Biblical scholars exegetically, but to tease out the theological consequences of these exegetical proposals. Could these proposals, rather than threatening classical Protestant theology, actually enrich Protestant theological thinking?

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To train students in the interaction between Biblical studies/exegesis and theology.
2. To become acquainted with an important contemporary conversation in Pauline scholarship and Protestant theology.
3. To deepen our understanding of the arch of the Biblical narrative, in particular notions like faith, justification, atonement, baptism, election, and church, and the ways these shape our theological imagination and Christian way of life.

This course fulfills the M.Div. Biblical Narrative and Theology distribution requirement.

PREREQUISITES:

Recommended: TH210 and NT120.

READING ASSIGNMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY:

This year we will read a collection of exegetical materials made available on my.pts.edu, as well as: Edwin Chr. van Driel, *Rethinking Paul: Protestant Theology and Pauline Exegesis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022). Students who put in a request by January 15, 2022, may purchase a copy of the hardback edition via the instructor with 40% discount.

WRITTEN AND ORAL ASSIGNMENTS/TESTS: Twenty page research paper.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES: seminar discussion based on discussion questions submitted by students.

ATTENDANCE: Required