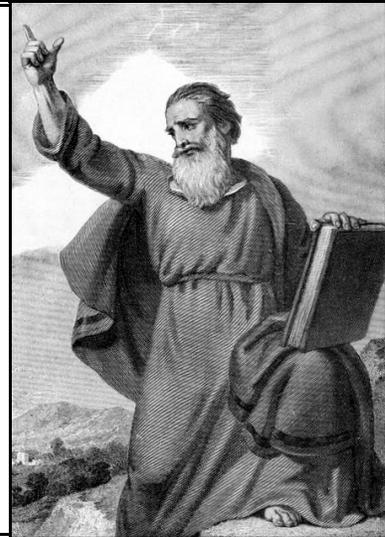

MCMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE
FALL SEMESTER, 2016

MS 3XP3 / 6XP6 PREACHING PAUL

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 24; October 22; November 12; December 3
Location: TBA

Instructor: Dr. Michael Knowles
DC 214
knowlesm@mcmaster.ca
(905) 525-9140 ext. 27088



Course Description

No follower of Jesus has shaped Christian theology as much as the apostle Paul, who in the course of his correspondence with a series of fledgling first-century congregations delineated the fundamental contours of a Christ-centred worldview. Because of his foundational importance and the complexity of his thought, the church in every generation since has continued to debate, interpret, and re-apply Paul's theology for their own day. In keeping with this long tradition, this course will highlight current trends in Pauline interpretation, while focussing on the application of Paul's theology to contemporary Christian discipleship and ministry, with special reference to congregational preaching. Our study will give particular attention to both the content and the method of Paul's apostolic proclamation.

Specializations Biblical Studies
 Pastoral Studies

Doctor of Practical Theology students who wish to apply for this course as an Advanced Elective for their degree program must consult with the Program Director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop an Advanced Elective approach to the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the Advanced Elective have been agreed upon by the student, the Program Director, and the instructor, a formal application can be made for an Advanced Elective in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted, DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program.

Course Objectives

KNOWING

- ▶ To provide a brief and non-technical overview of recent trends in Pauline interpretation

- ▶ To highlight major themes in Pauline theology
- ▶ To explore the content and method of Paul's preaching
- ▶ To understand and appropriate a Pauline homiletic for preaching today

BEING

- ▶ To reflect on spiritual and ministerial identity in relation to the theology, letters, and preaching of Paul
- ▶ To help students identify lines of continuity between the theological contours of Paul's encounter with Christ and their own discipleship

DOING

- ▶ To develop critical skills through peer evaluation.
- ▶ To offer practice in biblical exegesis, and in the composition and delivery of sermons based on the letters of Paul.

Course Schedule

Saturday, September 24

Reading: Wright, *Paul, In New Perspective*

9:00 Introduction and Administrivia

10:30 Paul of Tarsus: What Can He Teach Us About Preaching?

1:00 Sample Sermons

2:00 Sermon Sweatshop

Saturday, October 22

Reading: Matera, *God's Saving Grace*
Book Review due

9:00 Sin and Salvation: the Accomplishment of Christ

10:30 "Transformed Into the Same Image": New Creation in Christ

1:00 Sample Sermons

2:00 Student Sermons

Saturday, November 12

Reading: Knowles, *We Preach Not Ourselves*

9:00 Ministry in Weakness

10:30 Preaching Like Paul (I): the "Word of the Cross"

1:00 Sample Sermons

2:00 Student Sermons

Saturday, December 3

Final Essay due

9:00 Preaching Like Paul (II): Ministry in the Power of the Spirit

1:00 Sample Sermons

2:00 Student Sermons

Course Requirements

A. Reading

1. Textbooks

Michael P. Knowles. *We Preach Not Ourselves: Paul on Proclamation*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2008.

Frank J. Matera. *God's Saving Grace: A Pauline Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

N. T. Wright. *Paul in Fresh Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005.

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. Other book services may also carry the texts. For advance purchase, you may contact:

READ On Bookstore
5 International Blvd
Etobicoke, ON
M9W 6H3

E-mail: books@readon.ca
<http://www.readon.ca>
Tel: (416) 620-2934
FAX: (416) 622-2308

2. Supplementary

Michael J. Gorman. *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and His Letters*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

B. Assignments

% of Final Grade

Written assignments (submitted via the Avenue to Learn website) are due at 9:00 a.m. on the due date. In completing course assignments, students are expected to identify and emphasize themes relevant to their chosen specialization, whether Biblical or Pastoral Studies. Auditing students will be required to present sermons, but are exempt from written assignments.

1. Reading

Written assignments submitted for grading (that is, the book review and final essay) must give evidence of the following minimum number of pages of reading review and research (including but not limited to the course texts and bibliography). Please indicate the number of pages read on the essay bibliography. Note: the three course texts together constitute approximately 675 pages.

- a. MDiv/MTS 1,500 pages
- b. DPT 4,000 pages
- c. MA/PhD 6,000 pages

2. Book Review

20%

Review a major scholarly study (other than one of the designated course texts) that addresses an aspect of Pauline exegesis and/or theology (for the Biblical Studies specialization) or the theology and conduct of Paul's preaching (for the Pastoral Studies specialization). What insights does the author offer into Pauline thought and practice, and what are the implications for Christian preaching in our own day? Books selected for review must be a minimum of 200 pages in length. Please consult with the instructor if you wish to review a book that is not included on the course bibliography. Doctor of Practical Theology students will offer an extended discussion of the work in question in relation to contemporary Pauline studies, on the one hand, together with homiletical theory and practice-led research, on the other.

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Length: | a. MDiv/MTS | 1,500 words | Due: October 22 |
| | b. DPT | 2,500 words | |
| | c. MA/PhD | 4,000 words | |

3. Sermon Preparation

2 × 25 = 50%

Students will present two original sermons (maximum 15 minutes), each based on a Pauline text, for peer evaluation. Preparation of these sermons should give attention to the structure, content, purpose, and method of Paul's preaching, reflecting these elements as appropriate in the sermon itself. Individual sermons will be preached to other members of the class, according to a schedule determined by mutual consent.

4. Sermon Evaluation

All students are responsible for evaluating sermons presented in class, using a standard evaluation form and set of criteria (included below).

5. Final Essay 30%

Examine, explore, and explain the implications for Christian teaching and preaching of a particular Pauline letter. Beyond presenting the *content* of the Christian message and its implications for faith and life, what does this letter reveal about the *manner* or *method* by which Paul teaches and preaches the gospel? In what way can reading Paul make us better preachers? At the conclusion of your essay, design a sermon or teaching series consisting of at least four sessions, making use of the insights you have gained from the letter in question. Research degree students will discuss the relevance of their findings for contemporary homiletical theory.

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Length: | a. MDiv/MTS | 2,500 words | Due: December 3 |
| | b. DPT | 4,000 words | |
| | c. MA/PhD | 6,000 words | |

C. Attendance

Due to the nature of the class schedule and the fact that students are responsible for evaluating one another's sermons, class members agree by enrolling in this course to attend all four sessions as a requirement for academic credit. Students unable to attend in full may choose to enroll as auditors.

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions. To assist with prose composition, students are encouraged to make use of grammarly.com, which is funded by the university, along with the Writing Support Services provided by McMaster's Student Success Centre (<http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/students/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html>). See also "CRITERIA FOR GRADING OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS," below.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty:
<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College is committed to employing inclusive language for human beings in worship services, written materials, and all publications. With regard to biblical texts, the integrity of original expressions (including references to God) should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV provide appropriate examples of the use of inclusive language for human subjects. With the exception of direct quotations from historical documents, inclusive language is to be used in all assignments submitted for academic credit.

Cell Phone/Computer Policy

Students are to refrain from conducting cell phone conversations while class is in session. If you need to maintain contact with family members and/or your church or ministry, please turn off the ringer so as to avoid disturbing others; upon receipt of an urgent call, you may discretely excuse yourself from the classroom. The same policy applies to sound schemes generated by computers or other electronic systems.

Late Submission of Assignments

The penalty for late submission of assignments is 1% per calendar day (without limit).

*The final date for late submission of course assignments is December 14, 2016
Assignments received after this date will not be accepted for grading or credit*

Graded essays will be available for retrieval from the Student Records Office (Room 210) for 30 days after the end of the semester (calculated as the day on which grades are due), following which they will be discarded.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

CRITERIA FOR GRADING OF ASSIGNMENTS

Grading of written materials will be based on the following general criteria

| Grade Range | Content | Argument | Presentation | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 90–100 A+ 85–89 A 80–84 A– | Mastery of subject matter; creativity and individualized integration of insights and their relationships; exceeds required elements | Clear, logical structure; with comprehensive introduction, persuasive argumentation, and innovative conclusions | Detailed adherence to relevant style for formatting of text, notes, and bibliography; no errors of grammar or syntax; elegant presentation | | |
| 77–79 B+ 73–76 B 70–72 B– | Average to above-average grasp of relevant concepts; completion of all required elements | Coherent structure and consistent argumentation; well-stated introduction and conclusion | General adherence to relevant style and format; few errors of grammar or syntax | | |
| 67–69 C+ 63–66 C 60–62 C– | Basic understanding of theoretical foundations; minimal completion of required elements | Rudimentary structure; minimal or incomplete introductory and concluding statements | Significant errors of grammar, syntax, or style | | |
| 57–59 D+ 53–56 D 50–52 D– | Low level of comprehension; required elements incomplete or missing | Lack of coherence or structure in argumentation; no introduction or conclusion | Abundant grammatical, syntactical, and stylistic errors | | |
| 0–49% F | Inability to grasp basic concepts; required elements missing | Incomprehensible or illogical structure and argumentation | Failure to follow stylistic guidelines; incomprehensible syntax | | |
| Comments | | | | | |

Basic Guidelines for Composing a Book Review

1. Publication Data
 - a. Provide essential bibliographical data, in the proper format.
2. Description
 - a. Who is the author, and what is his/her expertise or qualification for writing?
 - b. What main points does the author make? Is there a key passage or statement?
 - c. How does each part relate to what precedes and follows?
 - d. For what audience is this argument/discussion intended?
3. Evaluation
 - a. Is the author's thesis cogent and convincing?
 - b. Are there unstated assumptions or gaps in logic? Does the author offer novel insights and perspectives? An innovative synthesis of current knowledge?
 - c. Who are the author's main discussion partners? Who does the author cite for support, or argue against, and why?
4. Application
 - a. How do the author's insights apply to your own field of endeavour or research?
 - b. What are the implications of this study for the life and ministry of the church?
 - c. To whom would you recommend this book (or not)?

SUMMARIZE

ASSESS

ENGAGE

"what?"

"so what?"

"now what?"

SERMON EVALUATION FORM

Date:

Start time:

End time:

Preacher:

Evaluator:

Text:

.....
Thesis: The main point this sermon makes is...

.....
Purpose: As a result of this sermon, the hearers should...

.....
Outline: What are the main points of this sermon? (List on reverse side)

Structure: Was the sermon clearly structured and developed? Easy to follow?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 _____

.....
Exegesis: How clearly did the sermon interpret and explain the Pauline text?

3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 _____

.....
Method: How effectively did the sermon reflect Paul's method of preaching?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 _____

.....
Contextualization: How well did the sermon relate to contemporary culture/the audience?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 _____

.....
Illustration: How appropriate/effective were the illustrations in relation to the text and theme?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 _____

.....
Application: How concrete, specific, and relevant to this audience was the application?

2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 _____

.....
Summary: In general, how effective was the sermon in accomplishing its intended purpose?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 _____

Additional comments and observations:

TOTAL _____

100