

EMBASSY COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

Paul: His Letters

NT561

Dr. Ron Cottle

Paul: His Letters

Dr. Ronald E. Cottle, Instructor

Course Syllabus

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is Part Two of a two part study of the life, conversion and travels of the Apostle Paul based upon the biblical evidence from Acts and certain Epistles. It also includes an analysis and overview of several of Paul's letters. These are studied chronologically.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

Outline the specific content of the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Ephesians, and Philippians (Knowledge).

State the historical context for each of Paul's letters and summarize its place in the Christian faith (Knowledge and Comprehension).

Identify the purpose of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Ephesians, and Philippians, formulate their themes, and illustrate how these theme are worked out in the structure of each letter (Analysis).

Compare and contrast the structure of each of Paul's letters and identify similarities and dissimilarities (Comprehension, Analysis and Evaluation).

Explain Paul's doctrine of the Holy Spirit and relate this to the believer's relationship with God, Jesus Christ, and the church (Synthesis and Evaluation).

Compare the relevance of each of Paul's letters to his or her own Christian life and faith today and integrate it with his or her knowledge of the Word of God as a whole (Synthesis and Evaluation).

III. COURSE TEXTBOOK

Required: Gordon D. Fee. *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God: The Holy Spirit in Paul*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1995.

Recommended additional text for graduate students: F. F. Bruce. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

IV. COURSE METHODOLOGY

Primarily lecture, based upon readings assigned in Bible and major textbook. Time is provided for questions and answers.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is a must at all lectures. If a student must be unavoidably absent, he/she must notify the dean or chancellor.

Read major textbook and Bible passages as assigned.

Complete final exam as assigned.

VI. GRADING PROCEDURE

Attendance at all lectures—see Course Requirements above.

Final exam grade.

VII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Course Outline

	Pages
Course Orientation and Introduction	
I. Paul the Letter Writer: First Thessalonians	
II. Paul the Letter Writer: Second Thessalonians	
III. Paul the Letter Writer: Ephesians	
IV. Paul the Letter Writer: Philippians	
V. Paul the Theologian: The Holy Spirit in Paul	
VI. Course Conclusion	

Paul: His Letters

I. PAUL THE LETTER WRITER: FIRST THESSALONIANS

- Paul founded his second European church (after Philippi) in Thessalonica.

A. I and II Thessalonians—Acts 17:1-9

*Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:
And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,
Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.
And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.
But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.
And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;
Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.
And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.
And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.*

B. Introduction/Background

1. Paul was in Thessalonica for only 3-4 weeks (3 Sabbaths) (Acts 17:1-9).