

APPL/SPIR 502: PHILIPPIANS AND THE PREACHING OF TRANSFORMATION

Dr. Ross Hastings

June 6 – 10, 1:15 – 4:15 pm

1 or 2 graduate credit hours: or 1 audit hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sanctification is a thorny issue. In some circles, triumphalist teachings lead to cynicism, while in others, an overemphasis on justification by faith alone produces a complete disregard of our own behaviour. As we seek to live holy lives, we often find ourselves confused over what is our responsibility and what is up to God. Paul's letter to the Philippians provides clarity and hope for joyful growth in Christ, even in adversity. Discover transformation that is personal, gospel-centered, and based on a compatibility between God's work and our work in spiritual practices.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Know with familiarity the structure, historical background, rhetorical forms and content of Philippians, and the theology of joyful transformation through participation in Christ, which it expresses.
2. Clearly express the goal or *telos* of Christian transformation as renovation of human persons 'fully alive' into the image of God, in joyful communion with God, in community with people and in earthy commitment to embracing God's kingdom in his world; this over against disembodied escape to a spiritual realm, or merging with the divine into nothingness.
3. Reflect awareness of historical versions of the theology and practice of transformation in the history of the church, and specifically of the relationship between union with Christ (participation, *theosis*), justification and sanctification and ethics.
4. Show awareness of some of the spiritual practices in the Tradition of the church which have served to facilitate the life of joy-evoking participation in Christ through the centuries, and to provide direction for these practices to be experienced.
5. Reflect on how being missional and spiritual transformation relate together in the Christian life.
6. Become familiar with the principles of expository teaching/preaching and be able develop their own preaching outlines for this letter, so that they might teach/preach it also. This will happen through some specific teaching on this subject, and through the modeling of the expository approach in lectures. For example, as students discover the rhetorical devices Paul employs in this letter to his particular audience with its particular acculturation, they will learn to communicate the truths of this letter in their particular twenty-first century contexts.
7. Cultivate more joy in life, joy that will sustain them even when circumstances are adverse, by discovering the lighter vein in Pauline spirituality, as it is expressed in Philippians.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 Phil. 1:1-2 Epistolary Prescript: *essential foundations* of joyful formation/Philosophy/Theology of Expository Preaching/Teaching; Phil. 1:3-11 *Agency* in joyful formation/Principles of Expository Preaching

Day 2 Phil. 1:12-26 *Circumstances* in joyful formation/Principles of Expository Preaching; Phil. 1:27 – 30 *Adversity* in joyful formation

Day 3 Phil. 2:1-11 The *Prime Paradigm* in joyful formation; Phil. 2:12-30 *Partners* in joyful formation

Day 4 Phil. 3:1-9 The *ethos* of acceptance in joyful formation (justification); Phil. 3:10-16 The *pursuit* in joyful formation

Day 5 Phil. 3:17-4:3 The consuming *vision* of joyful formation; Phil.4:4-23 The *diagnostics* in joyful formation: *shalom* (4-9); contentment (10-13); mutuality (14-23).

Please Note: The Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle: moodle.regentcollege.edu/login



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REQUIRED TEXTS

Long, Thomas. *The Witness of Preaching*. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1989). 267 pp.] ISBN: 0664229433. \$35.99.

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives For Spiritual Transformation* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2006); 192 pp. ISBN: 0830833331. \$24.99.

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002); 272 pp. ISBN: 9781615216321. \$19.99 [only chs. 4 and 6 for 1 cr. hr. students]

The remainder of required readings for 2 cr. hr students (approx. 265 pp.) is to be made up of readings from commentaries on Philippians in the recommended list in preparation for class each day. 1 cr. hr. students must read the Barton book (*Sacred Rhythms*), and only chapters 4 and 6 in the Willard book (*Renovation of the Heart*), and 200 pp. from commentaries on Philippians in the recommended list in preparation for class each day. Students must report which commentaries they read and what pages, in one of the reading summaries they will submit. Please consult the full syllabus for a complete list of texts.

All prices subject to change without notice. The Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books (some exceptions may apply).

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