

THE GOSPELS

I. Catalog Description

An exposition of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John with emphasis on the biblical theology of these books, their genre, and application. (2 hours)

Prerequisite: BE101 Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics

Recommended Prerequisite: BE104 Old Testament Prophets

II. Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will . . .

A. Cognitive Objectives

1. Give a subject/purpose statement for each book studied in the course. *Subject* means that portion or whole of the book which the Holy Spirit guided the human author of Scripture to include; that selection of material which provides the structure and contents of the passage. *Purpose* means the reason(s), as expressed explicitly or implicitly within the text, which show(s) why the writer included that material; that significance or contribution which the passage makes toward the development of the argument of the section or book.
2. Trace the major outline and argument of the books studied. Evaluation of this design will take the form of five quizzes which will test the introductory materials and synthetic charts of each book studied. The material for each quiz is cumulative.
3. Interact with the major interpretive problems which surface in the study of these books. Students will contract for a number of papers which will address dispensational, hermeneutical, or synoptic areas of concern or debate.
4. Summarize the biblical theology which underlies the argument of Luke or John. This will be demonstrated by a 5–10-page paper.
5. Implement a strategy of discipleship based entirely on the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Gospels. A 5–10-page paper would probably be adequate to summarize such a strategy.

B. Affective Objectives

1. Appreciate the various literary forms by which God chose to communicate His message to man.
2. Sense a feeling of accomplishment at being able to handle correctly this section of God's Word.
3. Evaluate their own lifestyle in comparison with that of Jesus Christ with regard to the commands Jesus gave and the relationships which He modeled.
4. Love and serve God more faithfully as a result of seeing the plan and progress of His kingdom and redemptive programs in history.

5. Apply the principles of discipleship as modeled by Christ toward the continuing goal of living a transformed life.

III. Course Requirements

A. Contract Grade

All students will complete the following work:

1. Read each of the Bible books studied in this course twice.
2. Attend the lecture video sessions.
3. Satisfactorily participate in the interactions.
4. Pass the Final Exam

In addition, students will complete the following work . . .

1. To earn a "C":
 - a. Average 35 or more points out of 50 on the quizzes.
 - b. Satisfactorily produce one (1) paper from the assignment schedule.
2. To earn a "B":
 - a. Average 40 or more points out of 50 on the quizzes.
 - b. Satisfactorily produce two (2) papers from the assignment schedule.
3. To earn an "A":
 - a. Average 45 or more points out of 50 on the quizzes.
 - b. Satisfactorily produce three (3) papers from the assignment schedule. One of these three (3) must be the Discipleship Strategy.

B. Assignment Rubrics

All assigned papers coordinate with the modules in which the material is covered. Submit all papers on time. Late papers will not be accepted!

The following rubrics apply to papers¹:

1. Excellent (100) means you understood and fulfilled the goal for the assignment, and your work was superior quality.
2. Good (96) means your work was solid with all the major elements of the assignment included.
3. Acceptable (90) means your work was adequate, although the work may not reflect the effort, thought, and organization expected in the above categories.
4. Unacceptable means your work is incomplete and has not met the minimum requirements for Master's-level work. Absence of research, planning, well-stated ideas, or neatness justifies an unacceptable grade. Edit and re-submit an unacceptable paper to increase your grade to Acceptable.

¹ You may receive a plus or minus for your final contract grade according to the quality of your interactions and the average grades earned.

C. Assignments

1. Book Synthesis

A synthetic study for a "Bailey Class" consists of both a synthetic chart portraying the structure of the book and an outline of the subject/purpose statements of each of the major divisions and sections of the book.

Module 1's lecture videos discuss the instructions and provide a sample of the requirements. Outline as far as two dimensions. No more is necessary for this assignment. Compose a subject/purpose statement for each of these levels. Compose a finalized subject/purpose statement reflecting the book as a whole. This statement is the key thesis of the writer as seen in the development of his argument.

2. Biblical Theology

A biblical theology is distinguished from a systematic theology in that the former serves as a foundation to the latter. A biblical theology is organized around those themes, unique to the human author who was directed by the Holy Spirit, which were revealed at a most appropriate point of time in history. Therefore, the study may be said to be both historical and theological in its place in the progress of revelation.

The suggestions listed below are given as an aid to this assignment:

- a. A biblical theology is the theology of the particular human author being studied.
- b. The categories of consideration are to be those emphasized by the text and not a systematic theology.
- c. Do not confuse a biblical theology with the argument of the book. The argument is based on the literary development of the book through both subject and purpose. The theology is that which underlies such a presentation. While a book may not reveal an author's whole theology, the burden of the assignment is to discover what is included!
- d. Attempt to use the terminology of the author and not systematic titles or categories in the discussion. Let the text inform you.
- e. Outline the theological concepts as they occur in the text to identify any possible historical or literary developments of thought.

Bible Exposition Department Statement

Biblical theology is that exegetical and synthetic study of a biblical text, texts, or section of the Bible that seeks to determine the theological meaning of that portion as it was written and then to explicate what that theology means for today.

Producing a biblical theology involves setting forth what God has revealed in the Bible within a designated section of Scripture (e.g. the Gospels), through a writer of Scripture (e.g. Luke), material in a

selected period of time (e.g., post-exilic prophets), or across the entire canon, using the categories of the module in question.

When a student writes a biblical theology paper for the BE Department, the student must set forth what God has revealed in a specified portion of the Bible (e.g. the Gospel of Matthew) on a particular subject (e.g., the kingdom of God). The professor will specify the portion(s) of the Bible, the subject (or choice of subjects), and the length of the paper. The student must organize the divine revelation in the paper using categories that arise out of the study, or categories that the professor may specify, according to the professor's discretion. These criteria by which the paper will be evaluated are the comprehensiveness of the coverage of the revelation, the quality of the presentation of the material, and any other criteria the professor may specify.

3. Discipleship Strategy²

This assignment is an inductive study. Focus on what Jesus said about being and making disciples. Because of the brevity of your time and the length of the paper (5–10 pages), outline the key character qualities emphasized by Christ which form the seedbed out of which a discipleship ministry might flourish.

Based on your results of this inductive study, develop a strategy of implementation for the reproduction of these characteristics in the lives of others. Include target goals as definable in content, time of involvement, projected life changes, or whatever else you feel necessary as the result of this inductive study.

4. Assignment Topics (only one paper per Gospel please with the exception of the gospel of Mark)

- a. The significance of the fulfillment formulas for the Old Testament quotations in the Gospel of Matthew
- b. Synthetic paper on Mark
- c. The argument of the Gospel of Mark (This assignment counts as 2 papers. Review video instructions in module 1 for details)
- d. Synthetic paper on Luke
- e. A biblical theology of Luke
- f. The significance of the salvation of the Gentiles in the Book of Luke
- g. Synthetic paper on John
- h. A biblical theology of John
- i. The purpose of "signs" in the Gospel of John
- j. The strategy of biblical discipleship (This paper is required if contracting for an "A")

² If you contract for an "A," you must include this assignment.

IV. Course Supplemental Information

The Presence of the Professor

While the online learning environment is different than the live classroom environment, your professor is still involved and available. You can expect your professor to participate in the required interactions/discussions regularly and substantially. You can also expect your professor to have at least 3 virtual live “office hours”. Your professor will inform you of the times and means that these will occur. Most professors will likely use the Chat feature provided by our online platform at online.dts.edu.

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

V. Course Schedule

Module	Gospel	Title	Assignment Due
1		Introduction to the Course and to the Gospels	
2	Matthew 1-7	Jesus the Messiah: The Person & Platform of the King	
3	Matthew 8:1-13:52	Jesus the Messiah: The Power and Parables of the King	
4	Matthew 13:53-25:46	Jesus the Messiah: The Progressive Rejection & Presentation of the King	The significance of the fulfillment formulas for the Old Testament quotations in the Gospel of Matthew Quiz #1
5	Mark	Jesus Christ the Servant	Synthetic paper on Mark The argument of the Gospel of Mark Quiz #2

6	Luke	Jesus Christ the Son of Man	Synthetic paper on Luke A biblical theology of Luke The significance of the salvation of the Gentiles in the Book of Luke Quiz #3
7	John	Jesus Christ the Son of God, Part 1	
8	John	Jesus Christ the Son of God, Part 2	Synthetic paper on John A biblical theology of John The purpose of "signs" in the Gospel of John Quiz #4
9	Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John	The Passion Narratives	Quiz #5
Module	Gospel	Title	Assignment Due
10		Course Conclusion and Final Assessment	The strategy of biblical discipleship ³ Final Exam

VI. Bibliography

A. General Works on the Gospels

Bock, Darrell L. *Jesus According to the Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.

Connolly, Peter, *Living in the Time of Jesus of Nazareth*. Bnei Brak, Israel: Steimatzky, 1983. (a reconstruction of life in Judea and Galilee at the time of Jesus including political, geographic, military, domestic and religious architecture, etc.).

Green, Joel B., Scott McKnight and I. Howard Marshall (ed.) *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Pentecost, J. Dwight. *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.

Scroggie, Graham W. *A Guide to the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1995.

Zuck, Roy B. and Darrell L. Bock. *A Biblical Theology of the New Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1994. [chapters on A Theology of Matthew, A Theology of Mark, A Theology of Luke-Acts, A Theology of John's Writings]

B. Matthew

Blomberg, Craig L. *Matthew*. New American Commentary. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1992.

Bruce, F.F. *Matthew*. Scripture Union Bible Study Books series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.

Carson, Donald A. "Matthew." In *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. Frank Gaebelin, vol. 8. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

_____. *The Sermon on the Mount: An Evangelical Exposition of Matthew 5–7*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978.

France, R.T. *The Gospel According to Matthew: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985.

_____. "Matthew." In *New Bible Commentary*, ed. G. J. Wenham, J. A. Moyer, D. A. Carson, and R. T. France. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Hill, David. *The Gospel of Matthew*. The New Century Bible Commentary, ed. Matthew Black. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans/Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1972 (reprinted 1987).

³ This paper is required if contracting for an "A."

- Keener, Craig S. *Matthew*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1994.
- Kent, Homer A. Jr. "Matthew." In *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, ed. Everett F. Harrison. Chicago: Moody Press, 1962.
- MacArthur, John, Jr. "Matthew". *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, 4 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985–90.
- Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Toussaint, Stanley D. *Behold the King: A Study of Matthew*. Portland: Multnomah Press, 1980.

C. Mark

- Brooks, James. A. *Mark*. New American Commentary, ed. David Dockery, vol. 23. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.
- Burdick, Donald W. "Mark." In *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, ed. Everett F. Harrison. Chicago: Moody Press, 1962.
- Cole, Alan. "Mark." In *New Bible Commentary*, ed. G. J. Wenham, J. A. Moyer, D. A. Carson, and R. T. France. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Cranfield, C. E. B. *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. Cambridge Greek Testament Commentary. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1966.
- Grassmick, John D. "Mark." In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, vol. II. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985.
- Hiebert, D. Edmond. *Mark: A Portrait of the Servant*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1974.
- Hurtado, L. W. *Mark*. New International Bible Commentary, 2nd ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1989.
- Lane, William L. *Commentary on Mark*. New International Commentary of the New Testament, ed. F. F. Bruce. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Rhoads, David and Daland Michie. *Mark As Story: An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.
- Wessel, Walter W. "Mark." In *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. Frank Gaebelein, vol. 8. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

D. Luke

- Bailey, Kenneth E. *Poet and Peasant*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.
- _____. *Through Peasant Eyes: More Lucan Parables, Their Culture and State*. Eerdmans, 1981.
- Bock, Darrell L. *Luke*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- _____. *Luke*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

- Evans, Craig A. *Luke*. New International Bible Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Godet, Franz L. *A Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke*. 2 vols. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1982. Originally issued in 1870.
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke* Vol. 1 "That you may Know" Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1998.
- Kistemaker, Simon. *The Parables of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980.
- Liefeld, Walter L. "Luke." In *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. Frank Gaebelein, vol. 8. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *The Gospel of Luke*. London: Paternoster Press, 1977.
- _____. *The Gospel of Luke*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978.
- _____. "Luke" In *New Bible Commentary*, ed. G. J. Wenham, J. A. Moyer, D. A. Carson, and R. T. France. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Stein, Robert H. *Luke*. The New American Commentary, ed. David S. Dockery, vol. 24. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Talbert, Charles H. *Reading Luke: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Third Gospel*. New York: Crossroad, 1984.
- Tenney, Merrill C. "Luke." In *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, ed. Everett F. Harrison. Chicago: Moody Press, 1962.
- E. John
- Beasley-Murray, G. R. *John*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.
- Blum, Edwin. "John." In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, vol. II. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985.
- Boice, James M. *The Gospel of John: An Evangelical Commentary*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975–79.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Gospel of John: Introduction, Exposition and Notes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Carson, Donald A. *The Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Guthrie, Donald. "John." In *New Bible Commentary*, ed. G. J. Wenham, J. A. Moyer, D. A. Carson, and R. T. France. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Harrison, Everett F. "John." In *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, ed. Everett F. Harrison. Chicago: Moody Press, 1962.
- Kent, Homer A., Jr. *Light in the Darkness. Studies in the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1974.
- Laney, J. Carl. *John*. Moody Gospel Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1992.
- Morris, Leon. *Commentary on the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Stott, John R.W. *Christ the Liberator*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1971.

Tenney, Merrill C. *John, The Gospel of Belief*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976rp,
originally in 1948.