

#2322 Colossians and Philemon
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Spring 2020

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description

This course will examine Paul's relation to the Colossian church and will provide special introductions to these two books. Emphasis will be on the translation and exegesis of the Greek text. Important topics of discussion will include Paul's teachings concerning the "Colossian heresy," concerning Christology, and concerning slavery.

Course objectives

By the end of the semester you should be able to read basically at sight any portion of Colossians or Philemon from the Greek NT. You will have read a standard commentary, and will have studied the introduction and the outline of the books and each section in detail. You will also have written a research paper on the exegesis of a section of these epistles.

Course outcomes

By successfully completing this course, you should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Be able to understand and explain the historical circumstances leading up to the writing of Colossians and Philemon.
2. Be able to preach or teach from these books, using the original text.
3. Explain and interact with the various "Colossian heresies," which still have influence in the world today.
4. Explain the Pauline attitude and teaching regarding the family and the institution of slavery.
5. For those seeking ordination, be able to pass the examinations in Greek and, partially, English Bible.

English Bible reading

The epistles are to be read in three different English translations. You are to prepare and memorize your own outline of the two epistles.

Translation

Colossians and Philemon are to be translated according to the schedule below, in the format explained in class. During the class period, you will be expected to be able to translate the assigned portion primarily by sight.

Commentary reading

A standard commentary is to be read, following the schedule for translating the epistles. Suggestions for commentaries will be made in class.

Research paper

The research paper is to employ exegetical tools and deal with an exegetical question. The format should follow that of *The SBL Handbook of Style*.

Examinations

The midterm and final examinations will cover the introductory material and the translation of the material, including grammatical and exegetical questions. you will be permitted to have a sheet of brief translations of uncommon words during the exams.

Course schedule

Jan.	29	Introduction to the course and the epistles
Feb.	5	Col 1:1-8
	12	Col 1:9-20; English Bible assignment due
	19	Col 1:21-29
	26	Col 2:1-8; research paper topic
Mar.	4	Col 2:9-19; outline due
	11	Col 2:20 - 3:4
	18	Midterm Examination (outline memorized)
	25	(Spring recess)

Apr.	1	Col 3:5-15; Col 3:16 - 4:1; research paper outline & bibliography
	8	Col 4:2-9
	15	Col 4:10-18
	22	Phlm 1-14
	29	(G. W. Presbytery)
May	6	Phlm 15-25; Commentary reading due; Research paper due
	13	Final Examination