



## **Chalmers Summer School 2007**

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*March 13, 2007*

### **The Apostle Paul: Love Him or Leave Him?**

**Dr. Harry Maier**

**July 2-13, 2007 (weeks 1 & 2); 9 am-12 pm**

#### **Course Description**

To introduce students to the major themes of Pauline theologies represented by New Testament texts and, where appropriate, other New Testament and extra-canonical literature. To situate these theologies in the social matrix of antiquity and to identify the interaction of theology and culture implicit in these theologies. To assess the relevance of these theologies for Christian existence in society and the critical issues entailed in their contemporary appropriation. To explore a variety of approaches to Pauline texts (minimally feminist, non-eurocentrist, post-structuralist). To introduce students to the critical scholarly debates in Pauline studies. To introduce students to an understanding of textual criticism, manuscript traditions, and scholarly debates concerning the formation of the Christian canon.

#### **Course Format**

One three-hour class daily, Monday through Friday, for two weeks. Lecture with small group discussion. One hour of class per week will be devoted to student-led small group discussion of a series of secondary readings which model differing approaches to and interpretations of Pauline themes and texts. In the textual criticism part of the course this model will be modified slightly.

The **first week** you will encounter women and men who made up Paul's churches and how Paul formulated his Gospel to make churches a place of God's welcome.

The **second week** you will see how Paul's successors – the authors of Colossian's, Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus – took the theology, institutions of leadership and church organization of Paul and developed those ideas and social structures for a new generation of believers. You will also look at how Paul's theology was developed in the second century.

#### **Class Outline**

##### **Week One**

##### **I. Paul**

- A. Luke as a Source for Paul
- B. The Social Context of Paul
- C. Paul and Apocalyptic
- D. Jews, Gentiles and Justification
- E. Ethics and Eschatology

##### **Week Two**

##### **II. Deutero-Paul**

- A. Pseudonymous Literature and Tradition in Hellenism
- B. Transpositions of Paul
  - a. Colossians
  - b. Ephesians
- C. The Battle for Paul in the Pastoral Epistles and Gnosticism

- D. The Rehabilitation of Paul in Irenaeus
- E. The Legacy of Paul

### III. An Introduction to Textual Criticism and the Formation of the Christian Canon

\*Remember your Bible for each class- this is essential!!!

#### Required Readings

- A. A **Bible of choice**, but no paraphrases or pocket-sized additions, and preferably a critical study edition. If the King James Version is preferred students are obliged to bring another translation.
- B. *The Letters of Paul* by Calvin J. Roetzel  
*Paul and His Letters* L.E. Keck  
*Engaging the New Testament: An Interdisciplinary Approach* by Russell Pregeant  
*The First Urban Christians* by Wayne Meeks  
*In Her Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins* by Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza  
**Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism, Revised Edition** by J. Harold Greenlee
- C. **One reading pack of critical articles.** This will be available in VST's H.R. McMillan Theological Library by course commencement.

#### Course Requirements

1. Pre-reading: all of L.E. Keck, **Paul and His Letters**; Calvin J. Roetzel, **The Letters of Paul**; Wayne Meeks, **The First Urban Christians**.
2. 100% attendance.
3. Daily critical journal reflections on reading pack articles, read in preparation for small group discussion.
4. For those taking the course for *degree credit*, (Diploma, M.Div., M.A.T.S., M.A.R.E., Th.M.), see “**Summer School Degree Credit Evaluation Information**” handout for paper requirements.
5. For those taking the course for Chalmers Institute Summer School *Continuing Education credit*, see handout, “**Summer School Continuing Education Credit Information**,” for requirements.
  - For all credit students there will be an extra one-hour meeting with the course grading tutor, additional to class time, to review credit requirements and decide on an appropriate research topic.

#### Prerequisites

Students registered for this course have normally taken NT 100 but this is not a strict requirement. While the course does not assume knowledge of Greek, it does assume students know the Greek alphabet since the articles in the reading packs contain Greek words and the lectures discuss Greek terms. Websites for learning the alphabet abound; a good representative one is: <http://www.ibiblio.org/koine/greek/lessons/>

**Dr. Harry Maier** is Professor of New Testament Studies at Vancouver School of Theology, and author of *Apocalypse Recalled: The Book of Revelation after Christendom*.

**All books will be available from the UBC Bookstore after May 14<sup>th</sup>.  
604-822-2665; Toll-free Canada 1-800-661-3889**