



## New Testament Survey NT 501

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (CUME, Boston) Fall Semester 2012

Rev. Dr. David Teague

Sept 22 Oct 20 Nov 3 Dec 1 (Saturdays, 9 am – 4:30 pm)

### Basic Information

Class website [www.godlyservants.org/nt](http://www.godlyservants.org/nt) (download stuff freely)  
Contact 413-549-0623 [davidteague77@gmail.com](mailto:davidteague77@gmail.com)  
433 Warren Wright Rd.; Belchertown, MA 01007

### Purpose

To teach the message of the New Testament and its basic scholarly issues in a way that is contextualized to a postmodern, urban setting.

**Grading Tracks** There are two possible grading tracks for this course:

**Track One:** involves completing the regular assignments and reading a basic-level textbook. If you choose this track, you will not be able to receive an A grade. Possible grades only go up to a B+, or 90 out of 100 points.

**Track Two:** involves (1) doing quality work on Track One assignments, (2) reading two textbooks that are more advanced and (3) doing quality work on an extra academic assignment. If you choose Track Two, there is no guarantee that you will receive an A grade. Possible grades go up to 100 points, or an A+.

The reason for this two-track system is to: (1) to prevent grade inflation and (2) to reward those students who want to study deeper NT scholarly issues.

A+ 97-100%	A 93-96%	A- 91-92%	
B+ 87-90%	B 83-86%	B- 80-82%	
C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%	
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D- 60-62%	E below 60

### Goals

1. To grow in love for the NT as we experience its authority in our lives
2. To achieve a basic understanding of the message of the NT
3. To increase our ability to teach the NT to postmodern, urban people
4. (Track Two): To be aware of basic NT scholarly issues  
(in fulfillment of CUME's M. Div. degree objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.)

### Evaluation

We will measure how we achieve our goals by:

- submitting a reading report (10 points)
- completing a group project for Unit One (20 points)
- writing a sermon for Unit Two (25 points)
- writing an essay for Unit Three (25 pts)
- completing the November Reading Week assignment (10 pts)
- (Track Two only): writing an academic paper on the scholarly issues associated with a NT book of your choosing (10 points)

**Some Basic Resources** (not required):

- Dr. Roy Ciampa's website contains many helpful links: [www.viceregency.com](http://www.viceregency.com)
- J. B. Green, S. McKnight, and I. H. Marshall, eds., *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- G. F. Hawthorne and R. P. Martin, eds., *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- R. P. Martin and P. H. Davids, eds., *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, eds., *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*.

**Policies****1. Help**

I am concerned about your well-being and success. Do not be afraid to ask questions in or outside of class. If you feel that the work is too hard, please talk with me before giving up on your seminary education. I also may make recommendations that are intended to help you succeed.

**2. Late Work**

According to CUME policy, I cannot grant you an extension unless you have an unforeseen, extenuating event. Quoting: "The intention of the extension policy is ... to grant additional time to those students who face some unforeseen circumstance, such as illness or other extenuating events." In addition, the policy states that late work submitted without such an event loses a full grade a day. Finally, if you need an extension beyond the last day for written work, the registrar handles such requests.

**3. Plagiarism**

The CUME policy on plagiarism will be strictly enforced in this course.

**4. Disabilities**

If you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, CUME policy is for you to first notify the Academic Dean. The Dean will then notify the professor.

**5. Storm Cancellations:** Call CUME at 617-427-7293 for updates.

## The Requirements In Detail

**A. Textbooks (5 pts)** Purchase texts through CBD.com or Amazon.com.

### TRACK ONE:

- Gundry, Robert. *A Survey of the New Testament. 5th ed.*, 2012  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0310494744

### TRACK TWO:

- David Wenham and Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Vol. 1: A Guide to the Gospels and Acts. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, 2011.  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0830825394
- I. Howard Marshall, Stephen Travis and Ian Paul. *Exploring the New Testament: A Guide to the Letters and Revelation. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, 2011.  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0830825400

## **B. Bible Reading (5 pts)**

You are expected to read or listen to the entire NT this term:

1. Read or listen attentively and prayerfully.
2. Meditate in the Word; think about it and ask questions.
3. Consider using a study Bible to help your understanding.
4. Read 3-4 chapters a day to finish by the end of the term.

## **C. Unit One Assignment (20 pts, due October 20)**

The theme of Unit One is '*Christ has Come to Us.*' It describes how Christ has come to us to bring us salvation. He comes as the fulfillment of God's self-revelation to the world.

Your assignment is to work with a team to design a creative way of teaching the biblical metanarrative, or the coming of Christ as the completion of the Story of God in the Bible. For example, you might interview a series of biblical characters through the ages, or present a sequence of Gospel songs that explain the Story of God, or make an audio-visual presentation. The prof. is looking for creative communication. You may not submit a series of talks! Your target audience should be adults in a church.

To do this assignment:

1. Form a team of 5-6 people, ideally people you know.
2. Choose a team leader.
3. Decide the type of church for which the presentation is intended.
4. Select a metanarrative framework to base your presentation on.
5. Decide upon the creative method (s) your group will use.
6. Have each person independently develop a segment of the whole.
7. The leader presents in class a summary of what you all did (10 minutes).
8. Each one will hand in a written report of the segment you personally developed.

Leader presentations and individual reports are due in class, October 20.

**D. Unit Two Assignment (25 pts, due October 27)**

The theme of Unit Two is *'Becoming a People for God.'* It describes how, after Christ has come to us to bring us salvation, he also makes us into a People for God.

To do this assignment, first read the story of William J. Seymour and Charles Parham, found on pages 112-125 in Richard J. Foster's *Streams of Living Water*. Copies of this excerpt will be handed out in class on October 20, or use the link on the class website.

Your task: Charles Parham has just arrived at Azusa Street and is saying that different ethnic groups should worship separately. Write a sermon in which you imagine that you are William Seymour and you are explaining to the Christians at Azusa Street why God wants different ethnic groups to worship together. Include scriptural arguments from the New Testament, especially those developed in class from Ephesians.

This is the grading rubric for this assignment:

Potential Points	Evaluation Criteria
20	The number and quality of your arguments from the New Testament, especially those developed from Ephesians.
5	The over-all degree to which your sermon is convincing.

The sermon should be at least 1600 words. Email it to the professor on or before Oct 27. Late work will be penalized per CUME policy.

**E. Unit Three Assignment (25 pts, due November 10)**

Unit Three's theme is *'Changing the World Together for God.'* After Christ brings us salvation and makes us into a People for God, he then helps us to change the world together. We do this by bringing people and cultures to Jesus.

In the Roman world, the values of honor and shame deeply affected how people thought and acted. Sometimes, these values were inconsistent with biblical thinking. Read the article "*Honor and Shame: Connecting Personhood to Group Values,*" available at our class website, [www.godlyservants.org/nt](http://www.godlyservants.org/nt) . Then, after also reading Philipians, write an essay on the following three things:

- (1) Describe how the dynamics of honor and shame affected the Philippian church.
- (2) Explain what Paul did to change the negative aspects of these cultural values. (Focus especially on what is said in class about Philipians 2.)
- (3) Describe the positive and negative dynamics of honor and shame within your own church. What biblical teaching would address the negative aspects?

*Continued -*

The following is the grading rubric which will be used for this assignment:

Potential Points	Evaluation Criteria
10	The quality of your summary of the dynamics of honor and shame in the Philippians church.
10	The quality of your explanation of how Paul challenged the negative (ungodly) aspects of the honor and shame dynamics in the Philippian church
5	The quality of your analysis of honor/shame dynamics within your own church, both positive and negative.

The paper should be **at least 1600 words**. Email it to the professor on or before Nov 10. Please write with the guide in mind, "How to Write an Essay," available at [www.godlyservants.org/nt](http://www.godlyservants.org/nt) . Late work will be penalized per CUME policy.

#### **F. November Reading Week Assignment (10 pts, due November 17)**

Dedicate at least eight hours to one of the following assignment during the November Reading Week. This is in compliance with the Department of Education requirements that the course should provide a total of at least 37.5 contact hours. The assignment:

Do a "Manuscript Bible Study" of either Ephesians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians or James. All of these manuscripts are found on the class website, [www.godlyservants.org/nt](http://www.godlyservants.org/nt) . (You may also continue the Manuscript Bible Study you began in class on November 3).

Write a two-page summary of what you learned and email it to the professor by Nov 17.

#### **G. TRACK TWO ONLY - Academic Paper (10 pts, due December 1)**

If you are on TRACK TWO, you must also complete the following assignment in addition to your other work. TRACK ONE students are not to complete this assignment and may not submit it as "extra credit":

Write an academic paper in which you investigate an important scholarly issue in NT studies, such as an interpretation issue or an authorship issue. **Your topic must be approved by the professor.** In your paper, you will be expected to use the CUME library and to include references to some major scholarly works.

The academic paper should be at least 1200 words. It is due in class on Dec 1.

## Class Schedule

*The class uses a thematic approach to the New Testament. Before each class, please read the relevant parts in your textbooks. Additional readings are indicated.*

### **UNIT ONE: CHRIST HAS COME TO US**

Sept 22 Morning	<b>Metanarrative Theology</b>	<b>What is a Gospel?</b>
	Genesis 1-12 (skim), Matthew 1 Read "Biblical Metanarrative" at <a href="http://www.postmodernpreaching.net">www.postmodernpreaching.net</a>	
Sept 22 Afternoon	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Matthew</b> <b>John</b>

### **UNIT TWO: BECOMING ONE PEOPLE FOR GOD**

Oct 20 Morning	<b>Luke / Acts</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>Galatians</b>
Oct 20 Afternoon	<b>Romans</b>	<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>Colossians</b> <b>Philemon</b>
	Presentations of the Group Assignment for Unit One		
Oct 27	UNIT TWO ASSIGNMENT DUE		

### **UNIT THREE: CHANGING THE WORLD TOGETHER FOR GOD**

Nov 3 Morning	<b>The Graeco- Roman World</b>	<b>Philippians</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 Thess.</b>
Nov 3 Afternoon	<b>1 and 2 Corinthians</b>	<b>1 and 2 Timothy</b>	<b>Titus</b>
	<b>Paul and the Role of Women</b>		
Nov 10	UNIT THREE ASSIGNMENT DUE		
Nov 17	NOVEMBER READING WEEK ASSIGNMENT DUE		
Dec 1 Morning	<b>Hebrews</b>	<b>1 and 2 Peter</b>	
Dec 1 Afternoon	<b>1,2,3 John</b>	<b>Jude</b>	<b>Revelation</b>
	Read the Kraybill article on Revelation posted on <a href="http://www.godlyservants.org/nt">www.godlyservants.org/nt</a>		
	READING REPORT DUE		
	TRACK TWO ACADEMIC PAPER DUE		

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**NT 501 NT Survey**  
**Reading Report**  
DUE DECEMBER 1, 2012 (in class)

Your Name: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the following percentage of the New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ %

I have read the following percentage of my class textbook: \_\_\_\_\_ %

Please give this to Dr. Teague during the class on December 1. Thank you!

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