

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Before describing this important course, let us expose a suggestive idea about it:

“Despite the complexity of issues surrounding NT theology and the lack of consensus on either its task or its method, it has been called "the summit, as it were, to which the arduous mountain paths of New Testament exegesis lead, and the vantage point from which one can look back upon them." NT theology presents a number of paradoxes. Articles multiply on the problems of the discipline; it is routinely pronounced dead. Yet, new journals and series of books emerge dedicated to the study of biblical theology. Comprehensive NT theologies continue to be produced, and monographs appear on particular aspects of NT theology [...]

Surveying a number of theologies produced in the last 40 years, Gerhard Hasel divides them according to approaches that are "thematic" (or descriptive), "existentialist" (Bultmann and his successors), "historical," and "salvation historical." The majority of NT theologies and the most significant ones are by Protestant scholars. The work of Max Meinertz published in 1950 is often called the first modern NT theology by a Catholic”.

(Cf. J. R. DONAHUE, « The changing shape of New Testament Theology », *Theological Studies* 50 (1989), p. 315-317).

This course aims to introduce to the major issues raised by the nature of what is called "New Testament Theology". After learning about the history and methodology of this type of theology and its situation in relation to Biblical Theology, the student will be able to identify the major theological themes of the New Testament, book by book, corpus by corpus, before judging whether a synthesis is possible for the entire New Testament. He will be able to ask himself whether there are really transversal theologies, and if so, to give examples of them (the kingdom of God according to the synoptic Gospels, the Christology of the Gospels, the theology of Luke and Acts, Johannine theology, Pauline theology, that of the Epistle to the Hebrews, general epistles, and finally). The first two chapters will serve to define the biblical theology of the New Testament, and to situate this approach in relation to other approaches (exegesis, systematic theology).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, the student should be able to accomplish the following:

- Give the different definitions of Biblical Theology and the difficulties they raise (approaches, relationships with other theologies, etc.).
- Understand the issues of continuity/discontinuity between the two Testaments
- Explain briefly the state of research in New Testament theology.
- Situating the NT in the development of salvation history
- To have the main theological axes of each NT Book and to develop the main lines of the essential doctrines of the NT
- Linking NT biblical theology to other theological disciplines

TABLE OF CONTENT

Introduction

I. History, method and nature of the New Testament Theology

1. Basic definitions and questions
2. History and methods
3. Recent approaches
4. The nature of the New Testament Theology
5. Relationship with the other Disciplines

II. New Testament Theology and/within Biblical Theology

1. NT Theology and the Old Testament
2. NT Biblical Theology
3. The Central Subject Matter of a Biblical Theology of the NT
4. NT Theology = NT Biblical Theology?

III. Theology of NT in its unity and diversity: Books, corpus and beyond

1. Synoptic gospels, book by book, and synthesis
2. A Theology of John's Writings
3. Legitimate intersections? Luke-Acts and Synoptic-John
4. Saint Paul and (so called) Pauline Theology
5. Theology of Hebrews and Catholic Epistles
6. Theology of Revelation (Apocalypse)

Conclusion: which kind of NT Theology?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A Group work (in class):

30 bibliographical titles are given to different groups of students. Crossing different titles, everyone shall detect what could be a problematic (important issues) of our course of NTT.

- Some books and articles given to every student

- Assignment:

1°) Each student summarizes at least one article (individual summary, please)

2°) In addition to the bibliographical titles given in class on October 14, 2021 and those of the books transmitted, each student, through his or her personal research, will have to find five others that will enrich the problematic of the course.

EVALUATION

- Active and efficient participation: **15%**
- Assignments and classroom works: **25%**
- Final Exam: **60%**