

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF PAUL, BI-221-M
Bible and Theology [3 credits]
Fall 2017, Christian Life College-Madison

I. INSTRUCTORS

Although this course will utilize many capable and qualified instructors, the lead instructor for the course will be Greg Pechacek (gpechacek@mail.citychurchonline.org). Further information about this course is available through email at CLCM@citychurchonline.org or by phone at 608-221-1528, ext. 302. Complete information about CLCM is available at: <http://www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college>

II. SCHEDULE

Thursday evenings, September 7, 2017 to December 21, 2017, with class times from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. CLCM meets at Abundant Life Christian School, 4901 E. Buckeye Rd., Madison.

III. DESCRIPTION

The Apostle Paul is considered to be the most influential person in the formation of the early church. Apart from Jesus he is the most prominent individual in the New Testament. As to the New Testament scripture, he authors almost half of all the books of the New Testament. It is Paul's letters that inform us of the early church's formation – addressing its problems, explaining the theology of the New Covenant in Jesus, and the nature of the Spirit-filled life of the believer in Christ.

IV. OBJECTIVES

1. This course is designed to help students understand the purpose and meaning of Paul's letters by exploring the historical, cultural and theological interpretations of his letters.
2. Students will seek to understand Paul's teachings as they study his letters to develop a deeper appreciation for the depths of Paul's influence and theology which emerges to shape the New Testament church.
3. Students will also develop an understanding of the contents of and the history surrounding the Pauline letters, understanding some of the main critical issues in Pauline studies.
4. Students will also be able to: identify and explain key issues in the study of Paul and his letters; relate the Pauline texts to their Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman contexts and undertake basic exegesis of Pauline texts.
5. Students will be able to render critical judgments on historical and interpretive issues in the Pauline letters, demonstrating an ability to identify key terms and their meanings.

V. TEXTBOOKS

1. Required:
 - a. *Thinking Through Paul: A Survey of His Life, Letters and Theology* by Bruce W. Longenecker and Todd Still (Zondervan, 2014)
 - b. *A Week in the Life of Corinth* by Ben Witherington III (IVP, 2012)
 - c. *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit* by Charles Swindoll (Thomas Nelson, 2009)
 - d. *The Holy Bible* (Although any good translation will work, please avoid paraphrases)

2. Recommended:
 - a. *The Paul Quest: A Renewed Search for the Jew of Tarsus* by Ben Witherington III (IVP, 1998)
 - b. *Four Views on The Apostle Paul* edited by Stanley Gundry and Michael Bird (Zondervan, 2012)
 - c. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free* by F.F. Bruce (Eerdmans Academic, 1977)
 - d. *In the Steps of Saint Paul: An Illustrated Guide to Paul's Journeys* by Peter Walker (Lion Books, 2008)
 - e. *Paul, Apostle of God's Glory in Christ* by Thomas R. Schreiner (IVP Academic, 2001)
 - f. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* edited by Gerald Hawthorne and Ralph Martin. (IVP, 1993)

VI. REQUIREMENTS

1. Reflection Papers – Students will write three (3), 500 word reflection papers on the life of Paul based on Swindoll's book and the NT. While this assignment may contain a summary of the book's material, the goal is not to evaluate the book *per se*. Instead, the goal is to interact with life of Paul based on the material presented by Swindoll and Scripture.

Share which of Paul's experiences resonate with you and why. Describe what you learned and what impresses you about Paul's life and ministry. Be sure to address not only your perspectives, but also the instances/events of Paul's life which influenced you. Generous interaction with the author and scripture is required for this assignment. Be sure to use citations when referring to both textbook and scripture. All papers should be written in APA style, double spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For writing and citing help see the APA cheat sheet at: www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college.

2. Book Review – Students will write a 1000 word book review of Ben Witherington's book, *A Week in the Life of Corinth*. Papers must follow the good book review suggestions found at: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/704/01/>. All papers should be written in APA style, double spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For writing and citing help see the APA cheat sheet at: www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college.
3. Mid-term and Final Exams – Students will write two examinations based on the lecture material and the main textbook by Longenecker and Still.
4. Bible Reading – Students will report via email on the quality (e.g. carefully and thoughtfully) and quantity (e.g. 80%, 90%, 100%) of their weekly assigned Bible reading. These assignments will be due in the lead instructor's email inbox by 6pm on their due date. Late submissions will not be accepted.
5. Attendance is mandatory - Failure to attend class will result in a reduced grade after 3 excused absences. Excused absences must be arranged with the lead instructor in advance of any absence. A short email describing the nature and extent of the absence will be sufficient to meet this requirement. Unexcused absences will receive a reduction in grade after the first and subsequent unexcused absences.

VII. GRADING

	Percentage
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Reflection Papers	20%
Book Review	10%
Bible Reading	10%

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Scores</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>GPA</i>
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67
C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
D	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

VIII. EXTENSIONS: There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. Incompletes occur when class work is not completed during the semester. Incompletes automatically become “F” thirty days after the semester ends.

IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of research materials.

X. CREDIT AND AUDIT

- A. The current cost of 3 credits is \$375. Fees are due on a schedule of ½ before the first class, and the final ½ before the fourth class. Other arrangements may be made if done with prior approval. Students who pay in full at or before the first class will receive a \$25 discount. Students who register and pay in full at least 2 weeks before the first class will receive an additional \$25 discount. Successful completion of this course will result in 3 credits towards an Associate of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.
- B. This course may be audited for a lecture fee of \$150. Students who pay in full at or before the first class will receive a \$25 discount. Students who register and pay in full at least 2 weeks before the first class will receive an additional \$25 discount. There are no reading, paper, or exam requirements, but auditing students are urged to do all they can to keep in step with the reading and lecture schedule in order to gain the maximum benefit from the course. Graduates of CLCM may audit courses at the greatly reduced price of \$50 per course.

- C. Application Fee – There is a one-time Registration and Application fee of \$25. This one-time fee must accompany every first-time application for enrollment or audit.

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Assignment	Lecturer
<i>September 7 Week 1</i>	Introduction to the course and A survey of Paul's Life and Ministry	Still: Chapter 1	Greg Pechacek
<i>September 14 Week 2</i>	I and II Thessalonians	Still: Chapter 2 I and II Thessalonians	Tom Flaherty
<i>September 21 Week 3</i>	Galatians	Still: Chapter 3 Galatians	Don Dodge
<i>September 28 Week 4</i>	I Corinthians	Still: Chapter 4 I Corinthians Reflection Paper, Chaps. 1-7	Isaac Fleming
<i>October 5 Week 5</i>	II Corinthians	Still: Chapter 5 II Corinthians	Gill Robertson
<i>October 12 Week 6</i>	Romans	Still: Chapter 6 Romans	Elliott Pollasch
<i>October 19 Week 7</i>	Philippians	Still: Chapter 7 Philippians Reflection Paper, Chaps. 8-14	Dave Carlson
<i>October 26 Week 8</i>	Writer's Workshop	Mid-Term Exam	Greg Pechacek

<i>November 2 Week 9</i>	Philemon and Colossians	Still: Chapter 8 Philemon and Colossians	Paul Lundgren
<i>November 9 Week 10</i>	Ephesians	Still: Chapter 9 Ephesians	Elliott Pollasch
<i>November 16 Week 11</i>	The Pastoral Letters	Still: Chapter 10 The Pastoral Letters Reflection Paper, Chaps. 15-22	Nic Gibson
<i>November 23 Week 12</i>	Thanksgiving Break	N/A	N/A
<i>November 30 Week 13</i>	The Apocalyptic Narrative of Paul's Theological Discourse	Still: Chapter 11	Tom Flaherty
<i>December 7 Week 14</i>	Paul's Theological Narrative and other Macro-Narratives of his Day	Still: Chapter 12	Kevin Phillips
<i>December 14 Week 15</i>	Paul's Theological Narrative and the Micro-Narratives of Jesus Groups	Still: Chapter 13 Book Review Due	Gill Robertson
<i>December 21 Week 16</i>	N/A	Final Exam	Greg Pechacek

*All dates and assignments are tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the lead instructor according to the development of the course material. Be alert in class for any announcements of changes.