

REGENT COLLEGE  
Distance Education

BIBL 662: BOOK STUDY: GALATIANS

Professor Emeritus Gordon D. Fee  
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3 Graduate Credit Hours  
Main source for guidelines, resources, extra handouts;  
[www.regent-college.edu/classesonline](http://www.regent-college.edu/classesonline)

**Your due date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check the last page of the Student Handbook for setting your due date)

**Prerequisites:** The subject matter of this course assumes that the student has had BIBL 503 Biblical Exegesis and Interpretation or an equivalent course.

600 level courses are usually more advanced and focused than 500 level courses and generally assume the completion of some theological studies.

**A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.**

**Course Description**

A careful study of Paul's letter to the Galatians in an attempt (1) to master the content of this epistle through sound exegetical methodology, (2) to place the letter within the historical and theological contexts of Paul and the early church, and (3) to wrestle with some of the hermeneutical issues raised by the letter.

**Academic Requirements and Time Investment**

Lectures	34 hours
Text Assignments	30 hours
Term Assignments	60 hours
Final Exam (including preparation)	<u>11 hours</u>
TOTAL	135 hours

**Assignments**

**1. Text Assignments**

The student is expected to complete Section I. Step 3, according to Fee's *New Testament Exegesis* (1993 edition),\* for each portion of text in the tape sessions.

- a) M.Div/Greek Bible students should do **Step 3.1** (p. 36), accompanied by a grammatical/lexical form like the one suggested in Section II.3 (p.93).
- b) English Bible students should do **Step 3.3** (p.37), using 7 different Bible translations.

Do not spend more than 1 ½ hours per tape. All assignments should be turned in at the end of the course with the final exam.

\* If you haven't already purchased *New Testament Exegesis* for the Biblical Exegesis and Interpretation class, it may be a good idea to do so now. If you do not wish to purchase this book, you may contact the Distance Education Department for a photocopy of the relevant sections.

## 2. Term Assignments

Each student is required to one of the following assessment options: (1) an exegesis paper and corresponding sermon; *or*, (2) a book review and a critical theological reflection.

- 1) The exegesis paper is to be not more than 20 pages (5,000 words – including foot/end notes; double-spaced) on a paragraph of text from Galatians 5 or 6. The paper should be a readable exposition of the text (on the pattern of Professor Fee's commentaries on 1 Corinthians or Philippians), with full discussions of all significant grammatical, textual, and lexical matters in footnotes (plus interaction with secondary sources).

The sermon (2,500 words; 8-10 pages) is not to be a rehash of the exegesis. Think through how the point/content of your paragraph speaks to a contemporary Christian congregation. For further guidelines, refer to the enclosed handout.

**OR**

- 2) The book review is not to be more than 10 pages, double-spaced (2,500 words), based on one of the following books:

Gordon D. Fee, *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*, (Chapters 1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 14 & 15 only), (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1994).

James D. G. Dunn, *The Theology of Paul's Letter to the Galatians* (Cambridge University Press, 1993).

Vincent M. Smiles, *The Gospel and the Law in Galatia: Paul's Response to Jewish-Christian Separatism and the Threat of Galatian Apostasy* (Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1998).

The critical theological reflection should be no longer than 20 pages (5,000 words including footnotes / endnotes; double-spaced) on the following issue:

Compare and evaluate Galatians 3 and Romans 4 as two distinct representations of Paul's theologizing with a view to answer the question: "Was Paul a coherent thinker / theologian?" Be sure to note and comment on similarities *and* differences between these passages in word usage, themes and use of OT traditions. Be sure to account for historical and literary contextual factors in each case and be prepared to defend your analysis in light of relevant secondary literature (commentaries, articles etc.).

### 3. Final Examination.

The course exam is based on the lecture material and assigned reading, and should be taken after you have listened to all the CDs. The exam will be two hours, and will consist of two parts: one essay on some phase of the theology of Galatians and five short essays on selected texts from Galatians. Exam can be hand written or type written.

***Please refer to your student handbook for specific information on ordering your exam.***

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>

#### **Evaluation**

Text assignments	15 %	
Term Assignments	60 %	[exegesis paper 40%, sermon 20%; OR theological review 40%, book review 20%]
Final Exam	<u>25 %</u>	
TOTAL	100 %	

**NB: The Course Evaluation Form is to be returned by your due date**

#### **Late Policy and Extensions** (please read carefully)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator **first** for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of “Academic Integrity” in the College Catalogue.

## **Bibliography**

### ***Required Reading***

The New Testament (Greek and English) will be the basic text for the course.

### ***Recommended Reading***

A bibliography of books and articles mentioned in the course as well as those that might be helpful for further study is appended to the lecture notes.

Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis, Third Edition: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans, 1987).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Philippians* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1999).

### **Course Outline and Assigned Reading**

CD 1	iTunes	A	Introduction to course
CD 2	iTunes	B	Overview of Galatians

For this session:

(a) Read Galatians through in one sitting (in English).

(b) In a second time through, list:

- 1) what you notice about the recipients: their nationality, situation, attitudes, etc.
- 2) Paul's situation and attitudes
- 3) any specific items mentioned that would help to determine the *occasion* of the letter.

CD 3	iTunes	C	Galatians 1:1-5
CD 4	iTunes	D	Galatians 1:6-12
CD 5	iTunes	E	Galatians 1:13-24
CD 6	iTunes	F	Galatians 2:1-10
CD 7	iTunes	G	Galatians 2:11-14
CD 8	iTunes	H	Galatians 2:14-21
CD 9	iTunes	I	Galatians 3:1-5
CD 10	iTunes	J	Galatians 3:1-9
CD 11	iTunes	K	Galatians 3:10-14
CD 12	iTunes	L	Galatians 3:15-18, 3:19-22
CD 13	iTunes	M	Galatians 3:23-24
CD 14	iTunes	N	Galatians 3:25-29
CD 15	iTunes	O	Galatians 4:1-7
CD 16	iTunes	P	Galatians 4:8-20
CD 17	iTunes	Q	Galatians 4:21-31
CD 18	iTunes	R	Galatians 4:28-31, 5:1-12

#### **There is no iTunes S in the series**

CD 19	iTunes	T	Galatians 5:13-6:10 (overview)
CD 20	iTunes	U	Galatians 5:13-26
CD 21	iTunes	V	Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-6
CD 22	iTunes	W	Galatians 6:1-10
CD 23	iTunes	X	Galatians 6:11-18