

Semester in Scotland

The Life and Work of Paul (3 credits)

BIB 310 or HUM 304

This course looks at the life and ministry of the apostle Paul from his childhood upbringing in Tarsus through his conversion and missionary journeys, concluding with a consideration of the Pauline Epistles.

The goal of this course is to provide the students with an opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the apostle Paul in his life, work, and theology so that they will have a better understanding of his epistles, which are empirical to the Christian faith.

Course Readings:

Paul: Missionary, Theologian by Robert L. Reymond

There will be a weekly seminar led by Rev. Andrew Quigley.

This is a 13 week course, and the outline of study is as follows.

Week 1 - Students study the world Paul lived in, focussing on the rise of Rome and the Jews under foreign rule.

Week 2 - Students look at the city of Tarsus, what it means to be a Roman citizen, Paul's Jewish heritage, and the teaching and life of the Pharisees.

Week 3 - Students study the impact of Christ - His teaching, resurrection, and the growth of Christianity on Paul and how he became a persecutor of Christianity.

Week 4 - Students looks at Paul's conversion, his early experience with believers at Damascus, his experience with the Jerusalem church, and his growth in understanding Christ and the Gospel.

Week 5 - Students look at Paul's view of the exalted Christ. They study Paul's return to the Greek world and his first missionary journey. They look at Paul's vision, his suffering, and his actions.

Week 6 - Students look at Paul and his relationship with the leaders in the church, the Jerusalem Council, the second missionary journey, the expansion of the Church, the problems with Gentile evangelisation, and Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Week 7 - Students examine Paul's understanding of the law, freedom, the flesh, and the Holy Spirit. They also look at Paul's third missionary journey.

Week 8 - Students study the Thessalonican church and Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. Students examine Paul's teachings in Athens and the Corinthian church.

Week 9 - Students look at Paul's letters to the Corinthian church, Paul's teachings on baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the beginning of the Ephesian church.

Week 10 - Students look at Paul's teaching on the eternal life and the resurrection of the dead. They examine Paul's further journeys west, and Paul's letter to the Romans

Week 11 - Students study Paul's last trip to Jerusalem, his imprisonments and trials, and his trip to Rome.

Week 12 - Students look at Roman Christianity, the letter to the Philippians, the letter to the Colossians, and the letter to Philemon.

Week 13 - Students examine Paul's letter to the Ephesians, Timothy, and Titus.