



Nipawin Bible College
Course: BT222 Corinthians
Instructor: Mr. David J. Smith
Winter 2019
3 Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The contemporary church in which we live and serve is beset with numerous issues that are troublesome and often difficult to resolve. And the reason the church has problems is because it's filled with people who have problems. The good news is, it has happened all before, in ancient Corinth! And even though we are removed from Corinth by 2000 years of history, the fact that the St. Paul took time to instruct them means that we too have help in resolving our issues in ways that are redemptive and God honouring. This course is a study of the St. Paul's letters to the church in Corinth with a concentration on First Corinthians. Major themes will be explored and practical application will be made for the church and the individual believer.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible. (A major/recognized translation; no paraphrase) Please bring this to class.

Perkins, Pheme. *1 Corinthians*, Paideia Commentaries on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. **Pages ix-206.**

THE BIG QUESTION

How can the ancient church in Corinth assist the contemporary believer "to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which [we] have been called?"

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Recognize and explain more of the historical background, cultural milieu, structure and content of First and Second Corinthians and, with further personal study, be capable of leading their own Corinthians study;
2. Choose, with greater insight, Scriptural solutions to issues faced by the contemporary church;
3. Apprehend a greater understanding for the ways in which these letters contribute to Divine revelation;
4. Live a life that reflects the practical instruction found throughout both these letters;

5. Employ with greater appreciation the role that the spiritually gifted believer has in any congregation they may find themselves in.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments are to be word-processed on a computer in accordance with the prescribed requirements in the *NBC Student Handbook*. As such, assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, spelling and the student's ability to follow instructions. Optima or Times New Roman font is required. Pagination is a must. All assignments are due no later than 5:00 PM on the day specified, unless otherwise indicated.

1. Bible Reading/Personal Reflections (25%). Read 1 Corinthians in its entirety. Your reading should be done thoughtfully and carefully, allowing yourself adequate time to contemplate and absorb what is there for you. As you read, *selectively* record personal thoughts and reflections of a devotional nature arising from the biblical text. A few requirements apply:

- Identify the translation being used;
- Indicate how many chapters of 1 Corinthians you have read;
- Your work must evidence careful thinking and genuine personal application of the material being read. Here you will want to consider questions such as: What is God telling me in this text? What am I being caused to think about and reflect upon as God speaks to me? Can I see reflections of my life and myself in this text?
- Personal reflections must be complete sentences, accompanied by the scriptural references (chapter/verse) from which they arise **and** written in first person pronouns (I, me, my) because this pertains to you, not the Church;
- Personal reflections must come from every chapter in the book;
- A title page is required.

****In addition, (10%)*** you are required to read 2 Corinthians in its entirety (preferably in one sitting). This portion of your reading is also due January 4 (at the beginning of class). Similarly, you are asked to indicate how many chapters of 2 Corinthians you have read.

Due: Friday, January 4th, 2019

2. Spiritual Gifts Paper (35%). This is your opportunity to prepare a short paper in which you discuss what you believe to be your ***spiritual gift***. Even though this paper is about a personal aspect of your Christian experience, you will be expected to demonstrate careful and critical thinking, interaction with the biblical teaching on spiritual gifts and the insight of scholars who seek to bring clarity to that theological and spiritual issue.

As you think and write, allow the following questions to guide you; do not simply answer them mechanically. *They are not intended to be the outline for your paper.*

What are you frequently doing, or being asked to do, in the Church? What are others, particularly Church leaders and older saints who exhibit spiritual maturity seeing in you or encouraging you to do? And, what personal conclusions have you come to as a result of studying the biblical text, or taking reliable tests that are designed to help bring clarity to this issue in your life?

In addition to the Bible, this 6-page paper will be supported by a minimum of eight (8) sources - spiritual gifts tests do not count - that you are strongly encouraged to take from the select bibliography provided **and** Galaxie Theological Journals. Quality of sources dictates quality of final product. Documentation in footnotes and bibliography is required. Do not consult/use Internet sources other than Galaxie.

Due: Wednesday, January 9th, 2019

3. Primary Textbook Reading (30%). Read the primary course text: Perkins, *First Corinthians*, 2012 in its entirety (p.1-206). Having done so, in 3 full pages provide a summary and critique of the book that assesses its value as a resource in understanding the social, cultural, ethical, religious and theological issues affecting the first century Church in Corinth. Please note that you are expected to exercise a good measure of Christian **and** academic charity and respect when disagreeing with scholars. An excellent summary/critique will include the following components.

- Begin by providing the basic bibliographic data (in proper format) along with the total number of pages (not percentage) you have read.
- Your first paragraph should identify the author and give their credentials for writing the book. This need not be extensive.
- Then, state the subject of the book as well as the intended audience. This can be done in one well-written sentence.
- Next, provide a *brief*, but adequate, summary of the book in terms of the content read.
- Then, evaluate the content and organization of the book. Obviously, this section will comprise the bulk of your work. The following questions should guide your thinking. Does the author write in such a way as to explain concepts, facts, principles and circumstances clearly? Is the work balanced and comprehensive? Does the author effectively develop the subject and the intended purpose? Does the author provide insightful analysis? Have my presuppositions been affirmed or challenged? Has reading this material impacted my worldview? Does this book's content provoke me to think in terms of personal application? What is one significant aspect of life in the church that this author helped you to see or understand that you did not previously grasp? And do you recommend this book as a serious resource on this subject? Why or why not?
- Do not consult outside sources or book reviews.
- A title page.

Due: Friday, January 11th, 2019

These assignments represent approx. 300 pages of textbook reading and 13+ pages of writing.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Refer to the *NBC Student Handbook 2018/2019*

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Refer to the *NBC Student Handbook 2018/2019*

Please note: If you are hindered in any way because of a learning disability please speak with the course instructor as soon as possible. It is their desire to develop strategies that accommodate your need and make your learning experience as rewarding as possible.

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