



## HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

BMIN 7530 New Testament and Christian Mission  
Spring Term 2024, Jan. 08-May 03  
On-campus Classroom Session is Feb. 26-March 01  
Professor: Richard E. Oster, Jr.  
Email: [roster@hst.edu](mailto:roster@hst.edu)  
Phone (cell): (901) 3354296  
Zoom ID: 901-432-7718  
AND  
Prof. Ron Clark  
[rclark@georgefox.edu](mailto:rclark@georgefox.edu)

### Course Description

“This course is an intersection of New Testament theology with missional theology. Students notice the missionary background to the New Testament writings, explore the mission of Jesus, the call to His disciples to be witnesses, the missionary movement in Acts, and Paul’s letters to form a missional people. Students develop a theological framework for God’s mission in the world and how the church fits within that mission.”

### Course Objectives

- Exhibit the ability to think theologically about contemporary ministry challenges.
- Demonstrate effective skills in oral, written, or media performance that will increase one’s communication and ministerial effectiveness appropriate to one’s particular ministry context.

#### Additional course objectives

- Develop missional paradigms from the New Testament, focusing on themes within the Jesus and his apostles.
- Interact with New Testament themes of boldness and faithfulness, commitments that partially protected the early church from apostasy and deterioration.

### Required Textbooks

Flemming, Dean. *Foretaste of the Future. Reading Revelation in Light of God’s Mission*. IVP, 2022. This textbook is now recommended and not required.

Bauckham, Richard, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Baker Academic; Reprint edition (2004).

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission. Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Orbit, 2003. Part 01. 180 pages

Shea, James (Monsignor). *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. University of Mary Press, 2020. 90 pages

Pachau, Lalsangkima. *God at Work in the World, Theology and Mission in the Global Church*, Baker Academic, 2022. 170 pages

Porter, Stanley E. and Cynthia L. Westfall (Eds.) *Christian Mission. Old Testament Foundations and New Testament Developments*. McMaster New Testament Studies Series, 9. Pickwick Publications, 2010. 230 pages

*Holy Bible*. I do not care which version you use, as long as it has a readable translation including both the OT and NT. On most days I will probably use the *ESV*.

### **Required Articles**

Espinoza, Benjamin D., "Between Text and Context: Practical Theology and the Ministry of Equipping," *Christian Education Journal*, Vol 4, No. 2, 2017.

Heywood, David. (2022) Why does 'academic 'theology disable ministry?, *Practical Theology*, Vol. 15:4, 354-364, 2022.

### **Course Format**

The course format will be varied, including lecture, discussion, Bible study, prayer, and written reflective activities. Students are expected to have read all required materials before the class on the HST campus and be prepared to lead or engage in focused conversations. Additional time will be spent besides the face-to-face session with online class discussion through Zoom and posting assignments and offering responses to one another.

### **Requirements and Grading**

1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation (including Zooms and Responses) (10%)
2. The Mission of God Dialogue Paper (20%)
3. Book Reviews (20%)
4. Conversation Team (10%)
5. Course Project and Paper (40%)

## Grading Scale

A = 90-100    B = 80-89    C = 70-79    D = 60-69    F = < 60

## Pre-Class Assignments

1. **Introductory Zoom Session – Monday, Jan. 22 @ 1:00pm-2:30pm CST.**  
Everyone is required to attend. The professor will send out an invite. This will be a chance to introduce one another and review the syllabus and course expectations.
2. **The Mission of God Dialogue Paper – Due Feb. 12.** One of your required textbooks is *Christian Mission. Old Testament Foundations and New Testament Developments*, eds. S. E. Porter and S. L. Westfall. Write a 4-5 page (double spaced, Times New Roman, and according to the standards of Turabian) paper doing a compare and contrast with some of the valuable ideas presented in *Christian Mission. Old Testament Foundations and New Testament Developments* and Bauckham, Richard, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Baker Academic; Reprint edition (2004). I am not interested in a compare and contrast between what the various authors of the textbook what the Church of Christ has taught, rather only between salient ideas in the two different books.
  - a. Each student should offer a brief response to each student’s Compare and Contrast paper (250 words) by Feb. 19.
    - b. **In addition, there is a document called “Tip of the Spear” that you will receive on Jan. 15. It will contain the necessary instructions about what to do. Your response to the “Tip of the Spear” document will be due also on Feb. 12.**
3. **Conversation Team Meeting – due Feb. 19** – Prior to our intensive week (Feb. 26-March 03), lead a conversation with your team about a holistic use of the NT, i.e., use of all 27 books equally, in the life of the church. Briefly share with them what you are learning from your readings. Then ask the following guiding questions: What has been your experience of how the entire NT connects with their own spiritual formation? How have you understood the NT to shape the life of the church? Post a 350 word reflection on the meeting.
4. **Book Reviews – Due by 8:00 AM on Feb. 26th, prior to the first meeting of the on-campus experience/instruction**– Write two book reviews: (1) Pachuau, Lalsangkima. *God at Work in the World, Theology and Mission in the Global Church*, Baker Academic, 2022 and (2) Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission. Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Part 1, pp. 15-178. The reviews should be 4 pages in length. Devote a paragraph to **Identify** (identify the author and the context of the book), and one and one-half pages to **Describe** (or summarize) and two pages to **Assess** (or evaluate). You may use other reviews on the books to aid you in your assessment part of the review. Each review should be approximately four pages in length.

## Proposed Intensive Class Schedule

The class will meet Monday-Friday (Feb. 26-March 01) from 8:30am-5:00pm with breaks throughout. A more in-depth schedule will be sent before the residency week.

Monday Feb. 26

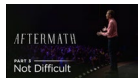
### AM: *Two Assumptions of NT Missional Theology*

1. Both Justification and Sanctification (Getting in Covenant Salvation and Staying in Covenant Salvation) are necessary for the Mission of God, if it is patterned after the NT. As a consequence of embracing God's mission, the church is intended to serve as a beachhead not only for God's love and justice in this world, but also for his holiness.
2. There is a theological parity of "strengthening the saved" and "reaching the lost" in a NT missiology stemming from the Mission of God in the world and for the world. If the church's "mission program" contains a genetic connection with the Mission of God, then it will reflect a passion for earnestness, faithfulness/loyalty, and truth.

PM: *Basis of NT theology is God-Centered*: The theo-centric biblical drama/story (In Jesus; in Acts; in Paul)

Whole of Scripture 2 Tim. 3:15-16 "and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Marcion still plagues the modern church. Skeletons in the RM and some quarters of Evangelicals, e.g., Andy Stanley's quasi-Marcionite views start the video at minute 28 to the end



Tuesday Feb. 27

AM: *NT ecclesiology* Theocentric; a continuation of Israel (Eph. 2:11-19; 1 Pet. 2:9=Exod. 19:5-6; Rom 2; Gal. 6; "church of God" not primarily "church of Christ"); a holy/sacred people; where God's presence dwells 1 Cor. 3:16-17! ; Eph. 2:19-22; where God's covenant presence dwells on the earth (1 Kings 8:27-30; Isa. 66:1-2)

PM: *Affirming God's revelation and work to, for and in" outsiders as a basis of outreach to the nations* Luke 24:44-47

(Gen. 30:27-30, 39:4-5; 1 Kings 8:41-43; 2 Kings 5; Book of Jonah; Nahum; Daniel 2:36-43, 4:1-2, 17, 25-26, 5:21, 25-27; 2 Chron. 35:20-24; Ezra 1:1-11; Matt. 2:1-12, 8:5-13 (cf. Lk. 7:1-10); Luke 4:25-28; 1 Tim. 2:1-6; Rev. 17:15-18

- ***Instructions/discussion about the course s Final Paper/Project***

Wednesday Feb. 28

AM: ***The cross and death of Jesus:***

two foci of the cross (1.) Rom. 3:24b-25 “through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation (*ἱλαστήριον*) by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.<sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just.

(2.) Rom. 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? . . . 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all (*ἐφ’ ἅπαξ*), but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Gal. 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

PM: ***The resurrection of Jesus*** “God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God” (1 Peter 1:21)

Thursday 29

AM: ***The enthronement of Jesus at God s right hand***

Acts 2:34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand,<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.”<sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that (*ἀσφαλῶς οὐδὲν γινωσκέτω πᾶς οἶκος Ἰσραὴλ*) God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”.

PM: ***The giving of the Holy Spirit*** Acts 2:33

Friday March 01

AM: ***Judgment Day*** “So then each of us will give an account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12) cf. Matt. 12:36, 25:passim; 1 Pet. 4:4-5.

PM: ***Lunch and field trip and concluding course meeting on campus***

## **After-Class Assignments**

1. **Brief Zoom Session – April 01 at 1:00pm-2:30pm CST.** Everyone is required to attend. The professor will send out an invite. This will be a chance to check-in and receive an update on students’ projects and offer mutual encouragement.
2. **Project and Paper – Due April 18** – Write a 20-25 page paper that develops a theological framework based on the New Testament for a particular missional work of your church. Choose a theological theme from the New Testament. Develop the

theme and describe how it informs a ministry of your church. Imagine this as a part of your theology chapter in your dissertation. The first 2/3 of the paper should be an exploration of a theological theme that appears the New Testament in a significant way. The final 1/3 should demonstrate how this theology applies and provides a framework for ministry practices in your context. Meet with your conversation team two times to present your research and the theological vision you are following. Incorporate discussion with your team into the practical section of your paper. With the help of your conversation team, identify three practical ways where this theological framework is going to shape your church moving forward. Identify theological convictions, practices, and spiritual values that spring from the New Testament framework, Conversation Team meetings, and the current context of the church.

- a. **Each student should offer a brief response to each student's paper (250 words) by April 25th.**

### **3. Grades are due May 10 at 4:00 PM.**

## **Additional Policies and Information**

### **Accessibility/Communication**

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: [roster@hst.edu](mailto:roster@hst.edu)

Cell Phone Number: (901) 335-4296

The best way to communicate with me is by email. I check it often and expect you to check it as well for class announcements and additional documents. Feel free to contact me with your questions any time. I will use Canvas and your Harding University email address, so please make sure to check it regularly.

### **Credit Hour Workload**

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

### **Textbooks**

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the [HST website](#). The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to

insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

### **Students with Disabilities**

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

### **Library Resources**

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site ([www.hst.edu](http://www.hst.edu)) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

### **Canvas Online Learning System**

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system, although it is best to email directly to [roster@hst.edu](mailto:roster@hst.edu).

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.