

The Missions of Paul and His Successors
Professor Laurence H. Kant
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Cornell University Religious Studies 327;
Fall, 1993 Near Eastern Studies 327
Rockefeller 132
Tu., Th.: 2:55-4:10

Office Hours: Tu., Th., 4:20-5:20 in Rockefeller 129; or by appointment. Telephone number: 5-6275 (NES dept.); (315) 428-1893 (home).

Purpose: The course will approach this material from the point of view of the academic study of religion. There are no prerequisites, nor are there any presumptions as to religious background or commitment.

With special focus on the Pauline tradition, we will examine Christianity in the first to early second centuries C.E. as a missionary religious movement, surveying its spread to various cities throughout the Graeco-Roman/Near Eastern world, such as Antioch, Thessalonika, Philippi, Corinth, and Rome. Through a close reading of New Testament texts, as well as some non-canonical second century texts, we will investigate the different forms Christianity took in various places, noting its transformation from a Jewish missionary movement to a gentile one. In addition, we will also examine the book of Acts. Attention will be drawn to the following themes (among others): the urban character of Christian missions; initiatory rites, such as baptism; the role of Jewish synagogues and of god-fearers; the eschatological stance of early Christianity; and views of the Roman government toward early Christianity and *vice-versa*. In addition, we will consider the meaning of missionizing and conversion in the ancient world in order to determine what it meant, and did not mean, to become a Christian.

REQUIREMENTS: I anticipate that this class will be run as a seminar, where students are responsible for presentation of some of the material. Therefore, attendance and active participation are essential and will count for a portion of the final grade. The principal basis of evaluation will be a take-home mid-term examination and a final term paper. Knowledge of Greek is not at all necessary, but students with the background will have the opportunity to use it.

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE

Fredriksen, Paula. From Jesus to Christ: The Origins of the New Testament Images of Jesus. New Haven, Connecticut and London: Yale University Press, 1988. This book will not be in the bookstore for ten days or so. Please use the copy on reserve.

Macmullen, Ramsay; Lane, Eugene N. eds. Paganism and Christianity 100-425 C.E.: A Sourcebook. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Meeks, Wayne A. The Writings of St. Paul. A Norton Critical Edition. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Co., 1972

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books. New Revised Standard Version. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Staniforth, Maxwell, trans. Early Christian Writings. New York: Penguin Books, 1968.

BOOKS FOR OPTIONAL PURCHASE (strongly recommended)

Meeks, Wayne A. The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1983.

Segal, Alan F. Paul the Convert: The Apostolate and Apostasy of Paul the Pharisee. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1990.

READINGS: Most relevant readings will be found in the books mentioned above or on re~serve at Uris Library. Handouts will be provided at ap~pro~ri~ate times. All students are expected to purchase the New Revised Stan~dard Version Bible and the Meeks edition of Paul, both for sale in the bookstore, so that we all share the same texts. When reading, you should consult relevant notes and introductions. Students should try to bring the relevant primary texts to every class, since these readings are the central components of the course.

SYLLABUS

~August 26. Survey of the Course: Documents to be Read; Issues for Examination; Methodological Considerations; Requirements.

August 31. Ancient Judaism I: Judaism and the Near East through the Exile.

Read: Lawrence Schiffman, From Text to Tradition, 1-32
(on reserve)
Genesis 11-25.10

Read by Sept. 9: Gospel of Mark, Gospel of Matthew (NRSV Bible)

Sept. 2. The New Testament as an Historical Document.

Read: H. Koester, History and Literature of Early Christianity, 2.1-70 (on reserve)

Sept. 7, 9. Ancient Judaism II: The Persian, Hellenistic, Maccabean/Hasmonean, and Roman Periods.

Read: P. Fredriksen, 67-93
N. Perrin, The World of the New Testament, 15-37
(handout)
C. K. Barret, 135-76

Sept. 9, 14. Jesus as a Jewish Religious Leader and his Transformation in the Graeco-Roman World

Read: P. Fredriksen, 18-61
A. F. Segal, "Jesus, the Jewish Revolutionary,"
in J.úH. Charlesworth, Jesus' Jewishness,
99-125 (on reserve)

Read by Sept. 21: Gospel of Luke

Sept. 14. Graeco-Roman World I.

Read: P. Fredriksen, 9-17; 62-64
F. E. Peters, The Harvest of Hellenism, 54-65
(on reserve)
R. M. Grant, Augustus to Constantine, 3-20
(on reserve)

Read by Sept. 23: R. Macmullen and E. N. Lane, 1-84, 106-118

Sept. 16. NO CLASS (to be made up)

Sept. 21, 23. The Life of Paul: Pharisee, Convert, Missionary.

Read: 2 Corinthians 11.16-12.19; Philippians 3.2-6;
and Galatians 1.13-2.21; Romans 11.1;
Acts 22.3-5, 22. 25-29 (in W. Meeks)

Read: H. Koester, History and Literature of Early
Christianity, 2.97-145
A. Segal, 3-33
W. Meeks, The Writings of St. Paul, 422-44

Skim by Sept. 30: Acts 7.54-28.30 (NRSV Bible)

Sept. 23. Graeco-Roman World II.

W. Meeks, First Urban Christians, 9-50

Sept. 28, 30. The Conversion of Paul.

Compare: Galatians 1.13-17; 1 Corinthians 9.1, 15.5-8;
2 Corinthians 12.1-10 (in W. Meeks);
and Acts 9.1-9; c. 22; c. 26
(also 7.54-8.3) (NRSV Bible)

Read: R. Macmullen and E. N. Lane, 84-102
A. Segal, 34-114; 285-300

Sept. 30, Oct. 5, 7. From Jerusalem to Antioch to Galatia: Jewish Christianity and Gentile Christianity.

Read: Galatians (in W. Meeks); Genesis 5.28-9.28
A. Segal, 115-83
W. Meeks, Early Christian Writings, 176-98

Reread: Acts 1-2; 9-16.10; 21-26 (NRSV Bible)

Compare: Galatians 1.11-2.15 (in W. Meeks) and Acts 15
(NRSV Bible)

Optional: A. Segal, 187-223

Oct. 12. FALL BREAK

Oct. 19. On the Road and the High Seas in the Ancient World.

Read: Acts 27 (NRSV Bible)

Read by Nov. 2: Selections from Philostratus, The Life of Apollonius of Tyana (on reserve)

Oct. 21, 26. Thessalonica and Corinth. Missionary in Action and the "End of Time" as a Hortatory Tool.

Read: 1 Thessalonians; 2 Corinthians; and
2 Thessalonians (in W. Meeks)
Acts 17.1-14; 18.1-17; c. 20 (NRSV Bible)
P. Fredriksen, 134-76

Oct. 28. Phillipi: Missionary as Example.

Read: Philippians (in W. Meeks)
Acts 16.11-40 (NRSV Bible)

Nov. 2. Missionaries in the Graeco-Roman World.

Read: Acts 8.9-40; 17.16-34
Acts of Peter in E. Hennecke and
W. Schneemelcher, 2:276-321
R. Macmullen and E. N. Lane, 118-51

November 4, 9. Religious Practices of Corinthian Christians and Views of the Sacraments.

Read: 1 Corinthians (in W. Meeks)
Acts 19.1-20
W. Meeks, First Urban Christians, 140-63

Nov. 11, 16. Romans: Conversion and the Law.

Read: Romans (in W. Meeks)
Acts 28 (NRSV Bible)
A. Segal, 224-84

Nov. 18. A Conversion Community: Solidarity, Diversity, Hierarchy, and Social Order

Read: Acts 4.32-5.11
W. Meeks, First Urban Christians, 74-139
The Inscription of Avercius (handout)

Nov. 23. The Audiences of the Gospel: Jews, God-Fearers, and Gentiles.

Read: Acts 5-7; 10; 19.21-41 (NRSV Bible)
W. Meeks, First Urban Christians, 51-73

Nov. 30. Early Christian Missionaries and Social Revolution: A New Role for Women

Reexamine: References by Paul and Acts to Women

Read: W. Meeks, Early Christians, 199-207 (Acts of Paul and Thecla)
E. Hennecke and W. Scheemelcher, 442-451
(Selection from the Acts of Thomas)

Dec. 2: Paul Transformed I. The Routinization of Paul: Development of Institutions.

Read: The Pastoral Epistles 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy,
Titus (in W. Meeks)

Make-Up Class: Paul Transformed II. The Missionary Becomes Bishop and Martyr: Ignatius of Antioch.

Read: M. Staniforth, 62-131 (Letters of Ignatius of Antioch)