

Instructions for the Exegetical Paper

I. Choose one of the following passages for your exegetical paper:

Matt 15:21-28

Mark 8:22-26

Rom 7:7-25

Rom 11:25-32

1 Cor 15:29-34

Gal 4:1-11

Phil 3:1-11

Heb 10:19-39

1 Pet 3:13-22

With the exception of Gal 4:1-11, all of the above passages should be dealt with as a unit.

If you choose Gal 4:1-11, you may opt to consider Gal 4:1-7 as a complete passage within the larger discussion of Gal 4:1-11; however, you may not limit your exegesis to Gal 4:8-11. (Although I prefer to view Gal 4:1-11 as a unit, many scholars see a climax in Paul's argument at v. 7 and, therefore, view vv. 8-11 as a sub-unit of the larger argument contained in vv. 1-11.)

II. You should understand the steps involved in exegesis as outlined in Gordon Fee's *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* prior to writing your paper.

III. It will also be helpful to read the article on Exegesis by Richard Hays in *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*. This resource is on Blackboard in the Course Materials section.

IV. Armed with an understanding of basic exegetical principles, your own translation of the passage, and an understanding of Greek syntax, formulate your own exegetical questions about the passage. Then attempt to answer your exegetical questions by using the tools described in Fee's book and the article by Hays, etc. Your research should lead you to

formulate a thesis statement describing what the central point of the passage may have been for the original author and the original hearers/readers. The last portion of the paper (not more than one page of a total of eight pages or one and one-half pages of a total of 10 pages) may include: 1) the theological importance of the passage for the church in today's society, 2) an explanation of how you would preach this passage to a congregation, or 3) why or how this passage could play an important role in the future academic study of the New Testament work in which it is contained.

V. DO NOT write a verse-by-verse commentary on the passage. You may include your own translation of the passage as an appendix to your paper, but do not include your translation in the page count for the paper. DO write an integrated essay that demonstrates that you have dealt with the passage in the original language. You may refer to commentaries, but I expect a high level of critical and creative thinking to be demonstrated in your thesis. I also expect a well-written, logically organized essay in which you properly cite your sources. You may cite sources according to the guidelines presented in Turabian (the accepted documentation style of the Divinity School) or the *SBL Handbook of Style* (the accepted documentation style of the Society of Biblical Literature). Both of these resources are in the Ready Reference section of the Divinity Library.

VI. The paper is due at the beginning of class on Friday, April 8th.