



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY**

UNIT TITLE	ROMANS & GALATIANS
UNIT CODE	B52035
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	A/B
PREREQUISITE/S	A/B51014 Studying the Scriptures 1 – Method & Hermeneutic
INCOMPATIBLES	Nil
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Every year – Semester 1
PREPARED BY	Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes
UNIT COORDINATOR	Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes
TEACHING STAFF	Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes
DATE PREPARED	30 August 2006

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**Rationale**

The study of *Romans* and *Galatians* is basic to any engagement with scholarly assessment of the contribution of the apostle Paul. Scholarly study of *Romans* and *Galatians* entails familiarity with and use of methodologies of study encompassed by the following disciplines: historical critical study, literary and rhetorical study, social scientific, political, ideological and cultural study. These Pauline letters are to be studied within their historical context, especially their inter-relation with first-century Judaism, Gentile society and Roman rule. Contemporary issues that interact with a study of *Romans* and *Galatians* include issues of inter-faith tension and dialogue, tensions amongst members of communities and the exercising of authority in religious communities.

**Relation to program**

This unit will contribute to the wider field of biblical studies by concentrating attention on two significant letters written by the apostle Paul – *Romans* and *Galatians*. Any study of the Pauline contribution to first century Christianity is integral to a student's proficiency in regard to study of the Christian scriptures.

Students will be expected to utilize several different hermeneutical approaches to a reading of *Romans* and *Galatians*, to study the main content of these two letters, and to become acquainted with major contributions in contemporary Pauline scholarship.

## Aims

The unit aims to introduce students to *Romans* and *Galatians* within the framework of the Pauline tradition, to enable students to develop their understanding of key aspects of Pauline theology, with particular reference to *Romans* and *Galatians*, and to assist students to develop their skills in exegesis and their understanding of hermeneutics. The unit encourages students to discern and study distinctive features in the contents, aims and contexts of *Romans* and *Galatians*, paying particular attention to their relevance to contemporary society in the light of its social, political and religious situation. Students are assisted to deal with critical scholarly study of the theological, literary, and historical significance of *Romans* and *Galatians*, and to gain experience in using scholarly tools in dealing with primary sources, especially in regard to the text of *Romans* and *Galatians*.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	detail key aspects of Pauline theology, with particular reference to <i>Romans</i> and <i>Galatians</i> ;
2.	analyse <i>Romans</i> and <i>Galatians</i> within the framework of the Pauline tradition;
3.	exegete selected passages, with reference also to engaging in hermeneutical issues;
4.	appraise relevant material from academic journal articles, monographs, pertinent websites and other required reading.

## Content

- 1 Introduction and background to *Romans* and *Galatians*
- 2 Exegesis and theological reflection on key Pauline themes – the nature of humanity, salvation, Christology, the Holy Spirit, ethics, eschatology
- 3 Creation and humanity
- 4 Law
- 5 Paul’s use of the Old Testament in *Romans* and *Galatians*
- 6 Justification
- 7 Christian life and community
- 8 Exegesis of particular passages in *Romans* and *Galatians*

## Organization and Teaching Strategies

The contact time comprises lectures and seminars, the latter including both small group and whole class discussion of issues raised in lectures, the students’ own reading and selected primary texts as well as group exercises.

## Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Exegetical paper	1250	25%	Week 4	3, 4
2	Exegetical paper	1250	25%	Week 8	3, 4
3	Major research essay	3000	50%	End-semester	1, 2, 4

### Notes on Assessment

- Items 1 and 2 Will develop the student's knowledge of Romans and Galatians by means of independent learning and the retrieval and use of relevant information, and will develop the student's use of appropriate techniques in biblical study and the ability to collect, analyse and organize information and ideas.
- Item 3 Will develop the student's coherent knowledge of Romans and Galatians, techniques of biblical interpretation, and ability to apply critical reasoning to issues through independent thought and informed judgement.

### Bibliography

#### Textbooks

1. Esler, Philip Francis. *Conflict and Identity in Romans: The Social Setting of Paul's Letter*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.

or

A commentary on *Romans* from the list of recommended commentaries below.

and

2. Perkins, Pheme. *Abraham's Divided Children: Galatians and the Politics of Faith*. Philadelphia: Trinity Press, 2001.

or

A commentary on *Galatians* from the list of recommended commentaries below.

#### Recommended

##### *Recommended Commentaries*

##### a) ROMANS (English Text)

- Achtemeier, Paul. *Romans*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.
- Bruce, FF. *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans*. London: IVP/Tyndale, 1963.
- Byrne, B. *Romans*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1996.
- Dunn, JDG. *Romans*. 2 vols; Dallas: Word, 1988.
- Fitzmyer, JA. *Romans*. New York: Doubleday, 1993.
- Moo, D. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Morgan, Robert. *Romans*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.
- Morris, L. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Murray, J. *The Epistle to the Romans*. 2 vols; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965/1967.
- Robinson, JAT. *Wrestling with Romans*. London: SCM, 1979.
- Witherington, Ben. *Paul's Letter to the Romans – A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
- Wright, NT. *The Letter to the Romans*. The New Interpreter's Bible Vol X; Nashville: Abingdon, 2002, 393-770.

##### b) ROMANS (Greek Text)

- Cranfield, CEB. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. 2 vols; London: T&T Clark, 1975-1980.
- Käsemann, E. *Commentary on Romans*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

##### c) GALATIANS (English Text)

- Betz, HD. *Galatians*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

- Bring, R. *Commentary on Galatians*. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg, 1961.  
 Dunn, JDG. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.  
 Fung, Ronald Y.K. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.  
 Hays, Richard B. *The Letter to the Galatians*. The New Interpreter's Bible Vol XI; Nashville: Abingdon, 2000, 181-348.  
 Martyn, J Louis. *Galatians*. Anchor Bible; New York: Doubleday, 1997.  
 Matera, FJ. *Galatians*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.  
 Witherington, Ben. *Grace in Galatia: A Commentary on St Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1998.

#### d) GALATIANS (Greek Text)

- Bruce, FF. *The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1982.

#### References – Books

- Barclay, JMG. *Obedying the Truth: A Study of Paul's Ethics in Galatians*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1988.  
 Barrett, CK. *Paul: An Introduction to his Thought*. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1994.  
 Beker, JC. *The Triumph of God: The Essence of Paul's Thought*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.  
 Bruce, FF. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.  
 Byrne, B. *Reckoning with Romans*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1986.  
 Byrne, B. *Paul and the Christian Woman*. Homebush: St Paul, 1988.  
 Dunn, JDG. *Jesus, Paul and the Law*. London: SPCK, 1990.  
 Dunn, JDG. *The Theology of Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Cambridge: CUP, 1993.  
 Elliott, N. *Liberating Paul: The Justice of God and the Politics of the Apostle*. New York: Orbis, 1994.  
 Elliott, N. *The Rhetoric of Romans*. JSNTSS 45; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990.  
 Engberg-Pedersen, Troels. *Paul in his Hellenistic Context*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.  
 Hamerton-Kelly, RG. *Sacred Violence: Paul's Hermeneutic of the Cross*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.  
 Hays, Richard B. *The Faith of Jesus Christ: The Narrative Substructure of Galatians 3:1-4*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.  
 Hooker, D. *From Adam to Christ*. Cambridge: CUP, 1990.  
 Hübner, H. *Law in Paul's Thought*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1984.  
 Moises, Silva. *Interpreting Galatians*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.  
 Nanos, Mark D. *The Irony of Galatians: Paul's Letter in First-Century Context*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 2001.  
 Neyrey, JH. *Paul, In Other Words: A Cultural Reading of his Letters*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1990.  
 Pak, J Yeong-Sik. *Paul as Missionary*. Frankfurt-am-Main: Lang, 1991.  
 Räisänen, H. *Jesus, Paul and Torah*. JSNT Supp 43; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1992.  
 Stendahl, K. *Paul Among Jews and Gentiles and Other Essays*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1976.

#### References - Journals

- Byrne, B. "Interpreting *Romans* Theologically in a Post-'New Perspective' Perspective". *Harvard Theological Review* 94 (2001), 227-241.  
 Cook, Richard B. "Paul and the Victims of His Persecution: The Opponents in Galatia". *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 32 (2002), 182-191.  
 De-Boer, Martinus C. "Paul – Theologian of God's Apocalypse". *Interpretation* 56 (2002), 21-33.  
 Eastman, S. "The Evil Eye and the Curse of the Law: *Galatians* 3:1 Revisited". *JSNT* 83 (2001), 69-87.

- Harrill, Albert J. "Coming of Age and Putting on Christ: The Toga Virilis Ceremony, Its Paraenesis, and Paul's Interpretation of Baptism in *Galatians*". *Novum Testamentum* 44 (2002), 252-277.
- Heil, JP. "Christ, the Termination of the Law (*Romans* 9:30-10:8)". *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 63 (2001), 484-498.
- Martin, Troy W. "The Covenant of Circumcision (*Genesis* 17:9-14) and the Situational Antithesis in *Galatians* 3:28". *JBL* 122 (2003), 111-125.
- Matlock, Barry R. "*PISTIS* in *Galatians* 3:26: Neglected Evidence for 'Faith in Christ'" *NTS* 49 (2003), 433-439.
- Quarles, Charles I. "From Faith to Faith: A Fresh Examination of the Prepositional Series in *Romans* 1: 17". *Novum Testamentum* 45 (2003), 1-21.
- Rand, TA. "Set Free and Set Right: Ritual, Theology, and the Inculturation of the Gospel in Galatia". *Worship* 75 (2001), 453-468.
- Watson, N. "'And if children, then heirs' (*Rom* 8:17) – Why Not Sons?" *Australian Biblical Review* 49 (2001), 53-56.
- Winger, Michael. "Act One: Paul Arrives in Galatia". *NTS* 48 (2002), 548-567.
- Wong, EKC. "The De-Radicalization of Jesus' Ethical Sayings in *Romans*". *Novum Testamentum* 43 (2001), 245-263.

### References - Online and Other IT resources

- Biblica Online: <http://www.bsw.org/project/biblica/>  
 The New Testament Gateway. <http://www.ntgateway.com>  
 Religion-Online. <http://www.religion-online.org>  
 Resource Pages for Biblical Studies. <http://www.torreys.org/bible>  
 Virtual Religion Index. <http://virtualreligion.net/vri/>  
 The "new perspective" on Paul: <http://www.thepaulpage.com>

### Online Databases

- ATLA Religion Index* [database on-line] Chicago, IL: American Theological Library Association; available from <http://search.epnet.com>.  
*ProQuest Religion* [database on-line] Ann Arbor, MI:ProQuest Information and Learning; available from <http://proquest.umi.com>.  
*Religion & Philosophy Collection* [database on-line] Ipswich, MA: EBSCO Publishing; available from <http://search.epnet.com>.