



Rev. John M. Irwin

March 27-31, 2017

Riga, Akas street 13, 18:00-21:00.

In English, with translation into Latvian.

New Testament History and Theology

LECTURER

Rev. John M. Irwin is a minister in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis in 1999 (M.Div.) His first pastorate lasted 13 years in a church in Kingsport, Tennessee. Currently he is pastor of a church in Lemmon, South Dakota where he has been for over 4 years. Rev. Irwin and his wife Jennifer, a former teacher at Christian schools in the United States, Belize and Niger, have 3 children ages 8, 12, and 13.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to assist the student in understanding the New Testament first by taking a look at the historical background into which Jesus was born and the New Testament was written. Then we will briefly touch on issues of New Testament canonicity before turning our attention to a broad overview of the theology of the New Testament. This “fish-eye” lens look will begin with the synoptic Gospels, take a look at Paul’s and John’s contributions and finish with the general epistles.

Reading Assignments

Pastoral Students:

1. F. F. Bruce, New Testament History, chapters 1-11 (p. 1-151)
2. Hermann N. Ridderbos, Redemptive History and the New Testament Scriptures, Chapter II (p. 49-76)
3. John Wenham, Christ & the Bible, chapter 5 (p. 113-127)
4. I. Howard Marshall, New Testament Theology, ch. 7, 18, 23, 30 (p. 184-208; 420-469; 567-578; 681-706)

Also recommended (not required) – The rest of the materials in the books above and the two books listed for lay students below.

Lay Leader Students:

1. Burge, Cohick and Green, The New Testament in Antiquity, p. 62-72
2. Frank Thielman, Theology of the New Testament, chapter 7 (p. 181-216)

Writing Assignments

Pastoral Students:

1. Essay/Short Paper - Choose one of the Jewish groups mentioned in the New Testament (such as Pharisees, Saducees, Herodians, or Zealots) and describe the origins and background of that group. Using an event of Jesus from one of the Gospels, show how this information might help prepare you to preach or teach that portion of Scripture more effectively. /
2. Final Exam – Part objective/Part essay

Lay Leader Students: Final objective written exam

ABOUT THE CLASSES:

Auditors welcome. Participation fee is 14 EUR (includes materials and coffee breaks).

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