

NTST 535

Studies in Pauline Writings: Galatians

Spring 2026

P. Richard Choi

SYNOPSIS OF THE COURSE

CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class location: Southeastern California Conference Office
(https://www.andrews.edu/sem/inministry/locations/pu_secc.html)

Class meeting times: March 1-5, 2026
Sunday: 5:00 – 7:00 pm PST
Monday – Thursday 8:00 am 5:00 pm PST

Course Website: learninghub.andrews.edu

Instructor Telephone: H – (269) 429-4171 (email preferred)

Instructor Email: choir@andrews.edu

Office location: Seminary Building - N128

Office hours: By Appointment via Zoom

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Study of the selected letters of Paul. Greek not required. Not applicable to MDiv credit.

PROGRAM & COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your degree program seeks to help you achieve the **Program Learning Outcomes** basic to your chosen profession. Your Program Learning Outcome primarily addressed in this course is:

2. Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills

(The full set of program learning outcomes for your degree program is listed in **Appendix 3.**)

The following **Course Learning Outcomes** contribute to the overall Program Learning Outcomes by identifying the key learnings to be achieved by diligent work in this course:

- (1) Analyze the entire book of Galatians in English through a verse-by-verse exegetical study
- (2) Critically compare different versions and commentaries with a view to exegeting Paul's letters in English
- (3) Explain the events shaping the early church by comparing the data from Galatians and Acts
- (4) Explain the doctrines of justification and sanctification in Galatians from an Adventist perspective.
- (5) Describe key theological concepts of Paul relating to salvation.

COURSE OVERVIEW

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Course Materials

Richard N. Longenecker, *Galatians* (Word Biblical Commentary 41; Dallas, TX, 1990).
ISBN 0-8499-0240-1. (\$31.00 on amazon.com) **(444 pages)**.

Fee, Gordon F. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002 (ISBN 978-0664223168) (\$18.50 on amazon.com) **(195 pages)**

For ISBN and price information, please see the listing at the Bookstore www.andrews.edu/bookstore.

PRE-INTENSIVE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are expected to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the entire Epistle and Richard Longenecker's commentary before arriving at the site for the intensive.
2. *Pre-course Videos*

Students are required to view the three videos on LearningHub before the class begins: "Pauline Scholarship," "Sketch of Paul's Life" and "Paul's Letter Writing." This should take up a total of 9 hours. Students must submit a 200-word reflection paper for each of the three

lectures by **February 11, 2026**. Write about what you found most interesting and helpful from the lectures.

Two Exegetical Journals

Please see Appendix 5 for a sample journal. The journals may be written on any of the passages in Galatians except for the ones that have been assigned for the final exegesis paper (see below). The journal must have four sections: (1) personal reflection; (2) dialogue with Longenecker and commentaries; (3) revised reflection; and (4) application. **WRITE NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES FOR EACH JOURNAL.** Please note that the journal should be typed single spaced. Each journal is worth 50 points. The journals are due **February 4, 2026**.

In the *“personal reflection”* section, write down your personal observations and reflections about the text – what came to your mind as you read the passage. Compare at least five different versions of the English Bible (include KJV). Do not be afraid of making errors in this section of the journal. Simply write down your observations and thoughts as you would for the rough draft of a sermon or an article. For this first section of the journal, DO NOT consult any commentaries. You must do your own independent work, but it is acceptable to look up information in theological dictionaries, standard reference works on NT backgrounds, or Greek grammars. As much as possible, try to center your discussion on particular words or phrases on which the translations differ. Keep this section brief, and do not try to polish the language, since much of what you write in this section *will* need to be modified in the next two sections. The purpose of this first section of the journal is to get your mind going on the text.

In the *‘dialogue with Longenecker and Commentaries’* section, discuss Longenecker and four other commentaries on at least three separate points from your ‘personal reflection’ section. It is, however, possible, that these same points are not found in Longenecker. In such a case, note this in your journal and find commentaries that do address your issues, and discuss those instead. You can find excellent older exegetical commentaries on www.biblehub.com. You are basically looking for three things when reading a commentary: (a) good supporting quotes that you can use in your journal to back up your points; (b) arguments and evidence that disprove your ideas and observations; and (c) important information and insights you may have overlooked in your own investigation. Please footnote every reference you use in your text to avoid plagiarism. Use Turabian 9th edition or SBL for citation style. Specific reference style required for your reference may be found by googling.

In your *‘revised reflection’* section, begin your paragraph with a clear, **one-sentence** thesis statement that sums up the concept that you find especially engaging and pertinent in your first two sections of the journal. Follow up the thesis statement with a revised discussion of the passage based on what you have discovered while doing your first two sections.

In the application section, (a) write down your inferences drawn from the first three sections. Ask yourself questions such as: what would be the takeaways for real-life situations based on what I learned from the verse? What would be the outcome of not living according to the teachings of this passage? How do my new discoveries help me to serve the church better? What are the advantages/disadvantages of living according to these teachings? And (b) write how the text personally affected you in terms of your emotions with respect to, for example, your love, worries, and fears. Writing something general that you could have written without doing this journal will result in a very low grade. So, take your time to think through what you write.

Longenecker Commentary and Book Review

Longenecker's Commentary and the Letter to the Galatians should be read side by side. This will enable you to get the most out of the discussions in the commentary. You are required to submit a **book review** on Longenecker's commentary. The book review must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than **4 pages** long. The objective is to demonstrate that you read the commentary and the Letter to the Galatians and did so thoughtfully. The book review is due by **February 9, 2026**, along with your journals. **SLO1**

Fee Exegesis Book

Students are also required to read Fee's *Exegesis of the New Testament*. (It is not necessary to read pp. 59-78 ["Establishing the Text"] and pp. 112-131 ["The Analysis of a Pericope"].) You are encouraged to read this book before you start writing your exegetical journals. Familiarizing yourself with information in the book will help you perform well on your journals and paper. You must submit a signed statement confirming that you read the book, but NO written review is required for this book. The statement is due on **February 9, 2026**. You are encouraged to bring the book with you to class during the intensive. This will help you follow the lectures and activities with greater ease. It is important to read the book before the course begins as there will be very little time available during the intensive to read it.

REQUIREMENTS DURING THE INTENSIVE

Lectures

The plan is to cover approximately 1-2 chapters of Galatians per day in this class. There, however, will not be enough time to cover the chapters in their entirety or in detail. Key themes and selected passages from each chapter will be discussed. For more detail on the chapters, students are encouraged to read Longenecker's commentary. Lectures will also include instructions on how to perform exegesis.

Discussion

Students are encouraged to bring up Longenecker's commentary during the discussions.

Examinations

There will be two exams for this course, one on Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. and another on Thursday morning at 8 a.m. Both will be essay exams. You will be allowed **one hour** for each exam. Each exam will cover the lecture materials of the class. On the test, students are expected to demonstrate that (a) they understand the lectures and (b) they are familiar with Longenecker's commentary. The reading of the Letter to the Galatians and Longenecker's commentary should be completed before the course begins.

Expectations. Students may use (1) a Bible, (2) the lecture notes taken during class, and (3) Longenecker's commentary. On the exams, you should be able to: (a) discuss any passage covered in class; (b) summarize the key points discussed in the lectures; and (c) apply information from Longenecker to your discussion of the passage. The exams should be typed **single spaced**, and should be uploaded on LearningHub upon completion. The purpose of the exams is to determine how well you are able to integrate the learning taking place in class and in your reading. Your exams

will be scanned for plagiarism. Please do NOT copy and paste any material from the Internet and do NOT use AI to write these exams. Doing so will result in an **automatic zero** for the exam.

POST-INTENSIVE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exegesis Paper

Students must submit an exegesis paper on Galatians 5:24-26 or 6:8-10 as part of the requirement for the course. The paper needs to be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 10 pages in length (including the footnotes but excluding the title page and the bibliography). The paper is due by **April 6, 2026**. Please upload your papers on LearningHub. Do not send hard copies to the instructor's office. **SLO 2, 4**

Expectations. Students are expected to write the paper using the exegetical tools taught in class and from reading Fee. The paper must also reflect your own research. In addition, your paper should demonstrate your familiarity with Galatians and the class lectures. You may disagree with the instructor, but your opinions must be supported with exegetical evidence. Discuss your chosen passage *verse by verse (phrase by phrase where necessary)*, addressing the following five areas: (1) the actual text, (2) comparisons of different translations, (3) historical backgrounds, (4) study of words (etymology), and (5) scholarly opinions. For these steps, students should utilize the tools learned while writing the exegetical journals. Instructions on specific tools, such as word study, are found in Gordon Fee's *New Testament Exegesis* book. Conclude the paper by discussing what the text means for you personally and for the church.

Grading. The final paper will be graded on your ability to: (a) engage and discuss the biblical text; (b) effectively utilize the exegetical tools; (c) discuss exegetical commentaries and scholarly reference works; and (d) make informed inferences and applications. For a suggested reading list, see the bibliography below. For the grading criteria, please see the exegesis rubrics below. For each day the paper is late, there will be a deduction of 3 percentage point. The final exegesis paper is a required assignment. No paper will be accepted two weeks past the due date, except by prior agreement.

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows (Each lecture requires approximately 2 class periods):

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
February 4		Exegetical Journals	1, 4
February 9		Reading Reports	1, 4
February 11		Reflections Papers on the Video Lectures	1, 4

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
March 1	Syllabus and Introduction to Galatians		1, 4
March 2	Paul's Proclamation (Gal 1:1-14)		1, 4
March 2	Paul's Conversion and Trip to Jerusalem (Gal 1:15-24)		1, 4
March 2	Paul's Second Trip to Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1-10)		1, 3, 4
March 2	Antioch Incident (Gal. 2:11-15)		1, 3, 4
March 3	Synopsis of Paul's Argument (Gal. 2:16-21)	Exam 1	1,3, 4
March 3	Promise to Abraham (Gal. 3:1-9)		1, 4
March 3	Law of Moses (Gal. 3:10-14)		1, 4
March 3	Purpose of the Law (Gal. 3:15-29)		1, 4
March 4	Not a Slave but a Child of God (Gal. 4:1-20)		1, 4
March 4	Sarah and Hagar		1, 4
March 4	Circumcision, the Ceremonial Laws, and Christ (Gal. 5:1-21)		1, 4
March 4	Flesh and Spirit (Gal. 5:13-21)		1, 4
March 5	Holiness and Community (Gal. 6:1-10)	Exam 2	1, 4
March 5	New Creation and New Israel		1, 4
March 5	Conclusion		1, 4
April 6		Exegesis Paper	2, 3

MORE ABOUT THE COURSE

TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

US Credit-Hour Regulations

For every semester credit, the Andrews University credit hour definition requires that:

Courses for professional masters' degrees (e.g. MDiv) include 15 instructor contact hours and 30 hours of independent learning activities.

The calculation of hours is based on the study skills of the average well-prepared graduate student.
 Students weak in these skills:

- 1) may require more time and should consider taking fewer classes each semester; and
- 2) can find skill development assistance through the Seminary Study and Research Skills Colloquia, the AU Writing Center, and AU Student Success office.

In order to achieve the outcomes of this course, learning time will be distributed as follows:

Professional Masters' Programs		
3 Credits		
Instructor Contact Hours	Face to Face Instructional Time	34 hrs
	Other Instructor-Directed Activities (Video and reflection papers)	12 hrs
Independent Learning Activities	Reading of Longenecker's Commentary (English portions) and the writing of the book review	20 hrs
	Reading of Gordon Fee's Book	10 hrs
	2 Exegetical Journals	20 hrs
	2 Exams	8 hrs
	10-page Exegesis Paper	35 hrs
	Total Hours:	135 hours

SDATS GUIDELINES FOR CALCULATING ASSIGNMENT LOADS

Average reading speed: 15-20 pages/hour for light reading not to be tested on

10-15 pages/hour for heavy reading for exams

Writing time: 2.5 – 3 hours/double spaced page, from start to finished product

Reflective Writing Assignment: 0.5 hour per page

An Online Assignment Load Calculator is available at: www.cte.rice.edu/workload/

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Grades are based on the independent learning activities below which provide practice toward, and assessment of, the learning outcomes of this course. The grade weighting for each assignment is provided in the right-hand column. Specific due dates are given in the Course Overview above.

Assignment Description	Weighting
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1. 2 Exegetical Journals	20%
2. Book Review Longenecker	12%
3. 3 Videos/reports	6% (2% each)
4. Fee's Book	2%
5. 2 Exams	40%
6. Exegesis Paper	20%

* For grading rubrics that specify grading criteria in more detail, see Appendices.

In order to make grading fair for everyone, grades will be assigned on the basis of the above requirements alone. No individual arrangements will be made for those requesting last minute grade adjustment or extra credit.

(The AU Bulletin states that: "An Incomplete (I) indicates that the student's work is incomplete because of illness or unavoidable circumstances and not because of negligence or inferior performance. Students will be charged an incomplete fee for each incomplete grade issued." DGs are not an option for most types of courses.)

List of Assignments and Exams

- **Exegetical Journals.** Submit them on Learning Hub.
- **Book Reports on Longenecker's and Fee's books.** Submit them on Learning Hub.
- **Video reports.** Submit them on Learning Hub.
- **Exams.** Submit them on Learning Hub.
- **Exegesis Paper.** Students must submit an exegesis paper on Galatians 5:24-26 or 6:7-9. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and 10 pages long (no more). Please submit the paper on Learning Hub. Please DO NOT send any hard copy of the paper to the instructor's office.

Late Submission

- **There will be a penalty of 3 % per day on all late submissions.**
- **Students may not be allowed to register if they do not have the pre-session assignments completed and submitted on the due dates listed above. The 3% per day penalty will be assessed for each late assignment accepted.**

Resubmission of Assignments No resubmission of assignments will be allowed for this class because of the compressed nature of the class schedule.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

P. Richard Choi, PhD, is a professor of New Testament Studies and chair of the New Testament Department at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. His doctorate is from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been teaching at the Seminary since 1991. He has served as the Executive Secretary of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research, Chair of Regional Coordinators for the Society of Biblical Literature, Regional Coordinator of the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature, and President of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies. He contributed the notes for Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Philippians in the Andrews Study Bible. He is married to Louise and has two grown children.



OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

Attendance

Regular attendance is required at all classes and other academic appointments. When the total number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may assign a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

Academic Integrity

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is to be given by use of:
 - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
 - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

ChatGPT and Generative AI Chatbots.

- Turnitin scans all student submissions for content generated by AI. If the instructor receives the red flag that the student has used an AI chatbot to generate the assignment, they will be given an oral examination concerning the content at the time of the instructor's choosing. If it is

determined that the student has used an AI chatbot to generate the assignment, they will be given a failing grade for the assignment.

- Computer programs like ChatGPT can hallucinate and make up answers and introduce false information into the document. For a course in biblical studies and theology, what ChatGPT generates is also often too general and stereotyped and could apply to any topic. Any such papers will receive poor marks. Your submissions will be graded as is. No second chance will be given to resubmit the assignment. The instructor may also choose to give an oral examination at the time of his choosing.
- The instructor is looking for students' own unique voice in the assignments. It is better to submit a unique assignment with genuine human reasoning and feelings that may contain grammatical and stylistic errors than an immaculate one that lacks a unique voice, content, or feeling.

For more details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Use of Electronics

No recording or streaming is permitted in seminary courses.

Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for class-related activities during class time.

Communications and Updates

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

Emergency Protocol

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at www.learninghub.andrews.edu .

APPENDIX 1: ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC(S)

Assessment Rubric for the Exams

	A Range	B Range	C Range	D Range	F Range	Total
Accuracy with which the lectures are reproduced	All the main points of the lectures are covered and explanations are accurate with the scriptural examples used in class.	Most of the points presented in the lectures are covered and some concrete examples used in class appear	About 2/3rds of the points presented in the lectures are covered. Some inaccuracy in the examples provided.	Less than ½ of the points covered in lectures are covered. Has many errors.	The essay consists of mostly irrelevant information and is of poor quality.	70%
Interactions with Longenecker's Commentary	Refers to the commentary in a meaningful way throughout the essay. Makes at least 3 meaningful references.	Refers to the commentary. Makes less than 3 references.	Makes only one reference to the commentary	Makes no references to the commentary	Makes false references to the commentary .	20%
Personal Reflections	Gives clear evidence of having thoughtfully reflected on the lectures and the reading. The reflections are deep	Offers personal reflections of some originality	Some good ideas here and there	Some personal reflections but mostly unrelated to the material	No personal reflections at all	10%

	and creative.					
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Assessment Rubric for the Exegetical Journals

	Descriptions	A	B	C	D	F	Grade
Analysis of Text	Analysis of Text (Comparisons of versions and commentaries)	Exceeds the basic standards (18-20)	Meets basic standards: knows how to identify difficulties in the translation of the text; no more than 3 errors in each type of analysis used. (16-17)	Does not meet the basic standards in some areas (13-15)	Does not meet the basic standards in many areas (11-12)	Does not meet the basic standards at all. (0-10)	20 Score:_____
	Analysis of Literary Structure and Context (pericope, narrative, rhetorical, structural, intertextual, etc.)	Exceeds the basic standards (18-20)	Meets basic standards: the suggested structures correspond to the intent of the text; no more than 3 errors in each type of analysis used. (16-17)	Does not meet the basic standards in some areas (13-15)	Does not meet the basic standards in many areas (11-12)	Does not meet the basic standards at all. (0-10)	20 Score:_____
	Analysis of Backgrounds (history, primary literature: Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Patristic, etc.)	Exceeds the basic standards (18-20)	Meets basic standards: Knows how to apply the information in primary and secondary historical sources to the text; no more than 3 errors in each type of analysis used. (16-17)	Does not meet the basic standards in some areas (13-15)	Does not meet the basic standards in many areas (11-12)	Does not meet the basic standards at all. (0-10)	20 Score:_____
Expertise in Field	Interaction with secondary literature (journals, books, dissertations, Internet, etc.)	Exceeds the basic standards (9-10)	Meets basic standards: cites at least 5 source in discussion; engages in argumentation with authors at least 3 times, examining the evidence presented in the literature. (8)	Does not meet the basic standards in some areas (7)	Does not meet the basic standards in many areas (6)	Does not meet the basic standards at all. (0-5)	10 Score:_____
Coherence of the Paper	Construction of Argument (identification of exegetical problems, goals, and thesis, flow, conclusion, etc.)	Exceeds the basic standards (9-10)	Meets basic standards: has a thesis statement; evidence is presented to support the thesis; appropriate conclusions are drawn from the evidence (8)	Does not meet the basic standards in some areas (7)	Does not meet the basic standards in many areas (6)	Does not meet the basic standards at all. (0-5)	10 Score:_____
	Style (clarity & style of writing, spelling, correct style for notes, etc.)	Exceeds the basic standards (5)	Meets basic standards: no more than 3 spelling or grammatical errors; no more than 3 errors in the footnote and bibliographical entries; correctly follows the Andrews Style (4)	Does not meet the basic standards in some areas (3)	Does not meet the basic standards in many areas (2)	Does not meet the basic standards at all. (0-1)	5 Score:_____

Relevance	Implications (personal, relating to church, further research, sermons, etc.)	Exceeds the basic standards (5)	Meets basic standards: Inferences are drawn from the study; the ideas are coherent (4)	Does not meet the basic standards in some areas (3)	Does not meet the basic standards in many areas (2)	Does not meet the basic standards at all. (0-1)	5 Score: _____
Overall Quality	Creativity, originality, sincerity, and quality of reflection	Very Satisfactory (9-10)	Satisfactory (8)	Somewhat Satisfactory (7)	Barely Satisfactory (6)	Not Satisfactory (0-5)	10 Score: _____

APPENDIX 2: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES

Letter Grades and Percentages

95-100%	A	80-84%	B	65-69%	C
90-94%	A-	75-79%	B-	60-64%	C-
85-89%	B+	70-74%	C+	55-59%	D

THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed.

APPENDIX 3: PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

MASTERS PROGRAMS

1. MA in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM)

- 1) Deliver effective biblically-based sermons
- 2) Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills
- 3) Understand the historical-theological development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 4) Exhibit capability for training church members for evangelism
- 5) Demonstrate an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership
- 6) Exhibit capability for reaching specific social groups

2. Master of Divinity (MDiv)

- 1) (Character) Models spiritual humility, maturity and integrity grounded in a living experience with God in joyful assurance of His salvation, nurtured by the sanctifying presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) (Scholarship) Manifests the practices of a Biblical scholar-theologian engaging the Bible, Christian/Adventist heritage and professional resources with theological maturity for personal growth and for facilitating the theological competence of others.
- 3) (Discipleship & Evangelism) Demonstrates personal commitment, passion and essential skills for discipleship and evangelism, while equipping members to carry out ministry within the scope of the local and global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- 4) (Leadership) Exercises creative and visionary leadership as a minister and servant of Christ, discerning the needs, spiritual gifts and potential of others, in order to equip and engage in their God-given ministries.
- 5) (Worship) Facilitates enriching corporate worship that brings diverse peoples into the transforming presence of God.
- 6) (Administration/Management) Engages the abilities of self and others to strategically steward personal and corporate resources including time, health, finances, property and service in areas of spiritual giftedness.
- 7) (Relationships) Models effective relationships with people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, character, and persuasions, reflecting the wisdom, compassion, and discernment of Jesus through the work of the Spirit.

APPENDIX 4: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RECOMMENDED BOOKS & RESOURCES

Grammars, Lexicons, Linguistic Key and Theological Lexicons

Bauer, W., F. W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, & Gingrich, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd Edition. (Consult Fee, 87-89; a very valuable source of information for word study)

Balz, Horst & G. Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*. 3 Volumes. (Full of insights for pastors and scholars alike)

Moule, Charles C. F. *An Idiom-Book of New Testament Greek*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959. (Extremely helpful for understanding the way Greek was actually used by the NT writers, but hard to follow; makes a lot more sense if you look up the references)

Rogers, C. L. and. C. L Rogers, III. *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. (Very nice to use for syntax, but be careful of its one-sided reading).

Spicq, C. *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament*. 3 Volumes. 1982. (Good for doing a word study, especially for looking up Hellenistic Parallels)

Wallace. D. B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. (Sometimes convoluted, but an excellent reference for looking up Greek grammar).

Other Exegetical Tools

Danker W. Fredrick. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993. (Somewhat outdated but still very useful)

Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 2002). (Nice as a reference; a very tedious reading if you want to read it through; best if you use it for the tools that you actually intend to use in your paper)

Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *An Introductory Bibliography for the Study of Scripture*. 3rd Edition. Rome: Editrice Pontifico Instituto Biblico, 1990. (All you ever wanted to know about the secondary NT literature)

Porter, Stanley E., ed. *A Handbook of the Exegesis of the New Testament*. Leiden/New York: Brill, 2002. (A good reference to look up the various tools)

Commentaries and Studies on Galatians

Burton, Ernest de Witt. *The Epistle to the Galatians: A Critical and Exegetical Commentary.* International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark, 1920.

Betz, Hans Dieter. *Galatians: A Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Churches in Galatia.* Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Hays, Richard B. *The Faith of Jesus Christ: An Investigation of the Narrative Substructure of Galatians 3:1-4:11.* Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series 56. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1983.

Lightfoot, Joseph B. *The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians* (1868). London: Macmillan, 1879. Reprint of 1879 edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1955. (This old commentary is timeless.)

Longenecker, Richard N. *Galatians.* Word Biblical Commentary 41. Dallas: Word, 1990.

Siva, Moisés. *Interpreting Galatians: Explorations in Exegetical Method.* 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Wright, N. T. *The Climax of the Covenant. Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology.* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991. (A work on Galatians but relevant even to Romans)

General Works on Paul Relevant to This Course

Dunn, James D. G. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle.* Grand Rapids, MI., Eerdmans, 1998. (Written on the template of Romans)

Dunn, James D. G., ed. *Paul and the Mosaic Law.* Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1996. Grand Rapids, MI., Eerdmans/ London: SCM Press, 2001. (An exhaustive and noteworthy collection of essays on the law from the standpoint of modern debate)

Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *Paul: A Critical Life.* Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1996 (A very nice survey of Pauline scholarship on the question of the person and the thoughts of Paul)

Stuhlmacher, *Revisiting Paul's Doctrine of Justification: A Challenge to the New Perspective.* Downers Grove, Ill.K InterVarsity, 2001. (A Lutheran perspective on Paul that speaks to the modern issues, though not always successfully)

Ridderbos, Herman N. *Paul: And Outline of His Theology.* Translated by John R. DeWitt. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1975. (Rather a general and encyclopedic work, but relevant to the study of Galatians because of its eschatological redemptive perspective)

For additional books and articles, see also the Seminary Library Portal at
<http://libguides.andrews.edu/religion> .

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLE EXEGETICAL JOURNAL

ESV Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not **submit** again to a yoke of slavery.

Personal Reflection:

“For freedom Christ has set us free,” according to ESV. But the KJV and NKJV have it as “Stand fast therefore **in the liberty**.” Whereas the KJV and NKJV have the term “liberty” only once, the ESV, NIV, and the NRSV mention it twice, once as “freedom” and once as part of the phrase “set free.” This means that the key concept of this passage is “freedom.” The noun *freedom* is known in the Greek world as a political concept. “In the Gk. world ἐλευθερία (*eleutheria*) is primarily a political concept.”¹ This is shown in parallel to slavery. This word is also essential to a state of being.² There is also the philosophical sentiment in the time of Hellenism that referred to freedom as freedom from human, and subject only to God. Sometimes in this vein of thought, the focus is shifted to a radical approach of freedom, which focused on the freedom from human nature or one’s own nature, a search for peace within the soul.³

In the NT realization, freedom is not merely control over peripheral life through control over one’s own conscious or soul. Therefore, if an individual truly wants to come to grips with themselves they must surrender their will to something outside of themselves. For example, one could be free from the slavery of sin or the law (the Mosaic Law),⁴ as opposed to physical slavery.

In Galatians 5:1, freedom refers primarily to the law, freedom from the obligation to observe the Mosaic Law. First, Galatians 5:1 seems to wrap up the discussion in chapter 4. In Galatians 4:21 Paul asks if they desire to be subject to the law, and 4:29 states that time has relapsed and once more the “child who was born according to the flesh persecutes the child who was born according to the Spirit.” It is in this context that freedom is hoped for. This is a freedom from a life that leads to death and condemnation through the Law. The mention of circumcision in v. 2 also makes clear that Paul’s immediate concern here is the Mosaic Law. Therefore, the only conclusion I can come to is that one can be freed through Christ because he is, in the Greco-Roman parlance, the Patron who has the power to set us free from the burden of the Mosaic Law! But I wonder why Paul thinks of the law in such negative term.

“Stand firm therefore, and do not **submit** again to a yoke of slavery” (ESV). The KJV and NKJV have “be not entangled again” and the NIV “do not be ... burdened again.” I find this difference between “submit” and “entangle” interesting. But my question is why does it say *again*? It seems to imply that Galatians have submitted in the past to a yoke of slavery. The previous reference to freedom is on the law (perhaps not Mosaic) and on the will of mankind (their world), therefore it is logical to deduce that this freedom is from the slavery that is possibly being relapsed into. Yet I find this challenging because the Galatians, being Gentiles, were not under the Law of Moses before. Could Paul be placing the Law of Moses on the same level as the slavery under pagan religion?

There are two commands in this verse: “stand firm” and “do not submit.” The context makes clear that these commands are to be an ongoing process:⁵ Continue to stand strong and never submit. They have been doing well thus far. It’s a matter of continuing the process of success to avoid picking up

¹ Schlier, “ἐλεύθερος, ἐλευθερώ, ἐλευθερία, ἀπελεύθερος,” *TDNT*, II:488.

² Schlier, 2:488-492.

³ Schlier, 2:493-96.

⁴ Schlier, 2:496.

⁵ Wallace, 485.

the yoke of slavery that they once had that was taken away by Jesus Christ, who alone has the power to give them freedom. (Nice solid reflection. I appreciate you use of a Greek-based source for your word study, even though this was not necessary for this class.)

Dialogue with Longnecker: (Please note that this student mistakenly only dealt two commentaries, but still a nice work.)

Longnecker agrees that the concept of freedom is the central point of this verse, but I never fully processed that this is an issue before God as well as in this world. According to Hans Dieter Betz, freedom “is the central theological concept which sums up the Christian’s situation before God as well as in this world.”⁶ But of course, freedom is because of God, so...I suppose it makes sense that it involves him too. Now that I think of it, this notion of being free before God seems to be the underlying theme throughout the book of Galatians and most of the New Testament. For guilt makes us feel condemned and afraid before God, making us feel like a slave before an angry master. This means that for Paul, the Law of Moses is problematic because its chief function is to point out our sin and condemn us before God. Freedom from the Mosaic Law, then, has to refer to freedom from fear, the terror of guilt and the remembrance of our sin before God.

I didn’t realize that there was so much debate on whether or not this verse stands on its own, concludes the previous thought, or starts a new thought. I suppose that doesn’t matter to me, what matters is the thought of freedom here. However, if I had to pick a view, I suppose I would pick the one that connects chapter 4 to chapter 5, but I realize that there is no connector/transitional phrase. But, why can’t it be based on context rather than grammatical nuances? (Good point, but obviously this is not information found in Longenecker. So where is it from? Must document every reference.)

I found it interesting that Adolf Deissmann found that “for freedom” at the beginning of the verse referred a “sacral manumission procedures,” indicating destiny or purpose.⁷ (Citing from a source quoted in a commentary does not count as a separate commentary.) I find it fascinating that Christ did not simply set us free but set us free with a purpose or destiny, and that destiny is freedom.

I didn’t know that the word *yoke* was an “honorable use” for studying the Torah or governmental/social/family things. (Again, great point, but where is this from?) This is interesting to me because it is similarly thought of that way today. Our society bases success off of work. And it is an honor to be CEO but it also means that you lost a lot along the way, having to bear a “yoke.” Fascinating. All in all, Paul states this verse in terms of both the reality (indicative) and possibility (imperative) of Salvation.

Revised Reflection

In Galatians 5:1, Paul tries to shake the Galatians out of the relapse of slavery and into the arms of freedom. (Nice!) Yet, this was not anything new to them, for he had presented it to them in clarity. So the question is why the relapse? It is because they failed to see the law in its negative function, namely, that of condemning sin. They embraced the law as something that would give them status, as a bona fide Jew. Instead, Paul points out the dark side of the law, its fear factor. Certainly, the law is “just, holy, and good” (Rom. 7:12), but it also brings the terror of condemnation and guilt to the sinner. And we are all sinners. The reason the Galatians did not see this aspect of the law is that they

⁶ Hans Dieter Betz, *Galatians: A Commentary on Paul’s Letter to the Churches in Galatia*, Hermeneia 69 (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1979), 255.

⁷ Richard Longenecker, *Galatians WBC* 41 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1990), 225.

understood the law largely in relation to other humans, as something that gave them status. But as Longenecker points out, Christian freedom has to do more with God than with others.⁸ For example, legalistic observance of the law may commend us to others but not before God. We are not truly free until we are free before God. (Nice work, but you should have included your strong points from the first two sections instead of simply writing a whole new summary of the discussion.)

Application

We are all on the edge of reverting to slavery, therefore we need to keep our focus on what Christ did for us if we do not want to revert to slavery. It is ever a temptation for humans to jump back into the tangible because of our recurring anxiety. So, the tangible laws often seem to be the most efficient thing to do. As Adventists, I think that we get so caught up in the law of the church or in fighting against the law of the country, that we lose focus on Christ and fall back into the slavery of legalism and the tangible. The past tense (aorist) also places the focus on the end of the act.⁹ Thus the verse stresses not only that “they” have been freed, but that the freedom has been achieved. The act of freeing was done by Christ, and we are lucky recipients of this gift. (This journal is a little longer than 2 pages, but still a great application!)

⁸ Longenecker, 225.

⁹ Daniel B. Wallace, *Greek Grammar: Beyond the Basics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996), 559.