



Exegetical/Isagogical Study of 1 Peter

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Summer Quarter Online

Mequon, WI

June 19 – August 11, 2017

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care.”

I. Objectives of the course

That by the completion of this course participants are given the opportunity to:

1. Interact in-depth with powerful words of the Spirit, that He might strengthen faith and renew motivation for service; to this end, participants are given opportunity to
 - a. Engage the letter as a whole, identifying larger themes and emphases
 - b. Engage the text through close reading of smaller verse sections, identifying key issues for discussion and arriving at conclusions consistent with divine revelation
 - c. Engage the text devotionally, considering personal spiritual challenge and applying powerful words to those challenges.
2. Increase exegetical precision and confidence through a sharpening of Greek skills;
3. Become familiar with insights offered by other 1 Peter scholars, absorbing or critiquing as appropriate;
4. Encourage and instruct fellow participants, employing gifts unique to each member of the body of Christ;
5. Benefit from the fellowship and wisdom of fellow participants, giving thanks for God’s work in others.

II. Weekly assignments

- A. Translating Greek: Prepare and post a written translation of the scheduled portion of the text, to be evaluated by a translation partner (rotating). With the translation, include a basic analysis of five different Greek words or constructions, offering identification as well as relevance to the translation/interpretation of the section (Grammar Observations).
 - After translations and Grammar Observations have been posted, the assigned translation partner will post a brief written evaluation of his partner’s work.
- B. The Two Questions: Develop two challenging questions for the verses to be covered. One of the questions should be of an exegetical/interpretative nature. The other question should be of an application nature. These questions should require thought and aim at key concepts in the section. You should have a reasonable expectation that these questions have an answer, but you can include questions where you yourself aren’t sure of the answer. For each question, **do write out a suggested answer**, recognizing that you may very well have as your “answer” a description of the dilemma you faced in thinking through the question (rather than an actual answer).
 - After these two questions/answers have been submitted by all participants, individuals will offer a total of two posted responses to their classmates’ questions/answers.
- C. The Four Strands of Luther: Offer personal, reflective thoughts for each of Luther’s Four Strands (see document entitled *Luther’s Four Strands*). For the “What is God Saying to Me Here” section, you need not summarize the entire section of 1 Peter to be discussed in the upcoming session. Rather, pick out a key point or points, thoughts that will then be the springboard for the rest of your “Four Strands” exercise.
- D. Collaborative Commentary: Submit two quotations from the commentary you are reading that connect with the assigned portion of 1 Peter, quotations that you think might be helpful to your brothers. After each quotation, offer a brief reflection on the words you’ve cited, reacting to either positive or negative elements found in the commentary selection.
- E. Digging Deeper: Over the course of the eight weeks, each participant will be assigned a total of two articles or book selections for additional reading. For two of the weeks, then, a participant will read the assigned portion and then offer a 200-300 word summary and analysis of their assigned article or book selection.

- While a participant is responsible for preparing readings and summaries only two of the eight weeks, all participants are asked to read the brief summaries prepared each week and post a total of one response to those summaries.

F. The Audio Bridge: Participants will listen to a brief discussion of the past week's work as well as a brief highlighting of the upcoming week's material. This audio file will be prepared by Professor Geiger.

G. Face-to-Face: Once every two weeks there will be a 30-minute webinar, a live video conversation (interactive) to review and discuss various items from the past two weeks. Various scheduling options may be available.

NOTE: This is a two-credit course. We normally would expect, for a two-credit course, 10 hours of class time for each credit and between 10 to 20 hours of preparation for each credit. For this class, then, plan on approximately 50 hours of study over the course of eight weeks. This class is designed, then, to expect about 5 1/2 hours of work each week, with five additional hours devoted to the final essay. Given that this course is offered during the summer, one "Sort of Vacation" is worked into the schedule. For this week, you will still be asked to prepare those things that you can do at any time (translation, thought questions, etc.). But during the vacation week you will not be required to follow the schedule with regard to response posts, any scheduled webinar, etc.

III. Final Assignment: Written essay

Select a verse or verses from 1 Peter which capture your attention as being particularly relevant to your personal life or to your ministry at this time. Compose a 900 – 1200 word essay, one which first grapples with relevant exegetical issues in an appropriately thorough fashion and then seeks to apply the Spirit's truth to particular circumstances of life and ministry.

- Top of first page: Your name, the due date, the class and instructor, and the Scripture reference.
- Above the title: The Greek text of your passage(s) from 1 Peter.
- Title: A thematic statement which captures the heart of your essay.
- Prose: This is to be a composition in paragraph form. It has an introduction and a conclusion. It addresses exegetical issues while simultaneously demonstrating the enduring practical nature of Scripture. As this work reveals insights gained from study of the Greek text, be sure to include a healthy amount of Greek words or phrases in the essay.
- Length: Between 900 and 1200 words, not including the Greek text at the top of the first page. Please consider the length parameters "hard" boundaries!
- Quotations: Direct quotations should be cited with footnotes or endnotes. No bibliography is required.
- How to submit: Email your essay to steve.geiger@wls.wels.net.
- Due: Friday, August 18, 2017

IV. Tools for the course

A. Required

1. UBS or Nestle Greek New Testament.
2. A popular English translation.
3. A commentary on First Peter (from one's own library or the WLS library)

B. Suggested

1. Linguistic helps such as lexicons (BDAG, Liddell-Scott) and grammars (Wallace, Robertson, Blass-Debrunner).
2. Additional commentaries
3. Electronic Bible software (Logos, BibleWorks)

V. Instructor: Prof. Steve Geiger

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May the Holy Spirit richly bless our study of his Word!