

BIBL 5150 — INTERPRETING THE NEW TESTAMENT I

Fall Semester 2009—North Park Theological Seminary

Mondays and Wednesdays 8:00-9:15

August 24-December 11

Instructor: Klyne Snodgrass

“There was a great teacher, and gathered around him was a small group of faithful followers. They listened to his message and were transformed by it. But the message alienated the power structure of his time, which finally put him to death but did not succeed in eradicating his message, which is stronger now than ever. . . . That description would apply equally to Jesus and Socrates. But nobody’s ever built a cathedral in honor of Socrates.” Jaroslav Pelikan

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this introductory treatment of the Gospels attention is given to hermeneutics, critical approaches to the Gospels, historical background, the characteristics and message of each of the Gospels, Jesus’ proclamation of the kingdom, and the major features of his ministry. Three hours credit.

Students with a disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the dean of students. Please do so as soon as possible to insure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. If needed, appointments can be relocated. For further information please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To learn the *content* of the Gospels and understand both their message and, as much as possible, the process that brought them into being.
2. To develop a thorough knowledge of the information known about the life and ministry of Jesus and the historical quests seeking to understand him.
3. To become acquainted with the historical, social, religious, and literary contexts in which the New Testament emerged.
4. To become conversant with the terminology, presuppositions, and conclusions of various modern approaches to the Gospels and to assess these approaches by firsthand study of the Gospels.
5. **To develop sound methods for lifelong study of the New Testament. Attention will be given throughout the course to the subject of hermeneutics.**
6. To gain knowledge of the bibliographic and electronic resources available for study of the Gospels.
7. To provide a better understanding of Christianity, an opportunity for deeper commitment and spiritual development, and a broader basis for ministry. The ultimate objectives for all of us are to increase our integrity and our ability to care.

OBJECTIVES—SECOND SET

1. To know Jesus and his role in God’s Kingdom.
2. To determine who we are individually and collectively in God’s purposes. *Identity* is always the subject.
3. To learn from the Gospels how Christians should order their lives.
4. To seek the work of God’s Spirit to form our own being. Identity is a process of becoming.
5. To become followers—actually—of Jesus so that our identity is shaped by his.

OBJECTIVES—THIRD SET

1. To develop a christologically driven sensitivity, care, and love that motivate ministry
2. To develop personal integrity that engenders trust and enables and sustains ministry
3. To acquire skills that lead to *legitimate* confidence and allow one to be a leader ministering to others
4. To learn from the Gospels what churches should be and do.

II. **PROCEDURE**—The three sets of objectives are an awareness that this course deals with *three* different areas, the first of them sometimes unrelated to the other two: 1) the *discipline* of New Testament studies; 2) *Christian discipleship*; and 3) *preparation for ministry*. None of these areas may be neglected, even though some people try. The discipline of New Testament studies has the information needed for understanding and for ministry, but it hardly exists in its own right. This discipline is difficult to defend apart from issues of faith and ministry. The main obstacles to achieving the objectives are the immense amount of material important for studying the Gospels and the wide diversity of needs and abilities within the class. Readings, written material, and lectures will provide an introduction to general subjects such as hermeneutics, Gospels criticism, cultural background, and to subjects that arise from the Gospels themselves such as miracles, parables, and the resurrection. **The written material, which is fairly extensive**, will be posted on line and the relevant sections should be read before class. Students are expected to *master* these written materials on their own. **General knowledge is not sufficient.**

The class will be divided into work groups with **each group assigned responsibility for leading the discussion of written material and of specific passages from the Gospels.** Questions about the written material and *any questions not directly pertinent to class* should be posted first to the online discussion board “Qumran Corner.”

One of the problems in theological studies is the technical language used. A helpful book giving definitions of most relevant terms is Richard Soulen and R. Kendall Soulen, *Handbook of Biblical Criticism* (3d ed; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001). Online glossaries are also available.

Two quizzes will be given early in the schedule. You are expected to know **in detail** the terms, concepts, and important people in the discussions. *Anyone doing poorly on these quizzes will be advised to drop the course.*

NOTE: Do not use quotations from secondary sources in any written assignment for this course. Do make every effort to be sensitive to gender and culture issues.

Also, phones and caps will both be in the off position.

Feel free to e-mail questions to the instructor at ksnodgrass@northpark.edu or to call (at an appropriate time) 773-463-3365.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, or some other edition of the Bible that includes the OT Apocrypha. Bring it to class!
2. **A synopsis of the Gospels.** For either Greek or English, the synopsis may be ordered from the American Bible Society, a non-profit organization or may sometimes be found online in good used condition. For those who have had Greek the standard synopsis used for Gospels study is Kurt Aland’s *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*, 15th edition (which contains the Greek text of the 26th edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament and parallels with

apocryphal gospels and patristic sources). This synopsis is also available with an English translation on the facing page, but without the evidence from the apocryphal gospels and patristic sources, and it is much more expensive.

If you have not had Greek, the choice is Kurt Aland's, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: English Edition*.

There are Gospels synopses on line, but you need one for class (and your library). After the first few weeks you will be expected to have a synopsis with you in class.

- 3a. For those with little previous background in Gospels studies, Mark L. Strauss, *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. This book parallels the discussion of the content presented in class, but it is rather basic, too simple for seminarians with any background at all. If you have had course work in the Gospels, you will want to use the texts under 3b or 3c **or select from a range of possibilities in consultation with the instructor.**

OR

- 3b. Thomas R. Yoder Neufeld, *Recovering Jesus: The Witness of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

AND Richard A. Burridge, *Imitating Jesus: An Inclusive Approach to New Testament Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*. Simon & Schuster, 1995.

5. Klyne Snodgrass. *Divorce and Remarriage* (An Occasional Paper, Number Three). Chicago: Covenant Publications, 1992, updated 2008. This item should be available online.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

1. **If you have had Greek**, you will be expected to translate fifty verses from the Gospels over the fourteen weeks of the course. *Nothing is more important than working with the text itself.* The following should be translated by all who have had Greek:

John 1:1-5 and 14-18 (Due Aug 31)

Luke 1:1-4 and 4:18-21 (Due Sept 9)

Matthew 5:17-20 and 6:7-15 (Due Oct 5)

Mark 4:10-12 (Due Oct 21)

Verses of your choice to bring the **total to fifty verses by the end of the term**. As part of this total **you will be expected to translate passages treated in other assignments, especially your research project. Attach Greek worksheets to your major assignments.**

DO NOT WRITE OUT THE GREEK TEXT of the passages **NOR YOUR**

TRANSLATIONS **except** for Matthew 5:17-20. For the others, turn in only your **neat** worksheets on which **all** verb forms (at least first occurrences) are **fully** parsed and any other words not immediately recognized are identified. This assignment is intended to promote facility in working with the Greek text, but is tied to other parts of the course and, therefore, must be done on schedule. Do **not** use an analytical lexicon or computer software until you have completed your work. Then check your accuracy after completion with Gramcord or BibleWorks. *This assignment will count for 10% of the final grade.*

- If you who have not had Greek**, you will be expected to invest an equivalent amount of time (about 8 hours) reading in the following areas, and again *this assignment will count for 10% of the final grade*. A statement of completion of the eight hours, what was read, and a one page evaluation of your reading is **due Sept. 23**. Select one or more readings from the following list. **Read critically.**

1) **The origin and transmission of the biblical material**

Paul D. Wegner, *The Journey from Texts to Translations*

L. McDonald and S. Porter, *Early Christianity and its Sacred Literature*

Bruce M. Metzger, *The Canon of the New Testament : Its Origin, Development, and Significance*

Bruce M. Metzger, *The Bible in Translation: Ancient and English Versions*

Gordon D. Fee and Mark L. Strauss, *How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth*

2) **The doctrine of inspiration**

I. H. Marshall, *Biblical Inspiration*

Clark Pinnock, *The Scripture Principle*

Vincent Bacote et al., ed. *Evangelicals and Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics*

N. T. Wright, *The Last Word: Beyond the Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture*

3) **Hermeneutics**

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It is Worth*

Robert H. Stein, *Playing by the Rules: A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible*

*G. B. Caird, *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*

Jeannine K. Brown, *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*
*Articles pertaining to the **Gospels or hermeneutics*** from either David Alan Black and David S. Dockery eds., *Interpreting the New Testament* or I. Howard Marshall, ed., *New Testament Interpretation* or Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hays, eds., *The Art of Reading Scripture*

*Peter Cotterell and Max Turner, *Linguistics and Biblical Interpretation*

Peter Silzer and Thomas Finley, *How Biblical Languages Work*

I. Howard Marshall, *Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology*

Anthony Thiselton, *The Two Horizons*

Anthony Thiselton, *New Horizons in Hermeneutics*

*Kevin J. Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text?*

Khiok-khng Yeo, *What Has Jerusalem to Do with Beijing? Biblical Interpretation from a Chinese Perspective*

R. S. Sugirtharajah, ed., *Voices From the Margin: Interpreting the Bible From the Third World*

Vincent Wimbush, ed. *African Americans and the Bible*

4) **NT Apocrypha**

Craig Evans, *Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels*

Philip Jenkins, *Hidden Gospels: How the Search for Jesus Lost Its Way*

2. **Read all four Gospels between Aug. 1 and Dec. 11, 2009.**

3. **Read the handouts**, the paper “The Evangelical Covenant Church and the Bible,” the pamphlet on divorce, select primary sources, *Four Portraits, One Jesus* (or the substitute texts), the assigned pages from *The Cost of Discipleship*, and the other assigned readings on the schedule below.

4. **Using BibleWorks**, do a word study of μονογενής (*monogenēs*: “only,” “unique,” sometimes translated “only begotten”) in both the NT and the LXX. Use Frederick Danker’s *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Early Christian Literature* (p. 658), even

if you have not had Greek, and use at least one theological dictionary for its treatment of the word. Further instruction will be given in class. **Due Sept 2.**

5. Write a five page paper on the significance of the Gospel of **John** for understanding and dealing with your own **self-centeredness**. The focus is the text of **John and the way Jesus and John** challenge ego-centeredness; the focus is not your life history, although specifics of personal appropriation of the text are welcome. **Due Sept 28.**
- 6a. Be ready as part of your group to help lead the discussion of handouts as assigned. See below.
- 6b. Prepare a **one** page overview of the issues in the *one* text below assigned to your group. *Each person* is to prepare a one page overview of the text, and the group will present the issues and the resolution of the issues to the class. The issues are to be divided equally among the members of the group. By default, for every text one person must treat structure, one must treat Gospel parallels, and one must treat background issues, especially OT background, and someone must treat exegetical and theological issues. This is **not** a research assignment. Use **one** good commentary from the bibliography **as specified**: for Matthew use Davies and Allison, Keener, Luz, Nolland, or Hagner. For Mark use Edwards, Lane, France, Guelich and Evans, or Collins. For Luke use Fitzmyer, Green, Marshall, Bock, or Nolland. For John use Barrett, Brown, Morris, Carson, or Keener. **Read critically! What you seek is an understanding of the issues and key factual information. Do not be taken in by every comment.**

Group A John 3:3-8; Due Sept 30

Group B Luke 17:20-24; Due Sept 30

Group C Matt. 5:17-20; Due Oct 7

Group D Matt. 19:16-26; Due Oct 7

Group E Mark 4:10-12; Due Oct 26

Group F Matt. 11:25-30; Due Nov 9

Group G Matt. 16:13-20; Due Nov 9

Group H Matt. 21:12-17; Due Nov 18

7. Do research as specified below on **one** of the following texts: Matt 6:9-15; 12:1-8; 16:21-28; 17:1-8; Luke 9:51-62; or 10:25-37. (If you want to work on a different text, discuss it with the instructor.) You will be expected to do a thorough analysis of the text and the issues relevant to it. In the final version give attention to the following: a comparison of parallel accounts with a detailed summary and evaluation of similarities and differences (you **must** attach photocopied pages from a synopsis detailing correspondences); historical and cultural factors that shed light on the text; literary factors that provide understanding, **especially** placement of the pericope in the overall structure; identification of genre; exegetical and critical issues; theological issues, especially as they are of **redactional** concern to the evangelist, but also as they are of significance to you; and the **relevance of your text for your own spirituality**. The primary purpose of this assignment is with **method**. Therefore the research will be done in three steps and for all three **use a content outline method** (similar to my treatments of topics like the kingdom of God and parables). The three parts to this assignment are:

- 1) **Analyze your text on your own without using commentaries or any other explanatory tools.** I want *your* analysis. You may use *only* a concordance and a synopsis and the two items mentioned below. **Provide photocopied sheets from the synopsis** and mark **in detail** and then **summarize** the similarities and differences in the

accounts. What is the **structure** of the text? What is the context before and after? How does the passage fit with the redactional concerns of the evangelist? What exegetical or theological problems are there and how would you resolve them? What can you learn about important words or themes? Are there other kinds of problems? Provide your own explanation of the text and the issues by giving a verse by verse commentary on your passage. Include anything relevant from either Craig A. Evans, *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies: A Guide to the Background Literature* or Darrell L. Bock, *Jesus in Context: Background Readings for Gospel Study*. Finally, explain what you learned for your own spirituality. **Due Oct 19.**

- 2) Do research on your text. Use and take notes on a **minimum** of five **starred commentaries from the bibliography**, at least one periodical article on your text, and whatever tools you need to do a word study of one word. You may use Metzger's *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament* or Omanson's *A Textual Guide to the Greek New Testament* or one of the online resources for textual criticism to assist in treating textual variants. Select *one* word from your text that does not occur too frequently in the NT and do a word study. Show frequency of occurrence and location of your word, a brief history of its use (including if possible the use in the LXX and which Hebrew words it translates), its breadth of semantic field, and the meaning of the word in the Gospel(s). You may use dictionaries, concordances, and lexica for your word study. At this stage you are turning in the results of your research about what *other people* say, doing a word study, and evaluating textual variants. What do these resources add to your understanding of the text, what information do they provide, and what problems do they raise? **Summarize, but do not use quotations of secondary sources at all.** Document page numbers and bibliographical information to assist in preparing the final form. At the end of your effort provide a brief **evaluation** of the resources used and a list of the issues you must treat in the final version. **Due Nov 2.**
- 3) On the basis of parts one and two write your own commentary on your text. This is to be *your* explanation of the text, its issues, and its treatment by others as that helps you explain your passage. The result should provide a basis from which you could teach or preach on your text at the drop of a hat. **Include the word study, the treatment of context, the photocopied sheets and analysis of Synoptic relations from the first stage**, and anything else that helps from the first two parts. **Do not turn in parts one and two.** Feel free to "cut and splice" material from the first and second parts and to discuss issues raised from the second, but **the third section** is to be an integrated and comprehensive treatment of your text. **Due Nov 30 with grace until Dec 4. No quotations of secondary sources!**

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS—Except for the first week, readings are to be completed by the date under which they are listed.

Aug 24 Introduction and Hermeneutics—John 7:37-39 and 1:1-18

Read the handout on hermeneutics and **begin** translation work or alternate reading assignment.

Read and be ready to discuss "The Evangelical Covenant Church and the Bible" (found on the Covenant website:

<http://www.covchurch.org/resource/covenant-resource-paper-the-covenant-church-and-the-bible>) and "Textual Criticism Insight" (posted on Blackboard [Bb]). Read critically!

Optional: Read the article posted on Blackboard on a hermeneutics of hearing.

Aug 26 Hermeneutics **Groups A and B have primary responsibility for discussion.**

Keep translating and doing the alternate reading

Aug 31 Gospels Criticism and Quests for Jesus **Group C has primary responsibility for Gospels Criticism; Group D has primary responsibility for Quests for Jesus.**

Read the handouts on Gospels criticism and on Quests for Jesus; Strauss, 19-89 [Neufeld, 11-79]. Note that there are web sites on the synoptic problem and on Q—and on most other subjects we will study. Spend at least twenty minutes browsing the NT Gateway website (<http://www.ntgateway.com>) for material pertinent to this course, i.e., material specifically on the Gospels, Gospel criticism, textual criticism, Judaism, the Qumran Scrolls, rabbinic material, etc.

Read Martin Kähler, “Against the Life-of-Jesus Movement,” in *The Historical Jesus in Recent Research*, ed. James D. G. Dunn and Scot McKnight, pp. 67-84; and R. Bauckham, “For Whom Were the Gospels Written,” in *The Gospels for All Christians*, ed. Richard Bauckham, pp. 9-48.

Sept 2 Gospels Criticism and Quests for Jesus

Read Strauss, 347-398 [Burrige, 1-32]; Scot McKnight, “Jesus of Nazareth,” in *The Face of New Testament Studies*, ed. Scot McKnight and Grant R. Osborne, pp. 149-176; and N. T. Wright, “Five Gospels but No Gospel: Jesus and the Seminar,” in *Authenticating the Activities of Jesus*, ed. Bruce Chilton and Craig A. Evans, pp. 83-120.

Be prepared for a quiz on Hermeneutics, Gospels Criticism, and Quests for Jesus on Sept 9.

Sept 7 Labor Day—No Class

Sept 9 and 14 Jewish Background of the NT

Read the handouts, Strauss, 92-167 [Neufeld, 81-101].

Read from the Apocrypha: 1 Maccabees 1-4; Wisdom of Solomon 1-7; and Sirach 1-5.

Read Tractate *Pesahim* in Danby’s translation of the *Mishnah*. **Compare** the length of *Pesahim* in the *Babylonian Talmud*.

Read *The Manual of Discipline* (1QS) columns 1-5 in F. G. Martínez and E. J. C. Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*, pp. 71-83 or in Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, pp. 72-80 (he uses the title “The Community Rule”).

Sept 16 and 21 The Use of the OT in the NT

Hermeneutical Presuppositions and Jewish Methods

Luke 4:18-22

Be ready for the second quiz on Sept 21. The quiz, which may be on line, will cover Judaism and the use of the OT in the NT. You will be expected to know the following:

- The major persons and events of the Maccabean War
- The major parties in Judaism and their beliefs
- The major features of the chronology from 200 B.C. to 30 A.D.
- The distinctions between the Herods
- The geography of Palestine in the first century.

Sept 23 and 24 Lund Lectures—Class will meet on the 23rd. Attendance at the lectures is required.

Sept 23 Overview of the Gospels

Read the handout and Strauss, 170-296 [Neufeld, 103-123; Burrige, 155-345—this reading may be spread over the next few weeks].

Sept 28 The Kingdom of God Group E has primary responsibility for discussion

Read the handout on the kingdom, Strauss, 399-447 [Neufeld, 125-157], and George Eldon Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, 2d ed., 54-88.

Optional: read my article on the gospel of Jesus posted on Blackboard and/or Bruce Chilton, *Pure Kingdom: Jesus' Vision of God*, pp. 45-101.

Sept 30 The Kingdom of God

Read Strauss, 297-343 [Burrige, 33-79] and Craig L. Blomberg, "John and Jesus," in *The Face of New Testament Studies*, ed. Scot McKnight and Grant R. Osborne, pp. 209-226.

John 3:3-8 and Luke 17:20-24. Groups A and B assigned John 3:3-8 and Luke 17:20-24 respectively should be ready to discuss these texts.

Oct 5 The Sermon on the Mount

Read pp. 35-154 from Bonhoeffer's *Cost of Discipleship*. If you have read this recently, as an alternative read Charles H. Talbert, *Reading the Sermon on the Mount*, pp. 3-146. Those not reading Strauss: **Read** Neufeld, 199-227.

Read Markus Bockmuehl, *This Jesus: Martyr, Lord, Messiah*, pp. 125-144 ("How Did Jesus Pray?").

Oct 7 Discussion and Reflection and Law in Matt, esp. 5:17-20 and 19:16-26.

Shaking of the Foundations?

Groups C and D assigned Matt 5:17-20 and 19:16-26 respectively should be ready to discuss these texts.

Read the handouts

Oct 12-16: FALL BREAK—NO CLASSES

Oct 19 Law in Matt continued and Divorce and Remarriage Group F has primary responsibility

Read the pamphlet *Divorce and Remarriage* (on the Covenant's website)

First stage of research paper is due Oct 19.

Oct 21 Introduction to Parables Group G has primary responsibility

Read the handout, Strauss, 447-454 [Neufeld, 159-182].

Optional: Read my article on "Anaideia and the Friend at Midnight" posted on Bb.

Oct 26 Parables and Mark 4:10-12

Group E assigned Mark 4:10-12 should be ready to discuss this text.

Oct 28 and Nov 2 Miracles Group H has primary responsibility

First Test covering everything from the overview of the Gospels through parables (This test may be online)

Read the handout, Strauss, 455-468 [Neufeld, 183-198].

Nov 4 and 9 Christology, especially in relation to Matt 11:25-30 and 16:13-20

Read the handouts, Strauss, 469-491 [Neufeld, 291-328].

Groups F and G assigned Matt 11:25-30 and 16:13-20 respectively should be ready to discuss these texts.

Second stage of research paper is due on Nov 4.

Nov 11 Christology, esp. Son of Man

Read Martin Hengel, “Jesus, the Messiah of Israel: The Debate about the ‘Messianic Mission’ of Jesus,” in *Authenticating the Activities of Jesus*, ed. Bruce Chilton and Craig A. Evans, pp. 323-349.

Nov 16 Discipleship

Read the handout

Nov 18 Cleansing of the Temple and Matt 21:12-17

Read the handout and Strauss, 493-509 [Neufeld, 229-265].

Group H assigned Matt 21:12-17 should be ready to discuss this text.

Nov 23 Lord’s Supper (Instructor at SBL)

Do the online tasks answering the questions about the Lord’s Supper (details later) and read the handout.

Nov 25 Jesus’ Future Expectation

Read the handout

Nov 30 and 2 The Crucifixion of Jesus and the Significance of his Death Groups A, B, C, and D have primary responsibility

Read the handouts.

Research paper is due Nov 30 with grace until Dec 4.

Dec 7 Resurrection Groups E, F, G, and H have primary responsibility

Read the handout, Strauss, 511-525 [Neufeld, 267-290] and N. T. Wright, “Jesus Resurrection and Christian Origins,” *Gregorianum* 83 (2002): 615-635, mirroring his much larger work *The Resurrection of the Son of God*.

Dec 9 Study Day (I can meet with the class if desired.)

Dec 10 or 11 Second Test during the Final Exam period

VII. EXTRA CREDIT—Two points will be added to your final average if before Dec 11 you:

1. Read the following primary sources

a. Psalms of Solomon 17-18

b. Testament of the 12 Patriarchs, Testaments of Levi and Judah

(a-b can be found in James H. Charlesworth, ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*

c. IQH (The Thanksgiving Hymns) columns 4-5

d. 1QpHab (Peshier on Habakkuk)

(For c-d see the translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls by F. G. Martínez and E. J. C. Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition* or Vermes or Gaster)

e. Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XVIII.55-64 and 116-119 (Loeb edition)

f. Tractate *Aboth* in the *Mishnah* (ed. Danby)

g. Tractate *Shabbath* in the *Mishnah* (ed. Danby)

h. Philo, *On the Posterity of Cain and His Exile*, 1-11 (Loeb vol. 2)

i. Read the first ten pages of the *Babylonian Talmud* on Tractate *Shabbath* (*bShabbath*)

j. The Targums on Genesis 1:1 (Onkelos, Fragment, and Pseudo-Jonathan in Etheridge’s translation)

k. The Gospel of Thomas 1-25 (ed. Guillaumont et al.) or the translation at the back of the Greek version of Aland’s Synopsis.

or

EXTRA CREDIT—Three points will be added to your final average if before Dec 11 you

2. Read **and** provide a three page reflection on four hundred pages from *The Historical Jesus in Recent Research* (ed. by James Dunn and Scot McKnight; Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbraun's, 2005). Read critically!

or

3. Read **and** provide a three page reflection on *The Jesus Legend: A Case for the Historical Reliability of the Synoptic Jesus Tradition* by Paul Rhodes Eddy and Gregory A. Boyd (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007). Read critically!

Other options can be arranged with the instructor. The maximum extra credit is three points.

VIII. GRADING

Greek translation or alternative reading

10%

Reading, paper on spiritual formation, class involvement

10%

Quizzes One and Two

20%

Tests One and Two

30%

Paper

30%

Summary of requirements:

1. Read the Gospels!
2. Greek translation or substitute reading
3. Reading of handouts (approximately 100 pages), works from the Apocrypha (27 pages), *Pesahim* in the *Mishnah* (15 pages), *The Manual of Discipline* (7 pages), Strauss (approx. 475 pages), the section from Bonhoeffer's *Cost of Discipleship* (120 pages), the pamphlet on Divorce and Remarriage (17 pages), and assigned articles (about 240 pages). (About 1000 pages total.)
4. A five page paper on John's assault on your ego
5. A one page analysis of a specific text (Matt 5:17-20; 11:25-30; 16:13-20; 19:16-22; 21:12-17; or Mark 4:10-12)

6. The three part research assignment

7. Two quizzes and two tests

