BN9009W  Paul, the Cross-shaped Church and its Mission

Offered: 2016: Semester 1 (Also available online – see BN9709W)

This unit will examine the call of the church to participate in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus according to Paul’s letters. The students will study key passages in Romans, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, and other Pauline letters concerning the call of the church to be conformed to the crucified Christ. The unit will explore the concept of participation in Christ and its interrelationship with the mission of the church in the Pauline corpus. More specifically, the unit will survey the outworking of the corporate life of cruciform Christ-communities in the first century, which includes hospitality, multi-ethnic harmony, economic justice, peace-making, faithful witness, and the embodiment of the justice of God in the context of the Roman Empire.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Articulate Paul’s understanding of conformity with the crucified Christ and its relationship to the call and mission of the church.
2. Critically analyse relevant texts in the Pauline corpus in their rhetorical and socio-historical context.
3. Identify and articulate elements of Pauline thought and teaching that are interconnected with participation in Christ’s death and resurrection.
4. Critically evaluate, through independent research, the concept of “participation in Christ” in view of recent developments in Pauline scholarship.
5. Reflect critically on the implications of the Pauline concept of conformity with the crucified Christ for the mission of the church today.

Prerequisites: Foundational uni in New Testament (BN8001W or equivalent)

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment: One 1,000 word thematic tutorial paper (20%)
One 2,500 word exegetical essay (40%)
One 2,500 word thematic essay (40%)

Faculty: Siu Fung Wu

Recommended Reading:
= set texts recommended for purchase

[Previously published by Berlin: Alfred Töpelmann, 1967.]