BN9033W Romans: Suffering and Justice

Offered: 2017: Intensive – June

This unit explores Paul's letter to the Roman house churches in the context of mid-first century life in the Imperial Capital. It focuses on Paul's theology of suffering and how his rhetoric addresses the situation of the urban population of Rome, generating hope for those from many nations enslaved in the service of the powerful. The Gospel of the righteousness (justice) of God revealed through Jesus Christ for Jews and Gentiles will be read and interpreted in the context of recent reconstructions of life in Imperial Rome.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Articulate the major interpretations of Romans in Pauline scholarship.
2. Describe and defend a plausible socio-political and cultural setting for the Roman house ekklesiai.
3. Outline a reasonable rhetorical structure and strategy for Paul's letter to Rome.
4. Exegete selected texts from Romans competently (with a focus on chapters 5–8 and 12–16), employing a range of appropriate exegetical methodologies.
5. Give a critical account of Pauline theology in Romans, including its christological, ecclesiological, pneumatological, missiological and eschatological dimensions.
6. Identify and critically discuss ways in which the interpretation of Romans has implications for social justice issues both locally and globally.

Prerequisites: Foundation unit in New Testament (BN8001W or equivalent)

Class Time: 6 days (2 x 3 days)

Assessment:
- One 1,000 word seminar paper (20%)
- One 2,000 word thematic essay (30%)
- One 3,000 word exegetical essay (50%)

Faculty: Siu Fung Wu

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase