

# The Institute for Catechesis and Formation

## *Course Outline for Students*



## **ICF 103 – The New Testament**

God’s covenant of love with the human person is fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ. This course picks up the “Story of Salvation” in its fulfillment in the coming of Christ and the establishment of His Church. It will begin with an introduction to the Gospels, Apostolic preaching and the origins of the Church, and conclude with the conversion, preaching and travels of St. Paul.

**Texts:** The Bible: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/>

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC): <http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc.htm>

### **Supplemental Reading/Additional Resources:**

St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology: <http://www.salvationhistory.com/>

# Week 1: Origins of Scripture and the New Testament

Weekly Reading Before Class: CCC 101 -130; Mark 1-3;4:26-32; 8:22-38; 9:1-8, 30-32; 10:13-16, 32-34

## What is the Bible?

- The word of God
- God’s revelation of Himself to us
- God makes Himself *known* to us through a gradual process
- God reveals Himself in order to enter into a relationship with us

## Biblical Authorship

- Divine inspiration
- Human authorship

## The Canon of Scripture

Canon (Greek) – “rule”

The Church is the authority on the Canon of Scripture (which books are authentically works of God’s Revelation).

## Biblical Interpretation (CCC 115-118)

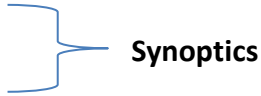
The Church employs certain principles when interpreting Sacred Scripture, taking into account:

- The sacred author’s intention
- The content and unity of the whole of Scripture
- Reading Scripture within the living Tradition of the whole Church
- Being attentive to the analogy of faith

## The New Testament

### I. Gospels (“good news”) and Acts–

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts of the Apostles



### II. New Testament Letters –

Romans  
1&2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1&2 Thessalonians  
1&2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews

### III. Catholic Letters –

James

1&2 Peter

1, 2 & 3 John

Jude

Revelation

### Formation of the New Testament

- Inspiration
- Canon of Scripture
- Apocrypha

4 Main Criteria for inclusion in the canon:

1. Author
2. Date
3. Content
4. Significance

*Gospel* (oral proclamation of the *good news*) – evangelion

*Message* (preaching of the Kingdom by Jesus, and the apostolic preaching) – kerygma

### The Gospels

#### Mark

Authorship

- By Tradition, Jerusalem youth, probably a Gentile Christian (Acts 12:12, 25 "John Mark")
- Missionary with Paul (Acts 13:5, 13; 15:36-40; 2 Tim 4:11; Philemon 1:24)

Audience:

- Persecuted Christian community, likely in Rome (or possibly Alexandria); non-Jews

Dates:

- 65-70 AD

Style:

- Grammatically poor/sentence structure and vocabulary simple
- Written quickly; Christians in the midst of persecution
- Jesus is a man of actions more than words (18 miracles and 4 parables) and is traveling constantly.

Major Themes

- Kingdom of God
- Discipleship

- Suffering of Christ
- *The Way*
- Christ travelling

#### Identity of Jesus

- Jesus' deeds reveal who He is
- Messianic secret
- Suffering Messiah
- Focus on human nature, build to divinity
- Son of God

## **Week 2: The Gospels – Matthew and Luke**

**Weekly Reading Before Class: Matthew 1; 2:13-23; 5-9:34; 10; 12-13; 18-19; 24-25**

**Luke 1:31-33, 68-79; 2:30-38; 3:21-38; 4:14-15; 5:12-32; 7:11-17, 36-50; 9:46-48; 10:25-42; 11:27-28; 13:10-17; 15; 16:19-31; 17:11-19**

### **Matthew**

Author:

- By Tradition, Apostle
- Galilean tax collector

Audience:

- Educated Jews who believe in Jesus and are arguing with other Jews

Dates:

- 75-90 AD

Style:

- Semitic influence
- Concerned with the Law (ex. Mt 19) and how He is the fulfillment of the Law
- Some Christian polemic against the Jews

Major Themes:

- Old Testament/fulfillment in Christ
- Kingdom and Church
- Prophecy and fulfillment.
- Genealogy is concerned with Jewish custom
- Slower pace

Identity of Jesus:

- Son of David
- Teacher
- Lord
- Fulfiller of the Law/Giver of the New Law
- Emmanuel
- Parallels to Moses
- Proclamation of the Kingdom

## **Luke**

### Author:

- By Tradition, physician & companion of Paul
- Likely a well-educated Gentile Christian convert
- Beloved physician

### Audience:

- Gentile Christians in an urban setting

### Dates:

- 75-90AD

### Style:

- Elegant, literary
- Sophisticated language and knowledge of Jewish customs.
- Downplays the role of the Romans in Jesus' death

### Major Themes

- Along with John, Luke speaks the most about Mary
- Gospel of mercy, of the marginalized
- Women and the poor are prominent
- Theology of glory – the Cross is a glorious opportunity for God to break into history
- Covenant, Kingdom of God, Messiah

### Identity of Jesus:

- Man of Compassion
- Savior
- Prophet

## **Week 3: The Gospel of John; the Early Church**

**Weekly Reading Before Class: John 1:1-18; 6:22-68; 18-21; Acts 2; 7; 9; 14-15**

### **John**

Author:

- By Tradition, son of Zebedee; one of 12 apostles
- The “beloved disciple”

Audience:

- Mostly Jews, some Gentiles, Samaritans

Dates:

- 90’s

Style:

- Sophisticated, highly symbolic

Christology:

- Emphasis on the divinity of Christ

Major Themes:

- Discipleship
- *Signs*
- Bread of Life
- Resurrection

The identity of Jesus

- Preexistent One
- “I am” statements
- Christ, Messiah
- Lamb of God
- Possessor of God’s glory

### **Apostolic Tradition**

Following the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Apostles carry on the proclamation of the Gospel. The Apostolic Tradition is the foundation of Christianity

- Kerygma (proclamation/preaching)
- The Gospel is proclaimed orally before being written
- Belief is affirmed when people hear the Word proclaimed and become baptized

### **The Acts of the Apostles**

Author:

Luke (Gospel Evangelist; co-worker of Paul)

Dates:

- 64, or 75-85

Major Themes:

- Initial history of the early Church
- Account of the first Council (Jerusalem; Acts 15; Gal 2)
- First martyrdom for faith in Christ (Acts 7)
- The conversion of Paul (Acts 9)

**Pentecost** (Acts 2: 1-13; CCC 736-745)

**Now those who had been scattered went about preaching the word Acts 8:4**



## **Week 4: The Preaching of Paul**

**Weekly Reading Before Class: Philippians 2:5-11; 3:4-11; Galatians 1:11-18; 5:4-5; 6:14-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-18; 5:3-4; 15; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Colossians 1:15-20; 3:9-10; Romans 1:1-4; 5-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-15**

### **Paul**

**Saul:** Pharisee, strict interpreter of the Law

- Born in Tarsus around 6 BC
- Committed Jew and Pharisee, and a Roman citizen
- Persecuted Jewish Christians because they were fellow Jews who became apostates

### **Saul's Conversion**

- *Saul becomes Paul*
- Paul saw Christ, who called him by name to be a disciple.
- Paul is not one of the original 12 Apostles, but this direct, personal call by Christ gives him the authority to preach.
- After meeting with Peter and others in Jerusalem, Paul begins to write letters to the Church communities.
- Paul is the Apostle to the Gentiles

### **Pauline Epistles (Letters)**

- Paul writes his letters in to exhort the Church communities and offer correction
- Paul used scribes to write many of his letters
- Letters are meant to be read aloud to the assembly

### **Structure of the Epistle**

- Greeting
- Health wish/Prayer
- Body of Letter
- Closing/Farewell

### **Major themes**

- Messiah
- Righteousness
- Justification
- Cross, Resurrection, and Parousia.

### **Identity of Jesus**

- 1 Cor 15: 1-8, 20-28
- Phil 2: 6-8