

Canadian Theological Seminary  
**Life in The Spirit**  
NT 571

Course Syllabus  
Winterim, 2003  
Instructor: Dr Paul Spilsbury

## Course Description

This course seeks to understand the theological underpinnings of Christian spiritual and ethical life as they are set forth in the different writings of the New Testament. Particular attention will be paid to the writings of the apostle Paul, though other parts of the New Testament will be studied as well. Both theoretical and practical issues will be explored.

## Course Objectives

Students may expect:

- To increase their understanding of the theology of the major Pauline epistles as it bears upon issues related to Christian devotion and practice.
- To begin to learn about the “spirituality” of the various writers of the New Testament.
- To be given the opportunity to reflect together on practical aspects of living out the insights of the New Testament.
- To gain the means to assess, from a New Testament point of view, both historical movements and current trends in Christian spirituality and ethics.

## Required Texts

There are no required texts for this class. A reading list of library materials will be provided in class.

## Course Requirements

1. Complete the Interactive Notebook Assignment

This assignment will be completed during the week of “Winterim” in class time. This exercise is designed to help you interact with the course material and with other members of the class. Its aim is to give you an opportunity to reflect more deeply about specific biblical passages and issues and to engage with your fellow students and the instructor on the issues that are raised.

At various points throughout the week you will be assigned a concept or a passage from the New Testament to reflect upon. You will be asked to write a short “commentary” or “reflection” on this, discussing its key elements and significance. After this has been completed you will exchange your Notebook with another student and read the comments of the other student. You will then enter a response comment or reflection in the other student’s Notebook and sign your name clearly.

From time to time you will be asked to read out the comments you have made either in your own Notebook or in the Notebook of another student.

### *Grading of Notebooks*

All Notebooks will be handed in on the last day of the course. The comments you make in your own Notebook as well as the comments you make in others’ Notebooks will be graded.

2. Read 1000 pages from the Reading List, and submit an annotated bibliography of this reading.

The annotations should include brief summaries of and interaction with the reading. Summary and interaction should total approximately 12 pages (typed, double-spaced).

The Reading List will be provided in class. All of this material will be available in the library.

3. Write a 3500-word research paper on one of the following topics:
  - a. Discuss some aspect of the Old Testament foundations of New Testament Spirituality. Draw specific links between the Old Testament and key New Testament passages and show how the two Testaments are related to each other on the subject(s) you have chosen.
  - b. Write a paper on Jesus' prayer life as it is portrayed in the Synoptic Gospels. What relevance does this have for Christian spirituality today?
  - c. Write a paper on one of the Gospels’ pictures of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
  - d. Write an essay on aspects of Christian spirituality as they are portrayed in the book of Acts.
  - e. Write an essay on the images of the Christian life given in the book of Hebrews (Sabbath rest, pilgrimage etc.).

- f. Write an essay on the “spirituality of works,” drawing especially on the epistle of James.
- g. Write an essay on “apocalyptic spirituality,” reflecting especially on the relevance of the book of Revelation for the Christian life.

Your paper should show evidence of careful reading both of the New Testament and a significant number of secondary sources (commentaries, monographs, articles, etc.). When I read your paper I will be looking for general knowledge of the subject you have chosen, careful reflection on its relevance for Christian life and practice, and clarity of argument and expression. It is imperative that you always acknowledge the sources of your information and insights in the form of footnotes or in-text notes. You should also provide a full bibliography of works consulted at the end of your paper. Do not exceed the word limit.

## Grading

Interactive Notebook:	20%
Annotated Bibliography:	40%
Research Paper:	40%

## General Information

### Due Dates:

- The interactive Notebook is due on the last day of class.
- Students expecting to graduate in April 2003 must submit all remaining assignments by 5.00 p.m. on **4<sup>th</sup> April**.
- All other students must submit work by 5.00 p.m. on **18<sup>th</sup> April**.

### Submission of Assignments:

- Off-campus students may submit their assignments to: The Extension Education Office, CBC/CTS, 4400 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Regina SK, S4T 0H8 **or** directly to the instructor in the form of e-mail attachments in either Word or Word Perfect format. My e-mail address is paul.spilsbury@cbccts.ca
- On-campus students should submit their work via the assignments slot at the switchboard.
- Those who require their work to be mailed to them off-campus must submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope of sufficient size and postage.
- Work that is unclaimed and/or undeliverable will be held for one year from the due date after which it will be destroyed.

### Extensions:

- Students who do not hand in their course work by the due date may apply in writing, before the due date, to the Extension Education office for one eight week extension for a fee of \$50. This extension period will begin immediately following the original due date. Additional extensions will not be granted. Please address any questions to the Director of Extension Education.
- Work submitted late without an extension will be penalized by 5% per day.

Attendance:

- Attendance at all class sessions is strongly recommended.

Students who miss more than 20% of scheduled class time will not be eligible to receive a passing grade for the course.