

Interpreting and Misinterpreting Paul

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 504 Tech Drive, Ruston, Louisiana

www.rustonredeemer.org

The Rev. Frank W. Hughes, Ph.D.

Sundays, 9:15—10:05 a.m., September 20—November 15, 2026

The Apostle Paul's letters are the earliest existing writings by Christians. Their interpretation—concerning salvation, baptism, the roles of women, authority in the church, and Christian behavior, for example—has always been important for the church and for societies. In this class we will take a careful look at some of Paul's letters, how they have been misinterpreted, and how they are most reasonably interpreted in light of current historical understandings of Paul, Paul's theology, and ancient letter writing.

September 20	The Paul of Acts and the Paul of the Letters (Acts 15; Galatians 2)
September 27	The Early Paul and his Mission to Gentiles (1 Thessalonians; Galatians 1:16)
October 4	Paul and the Roles of Women in Christian Ministry (Romans 16:1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16; 1 Corinthians 14:33b-36)
October 11	Paul and Ethics (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-20)
October 18	Free Discussion
October 25	Ethics and the Big Picture of Romans (Romans 12:1-15:13 and 1:26-27)
November 1	Who's in Charge Here? (1 Corinthians 12:4-31; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-23; Titus 1:5-14)
November 8	"You Have Heard of My Earlier Life in Judaism" (Galatians 1:13-16, 2:15; Philippians 3:4-6; Romans 7:12-14)
November 15	Did Paul Consider Himself a Miserable Sinner? (Romans 7:7-25; Philippians 3:4-13)