

**Church of God of Prophecy**  
*Northeast Region*

**The Cross & Joy of Ministry:  
The Message of Philippians for Today**

**May 14-18, 2018**

**Professor: Bishop Wallace R. Pratt, BA, MA, Ph.D.**  
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## I. Course Objectives-

- A. An expository and practical analysis of *The Epistle to the Philippians* for today
- B. The development of a Christian mindset (*phronesis*) in light of the teachings of *The Epistle to the Philippians*
- C. A better understanding of the Christian ministry in view of its struggles and joys
- D. The development of a biblical ethic in the personal and social conduct of the ministry

## II. Required Texts- Each student must read the *Epistle to the Epistles* from the New Testament at least five times in at least two different translations.

The following book can be acquired from Christian Books Distributor or Amazon.com

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship* (Touchstone Book, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1937 [1995])

**ISBN: 0684815001**

**ISBN-13: 9780684815008**

**Price = \$7.99**

**at \*Christian Book Distributor**

**III. Recommended Books-** The following books would greatly aid the students in preparing for this course, but are not required. These can be obtained at Amazon.com or at Christian Books Distributor.

Fee, Gordon D. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians* (The New International Bible Commentary on the New Testament; Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1995)

**ISBN: 0802825117**

**ISBN-13: 9780802825117**

**Price = \$30.99**

**at \*Christian Book Distributor**

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Letters and Papers from Prison* (Touchstone Book, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1953 [1997])

**ISBN: 0-684-83827-3**

**Order #109-8424548-4453868**

**Price = \$12.30**

**at Amazon.com**

Villafaña, Eldin. *Beyond Cheap Grace: A Call to Radical Discipleship, Incarnation, and Justice* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2006)

**ISBN: 08286323X**

**ISBN-13: 9780802863232**

**Price = \$10.99**

**at \*Christian Book Distributor**

#### **IV. Course Requirements:**

- A. Attendance and Punctuality
- B. Class Participation
- C. Required Bible and Book Reading
- D. Assignments (prior to course)

Based on the required reading, bibliographical resources, and your knowledge and experience, you need to prepare a summary paper (2-3 pages) on one of the following themes: (Choose only one theme)

- The Characteristics of a Christian leader according to *Philippians*.
- The Gospel in the conduct of the Christian facing opposition and suffering in ministry.
- *The Epistle to the Philippians* is viewed as a "letter of friendship." What does it teach us about Christian friendship and the ministry?
- The Christian mindset according to *Philippians* and our contemporary ministry.

#### **The Joy of Ministry: The Message of Philippians for Today (Course Outline)**

##### I. Introduction to Course:

- A. "Knowing Each Other"
- B. Course Objectives and Requirements (Syllabus)

##### II. *The Epistle to the Philippians*

- A. Introduction to the Epistle
- B. Philippians and Reflections on its key Characters: Study Group and plenary exercises
- C. The Christian Mindset (*Phronesis*)
- D. Authentic Joy: Study Group and plenary exercises
- E. The Cross: Cruciformity and the Philippian Paradigm
- F. Marks of Authentic Community (*Koinonia*)
- G. Philippians and "Our Contemporary Ministry"

##### III. *The Epistle to the Philippians*: Biblical Reflections (Study Group) plenary exercises

- A. *Philippians* 1: 1-11
- B. *Philippians* 1: 12-30
- C. *Philippians* 2: 1-11
- D. *Philippians* 2: 12-18
- E. *Philippians* 2: 19-30
- F. *Philippians* 3: 1-11
- G. *Philippians* 3: 12-21
- H. *Philippians* 4: 1-9
- I. *Philippians* 4: 10-23

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY/BIBLIOGRAFIA (Selective)**

*The Bible: The Epistle to the Philippians*

Bakirtzis, Charalambos, and Koester, Helmut. *Philippi at the Time of Paul and After His Death* (Trinity Press International, Harrisburg, PA., 1998)

Barth, Karl. *The Epistle to the Philippians* (John Knox Press, Richard, Virginia, 1962)

Bockmuehl, Markus. *The Epistle to the Philippians* (Black's New Testament Commentary, Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, 1998)

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship* (Touchstone Book, Simon & Schuster, New York, (1937), 1995)

\_\_\_\_\_. *Letters and Papers from Prison* (Touchstone (1953), 1997)

Bruce, F.F. *Philippians* (New International Bible Commentary; Peabody, 1989)

Fee, Gordon D. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians* (The New International Bible Commentary on the New Testament; Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1995)

\_\_\_\_\_. *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul* (Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA. 1994)

Fernando, Ajith. *The Call to Joy and Pain: Embracing Suffering in your Ministry* (Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 2007)

Hawthorne, Gerald F. *Philippians* (Word Biblical Commentary; Waco, TX, 1983)

Martin, Ralph P. *Philippians* (New Century Bible Commentary; Grand Rapids, 1980)

Motyer, J.A. *The Message of Philippians* (Bible Speaks Today; Downers Grove, 1984)

O'Brien, Peter T. *Commentary on Philippians* (New International Greek Testament Commentary; Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1991)

Reumann, John. *Philippians* (The Anchor Yale Bible; Yale University Press, New Haven, 2008)

Silva, Moises. *Philippians* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament; Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, 1992)

Villafaña, Eldin. *Beyond Cheap Grace: A Call to Radical Discipleship, Incarnation, and Justice* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI., 2006)