

Paper: THO 3161 Gospel interpretation: Mark

INSTRUCTIONS:

Provide an exegesis of a *pericope* that you have chosen and that the professor has approved.

The paper should reflect your exegetical research, without mirroring it.

Please include in your paper a sheet with your text and pertinent Synoptic parallels, coloured as indicated in class.

Length: 5-10 pages (double-spaced).

Formatting: please see course WWW site for information.

I encourage you to submit your paper electronically. (You may do so in one of the following forms: .DOC, .RTF, .PDF, .TXT).

Due: no later than the beginning of class (9 AM), March 14.

What is involved in an exegesis? For your purposes, you need to choose a passage from Mark 1:1 – 8:26 and then:

1. Establish the relationship between the *pericope* and the larger Gospel of Mark.
2. Analyze the “philological” elements of the text (i.e., words used, syntax and grammar, possible meanings of disputed words, etc.).
3. Establish what historical and cultural matters need to be discussed for a proper interpretation of the text, and then explore them.
4. (Where pertinent) Discuss the differences from the other Synoptic Gospels and the significance of those differences for understanding this text.
5. Explore the range of scholarly opinion in regard to this *pericope*, and, in the paper, present and evaluate that range.
6. Establish a theological perspective in light of the research that you have done in 1-5.

For further reflections, please see the following (among other possible aids):

- G. D. Fee, New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors (Revised edition; Philadelphia: Westminster and John Knox, 1993).
- J. H. Hayes and C. R. Holladay, Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook (3rd ed.; Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007).
- See also:
 - Boston University School of Theology Library, [Steps in Doing Exegesis](#)
 - University of St. Thomas, [Biblical Exegesis](#)