

COURSE SYLLABUS  
Gospels and Acts  
0NT512, 4 hours  
J. Knox Chamblin, Th. D.  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

*Professor*

J. Knox Chamblin is Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS. He earned the B.D. and the Th.M. degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and the Th.D. degree from Union Theological Seminary. Dr. Chamblin is the author of *Proclaiming the New Testament: Romans and Paul and the Self*, as well as a contributor to *Continuity and Discontinuity* and *The Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*.

*Course Description*

This course is designed to cover the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Attention is given to each writer's literary art, theological teaching, pastoral purposes, and message for today's church and world.

*Required Textbooks*

Chamblin, J. Knox. *A Commentary on the Gospel According to Matthew*. Jackson, MS: RTS, 1989.

Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990. *Holy Bible* (either NASB, NIV, KJV, NKJV, or RSV).

Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Revised edition. Ed. by Donald A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <[www.rts.edu/bookstore](http://www.rts.edu/bookstore)>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS  
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*Online Student Handbook*

The Online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located on the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

*Requirements in Brief*

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

Follow the Study Guide provided.

Listen to all recorded lectures.

Complete all readings.

Take three examinations.

*Examinations (Exam 1: 30% of final grade; Exam 2: 30%; Exam 3: 35%)*

There are three examinations for this course. The first exam will cover lessons 1-4: Introduction, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The second exam will cover lesson 5. The third exam will cover lesson 6. The third exam will also include a matching section, where you will be required to fill in the blank by matching a quote from the book of Acts with the missing word. This could be a person's name or place. A reasonably thorough study of the book of Acts as well as your notes should adequately prepare you.

You will be allowed 90 minutes for each exam (for exam three - 3 hours), and you are not allowed to use any helps during the exam—not even a Bible (except for exam two). The tests will consist of both objective-style and essay questions, which will be based primarily on the developing and evaluating questions at the end of each lesson in the study guide.

All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu/>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

*Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)*

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

### *Assignments*

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments . Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: [vcstudentservices@rts.edu](mailto:vcstudentservices@rts.edu)).

### *Time Limit*

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

### *Contact Information*

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1-800-227-2013  
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Web site: <http://virtual.rts.edu/>

COURSE OUTLINE  
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*Section 1: Introduction*

The Word of God  
The Gospel of God  
The Documents  
Interpreting the Gospels  
Course Syllabus

*Section 2: Mark*

A Literary Approach  
An Historical Approach  
A Thematic Approach

*Section 3: Matthew*

A Literary and Theological Art

*Section 4: Luke*

A Literary and Theological Art  
The Dawn of Salvation: Chapters 1-2  
The Salvation of the Poor: Chapter 4  
The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Chapter 10  
Parables about Lostness: Chapter 15  
Interpreting Scripture: A Literary Analysis  
Jesus and Women  
Jesus' Teachings on Prayer  
Poverty and Wealth  
Teachings on Grace  
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

*Section 5: John, An Historical Overview*

The Prologue: Chapter 1  
The Disclosure of Messiah: Chapter 2  
The Gift of Eternal Life: Chapters 3 and 4  
A Literary Approach (John 5:1-15)  
The Gift of the Holy Spirit  
Christ and the Old Testament  
Belief and Unbelief  
Flesh and Spirit  
The Cross of Christ  
The Raising of Lazarus

The Resurrection of Jesus  
Pastoral Purposes

*Section 6: Acts*

Authorship

The Coming of the Spirit: Chapters 1-2

Life in the Jerusalem Church: Chapters 3-5

The Story of Stephen: Chapters 6-7

The Gospel in Samaria: Chapter 8

Paul's Conversion

The Herods of the New Testament

Literary Analysis of Acts: Chapter 10

Salvation for the Gentiles: Chapters 10-11

The Church at Antioch

Persecution from Herod: Chapter 12

Paul's Missionary Journeys

Paul in Antioch

The Jerusalem Council: Chapter 15

Paul in Athens: Chapter 17

Paul in Ephesus: Chapter 19

Paul's Last Years

Reading from *The Man Born to be King*