

Course: IC303 D(N) Theology of Missions
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2026, Session 1 (8/17-10/9)
Time: MW 9:30-10:50; Online through Canvas
Location: CABRE 100
Instructor: Joshua Paxton, Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu,
(816)679-9387(cell); (816)322-5152 ext. 1353 (office); Office: CABRE

I. DESCRIPTION

A study of the Word of God as set forth through God's promise to Abraham to bless the nations through Jesus Christ and the Church; An application of the Word of God as it relates to the purpose, nature, scope, and current challenges of intercultural ministry.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Understand the biblical basis of missions as a distinctly new phenomenon after Pentecost with different resources to accomplish it. (PLO 1, 2, 3) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
2. Differentiate between a biblical worldview of missions that understands that the church is the focal point of New Testament missions and a postmodern worldview that defines missions as a continuation of God's program for the Jewish nation in the Old Testament. (PLO 1, 2, 3) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Describe how missions was at the center of God's redemptive plan set forth through God's promise to Abraham to bless the nations. (PLO 2) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
2. Explain Christ's model for building the church through the Apostles and subsequent missionaries who would carry the gospel to the nations. (PLO 2) (A 1, 2, 5)
3. Sketch the Apostle Paul's principles and strategies of missions. (PLO 2, 3) (A 1, 2, 5, 7)
4. Compare the church's responsibility for publishing the blessing of Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham, among the nations with Israel's concern for the evangelization of foreign nations. (PLO 2, 3) (A 1, 2, 4, 5, 7)
5. Appraise the magnitude of the previously unavailable resource Christ bestowed

on the church when he sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to carry out missions in order to build the church. (PLO 1, 2, 3) (A 1, 2, 5, 7)

6. Develop the implications of Paul's missionary work for conducting missions in the modern period. (PLO 1, 2, 3) (A 2, 3, 5)

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading

The textbook *A Biblical Theology of Missions* is to be read in its entirety. The book is divided into 8 chapters; for each part the student will write a 2-3-page summary paper of the authors main points to hand in according to the tentative schedule.

Part 1 – Chapters 1 & 2

Part 2 – Chapters 3 & 4

Part 3 – Chapters 5 & 6

Part 4 – Chapters 7 & 8

2. "What is the Mission of the Church?" (5 pages, non-research Turabian)

- Read the textbook and write a 5-page paper in which you evaluate the argument of the book. Do you agree, disagree? Are there significant problems with the author's position?
- Be prepared to discuss the book in class.

3. "God of Justice" (5 pages, non-research Turabian)

- Read the textbook and write a 5-page paper in which you evaluate the argument of the book. Do you agree, disagree? Are there significant problems with the author's position?
- Be prepared to discuss the textbook in class.

4. Exclusivism of Christianity (5 pages, Research format Turabian)

Much of what we do in Missions as Christians is driven by the belief that Christ is the only mediator between God and man. Write a 5-page paper in which you use both Scripture and research to respond to someone who has just told you that "all religions are the same."

5. Personal Theology of Missions (10 pages, Research format Turabian)

The student will write a 10-page research paper outlining their theology of missions. Information for the paper can be gained from the lectures, course notes, textbooks as well as other sources. Use of First Person is allowed. This paper serves as a precursor to the Senior Seminar project in Intercultural Studies in which the student will write an extended philosophy of cross-cultural ministry. Prolific Scripture references are encouraged as well as a discussion of missions in relationship to the church and justice ministries.

6. Discussions

As a Legacy Course the student will watch previously recorded lectures for the course content. The professor will arrange a weekly meeting with the student to discuss the material covered in the lectures and any questions/issues that the student is having. These meetings will be graded for participation.

7. Exam

A Final Exam consisting of 5 Essay Questions will be given at the end of the course.

IV. METHODS

A. In-class methods: listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, writing, and taking tests.

B. Out-of-class methods: reading, writing, research, and studying for tests.

1. Grading:

	Points
1. Reading Summaries.....	200 (50 each)
2. Mission of the Church Paper.....	100
3. God of Justice Paper.....	100
4. Exclusivism of Christianity Paper.....	100
5. Theology of Missions Paper.....	200
6. Discussions.....	200
7. Exam.....	100
Total	1000

2. "See Grading Scale in college catalog"

C. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

D. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.

- E. Late Assignments:** Assignments will be penalized according to the professor's late policy as explained in Canvas.
- F. Plagiarism and AI:** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
- Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via "Turn-It-In". This program automatically gives the student's work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.*
- G. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support
- H. The Clark Academic Center** (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- I. Attendance Policy** – Calvary has no official attendance policy; the attendance policy of the professor will be explained in class and in Canvas.

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS

The Bible (Instructor will use ESV)

George W. Peters. 1984. *A Biblical Theology of Missions*. Chicago: Moody Publishers. ISBN-13: 978-0802407061 (Retail \$22.99, Amazon \$17.97, Kindle \$9.99)

Abraham George and Nikki A. Toyama-Szeto. 2015. *God of Justice*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity. ISBN-13:978-0830810284 (Retail \$16.00, Amazon \$11.76, Kindle \$10.69)

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert. 2011. *What Is the Mission of the Church? Making sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton: Crossway. ISBN-13:978-1433526909 (Retail \$15.99, Amazon\$10.09, Kindle \$9.59)

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

**IC-303 D(N) Theology of Missions
Syllabus, Fall 2026, Session 1**

A schedule will be posted in Canvas prior to the start of class