



**C O V E N A N T**  
T H E O L O G I C A L S E M I N A R Y

**BS 6014 Colossians**

WITH DISSERTATION THEORY OPTION

**Dr. Will Ryan**

# Covenant Theological Seminary

PO Box 1177 Greenville, NC 27835-1177 USA

[www.gocovenant.com](http://www.gocovenant.com)

## COMPLETED WORK IS TO BE SUBMITTED IN A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT

1. A cover page which includes:
  - a. Name of course, author and instructor's name with title
  - b. Student's name, degree working toward, and the date completed
  - c. Facilitator's complete title/name the seminary's name and location (Greenville, NC)
2. Separate page & heading for each new section, capitalized at top center of that page SUMMARY, PRECIS, PAPER
3. All papers are to be typed with .5" margins using font & size: Calibri 11 pt. Summaries and book reports are to be double-spaced
4. Grading will be percentage based on questions, outlines, grammar, and theological and philosophical thought and execution of writing forms.

The file must be in Adobe PDF compatible format or it will be rejected. (5 MB is the maximum file size allowable.) A free PDF writer is available at [www.cutepdfwriter.com](http://www.cutepdfwriter.com). Once this file is installed on your PC, you simply Print the file and select CutePDF Writer as the "printer". You will be asked to name the file and select the location for the file. CutePDF Writer often precedes the file name with the name of the source software (i.e. Microsoft Word).

## COURSE ASSIGNMENT: BS 6014 Colossians

### Textbooks

*Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries Book 12)  
(NT Wright)

ISBN: 978-0830842421

Read the Colossians portion of the commentary.

### Summary:

Colossians presents a picture of Christ who is 'the firstborn over all creation' and has disarmed and triumphed over the powers and authorities. The letter also appeals to its readers to seek humble maturity, a maturity not possible apart from the person and work of Jesus Christ. N. T Wright's stated goal is to "give the text back to the reader uncluttered by a mass of glosses." The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries have long been a trusted resource for Bible study. Written by some of the world's most distinguished evangelical scholars, these twenty volumes offer clear, reliable, and relevant explanations of every book in the New Testament. These Tyndale volumes are designed to help readers understand what the Bible actually says and what it means. The introduction to each volume gives a concise but thorough description of the authorship, date, and historical background of the biblical book under consideration. The commentary itself examines the text section by section, drawing out its main themes. It also comments on individual verses and deals with problems of interpretation. The aim throughout is to get at the true meaning of the Bible and to make its message plain to readers today.

*Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon* (Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary) (Clinton Arnold)

ISBN: 978-0310523055

Read the Colossians portion of the commentary.

### Summary:

Brimming with photos and graphics, the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary walks you verse by verse through all the books of the New Testament. It's like slipping on a set of glasses that lets you read the Bible through the eyes of a first-century reader! Discoveries await you that will snap the world of the New Testament into gripping immediacy. Things that seem mystifying, puzzling, or obscure will take on tremendous meaning when you view them in their ancient context. You'll deepen your understanding of the teachings of Jesus. You'll discover the close, sometimes startling interplay between God's kingdom and the practical affairs of the church. Best of all, you'll gain a deepened awareness of the Bible's relevance for your life. Written in a clear, engaging style, this beautiful set provides a new and accessible approach that more technical expository and exegetical commentaries don't offer.

### 1. WATCH

- Intro and Background: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWp2e1HO7Po&t=4s>
- Colossians 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNBcIoJ6PXk>
- Colossians 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QE3S6pA78Oo>
- Colossians "Works Contract": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34L9x62KIGs>
- Colossians 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7NGAKEOIfI>
- Colossians 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-fPmJ58vCs&t=5s>

## 2. PRECIS

- Write a 2-page reflection and summary for each lecture. Combine into one document.
- Write an overview on Colossians based on information from the textbooks. Pages according to degree work per degree for book report requirement:
  - Master: 5
  - Doctorate: 8

## 3. PAPER

- Write a paper on a pericope (not just 1 verse) from Colossians.
- Minimum pages and citations according to degree work per degree:
  - Master: 5
  - Doctorate: 8

## DOCTORAL RESEARCH STUDENTS DISSERTATION THEORY ASSIGNMENT:

- [Doctor of Theology](#)—ThD (*Requires a Dissertation*)
- [Doctor of Christian Education](#)—DCE (*Requires a Dissertation*)
- [Doctor of Christian Counseling](#)—DCC (*Requires a Dissertation*)

### READ ADDITIONAL TEXTBOOK:

*The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles* (Ben Witherington)

ISBN: 978-0802824882

Read the Colossians portion of the commentary.

### Summary:

This volume completes Ben Witherington's contributions to the set of Eerdmans socio-rhetorical commentaries on the New Testament. In addition to the usual features of these commentaries, Witherington offers an innovative way of looking at Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon as interrelated documents written at different levels of moral discourse. Colossians is first-order moral discourse (the opening gambit), Ephesians is second-order moral discourse (what one says after the opening salvo to the same audience), and Philemon is third-order moral discourse (what one says to a personal friend or intimate). Witherington successfully analyzes these documents as examples of Asiatic rhetoric, explaining the differences in style from earlier Pauline documents. He further shows that Paul is deliberately engaging in the transformation of existing social institutions. As always, Witherington's work is scholarly and engaging. With detailed "Closer Look" sections, *The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians* is perfect for the libraries of clergy, biblical scholars, and seminaries.

ASSIGNMENT DISSERTATION THEORY:

**Record a sermon, podcast, or presentation on the concepts of culture, sociology, or rhetoric within Colossians (or a pericope within Colossians). This should be minimum of 30 mins in length. Upload your project to YouTube (unlisted) and attach the link to the top of your notes and submit for grading. Be sure to cite your sources in your video and on your notes.**

**Please use this LINK as a publications guide**

# Covenant Theological Seminary

PO Box 1177 Greenville, NC 27835-1177 USA

[www.gocovenant.com](http://www.gocovenant.com)

## Course Summary

The letter of Colossians is a short yet powerful letter. It deals with real world issues of culture and the church. The Colossian believers were tempted to move beyond Jesus in order to find spiritual and physical fulfillment in life. Paul writes to this church to put Jesus on display showing them that there is nothing higher and great or more fulfilling than Jesus Christ.

Paul shows how entanglement to the world results in handing yourself over to the Powers of Darkness. But he also reveals that through the work of the cross we've been set free from that kingdom and led into Jesus' kingdom, so he exhorts his audience to no longer live in their former ways or try to add them to their relationship with their savior. Paul's emphasis in Colossians is Jesus plus nothing else.

Paul also gets practical about marriage, parenting, and living in community with other believers. He wants this church to display the example of Jesus in their life together through their participation in Jesus and his life of sacrifice and servanthood. Jesus is our example and the church of Colossae and today are call to embody Him!