



SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

NEW TESTAMENT 2

3.1 Non-Pauline Epistles II: Hebrews, I & II Peter, James & Jude

David Moseley, Ph.D.

We have finally finished Paul! (Both “Genuine” & “Pseud-epigraphical” Paul.) So now we turn to the other cluster of Epistles at the end of the Christian Scriptures. This week we will read through The Letter to the Hebrews (an anonymous, elaborate text that was falsely attributed to Paul for centuries, and thus included in the canon – but now is universally considered to be non-Pauline); the Petrine Epistles, attributed to the Apostle Peter but almost certainly much later and pseudonymous, and each letter written by different authors; Martin Luther’s least favorite text in the New Testament, The Letter of James, which he denounced as a “Letter of Straw” (because of its apparent bias for “Works” over “Faith”); and the teeny tiny Letter of Jude, “the brother of James”, a rushed and impassioned text. These are all *very different* works in terms of Authorship, Dating, Audience, Genre, Purpose, Subject-Matter and overall Theology.

Assignment #10 for Class on Saturday 30th March 2019

Reading

Please read through Hebrews, I & II Peter, James & Jude. I suggest reading the Introductions to the Letters in your Oxford Annotated NRSV Bible beforehand; and then reading through the Letters one by one. Hebrews is a very polished, dense, literary text that requires some time to sink in. Each of the other letters is reasonably short (very short in terms of II Peter and Jude!) and can be read at one sitting. Go back and re-read the Letters again at a subsequent time, using the annotations in your NRSV to help with clarification and interpretation.

Thinking & Responding

For this week’s Response Paper, I’m going to divide up the Epistles between you. It’s not exactly a fair division of material (my apologies) but I’ve done my best:

1. Hebrews – Nancy
2. I Peter - Katherine
3. II Peter – Cindy & Auggie
4. James – Susan
5. Jude – Cindy & Auggie

Please write a Response Paper on your assigned Epistle. Rather than the technical issues of Authorship, Dating, Audience, Genre, etc., I’d prefer you to focus on Subject-Matter and overall Theology. *What Issue is the Author Addressing? How is it being Addressed? And, because he’s such a monumental figure in Early Christianity, how do the Contents of your selected Epistle Relate to the Theology of Paul?* Your Response Paper should be approximately 500 words in total (12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margin, with your name at the top of the paper). **Please e-mail me your papers as MS Word Attachments** so that I can grade them remotely, and send you Feedback and Comments in Track-Change. And come to class ready to Lead Group Discussion on your assigned Epistle.