

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, APRIL/MAY 2008

TITLE OF PAPER : THE GOSPEL TRADITION

COURSE CODE : T4P2/IDE-T4P2

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. CHOOSE ANY FOUR QUESTIONS**
- 3. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- 4. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.**
- 5. PARTS OF A QUESTION MAY BE ANSWERED ON THE SAME PAGE, ALLOWING FOR A SPACE OF THREE LINES IN BETWEEN.**
- 6. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL ACUMEN.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

QUESTION ONE

With regard to **either** the Roman rule **or** the Syrian rule, illustrate how the intertestamental period is an important phenomenon for understanding New Testament events.

[25]

QUESTION TWO

Discuss the possible solutions to the Synoptic Problem. Which of these hypotheses is widely accepted in contemporary scholarship?

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Clearly examine Marcion's theological insight as an impetus to the formation of the New Testament canon.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Give a critical assessment of G.A. Well's claim that "the historical Jesus is a product of pious imagination."

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

To what extent would you agree with the inclusion of the Gospel of Thomas as a canonical Gospel? Discuss.

[25]

QUESTION SIX

Clearly demonstrate the Messianic secret motif in the Gospel of Mark. For what purpose did Mark create this motif?

[25]

QUESTION SEVEN

Choose **one** explicit Christological title in the Gospels and explain its original context and application to Jesus.

[25]

QUESTION EIGHT

Examine the main contours of the structure of the Gospel of John and its interpretation of Jesus. How does John's portrait of Jesus differ from the other Gospels?

[25]

QUESTION NINE

Discuss Jesus' theological perspective in the Gospel of Matthew on divorce and the right use of riches. How relevant are these views to Christians in your particular context?

[25]

QUESTION TEN

"...what strikes most readers of Luke's Gospel is how Jesus' humanity shines through, particularly in his association with and compassion for numerous categories of social outcasts" (Blomberg C.L. 1997:145).

Comment on this assertion, citing relevant examples.

[25]

QUESTION ELEVEN

Compare and contrast Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus and with the Samaritan woman. What is John's purpose in juxtaposing these two episodes?

[25]

QUESTION TWELVE

To what extent did Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cleansing of the Temple exacerbate his arrest, trial and crucifixion?

[25]

THE END
