

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JUNE 2008

TITLE OF PAPER : THE GOSPEL TRADITION

COURSE CODE : T4P2/IDE-T4P2

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS :

1. ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS
2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.
3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.
4. PARTS OF A QUESTION MAY BE ANSWERED ON THE SAME PAGE, ALLOWING FOR A SPACE OF THREE LINES IN BETWEEN.
5. 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

Examine factors that led to the establishment of the Hasmonean Dynasty in 167-63 B.C.E. How is this phenomenon important for understanding the New Testament antagonism between Jews and Gentiles?

[25]

QUESTION TWO

Clearly explain the major motivations for the emergence of the New Testament canon.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Select any three passages from the New Testament Gospels and discuss how your enhanced understanding of Jesus' social and cultural world illuminates the texts.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Argue for or against the Markan priority as a solution to the Synoptic Problem.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

Compare the Matthean and Lukan theological distinctives in the annunciation of the birth of Jesus.

[25]

QUESTION SIX

Give an interpretative commentary of the following central occurrences in Jesus' life:

- a. The baptism
- b. The temptations

[25]

QUESTION SEVEN

From your study of the Gospels, how did Jesus confront the patriarchal structures of the Jewish societies? Support your argument with relevant examples.

[25]

QUESTION EIGHT

Discuss the setting, meaning and significance of the Transfiguration.

[25]

QUESTION NINE

Consider the following topics which Jesus addressed in his theological discourse, and comment on his main emphases on each:

- a. Kingdom
- b. Ethics
- c. Social concern

[25]

QUESTION TEN

How far do you agree with C.H. Dodd's conclusion that parables are true to life and nature? Discuss with examples to support your answer.

[25]

QUESTION ELEVEN

Demonstrate the relationship between the Last Supper and the Passover. How do contemporary Christians celebrate the Last Supper, and what is its significance to them?

[25]

QUESTION TWELVE

Discuss the resurrection of Jesus as a central theme in the Gospel Tradition. What proof do the Gospels present to support the resurrection?

[25]

THE END.
