

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
&  
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**TRS 302 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2014**

**TITLE OF PAPER : Studies in the New Testament II**  
**COURSE CODE : TRS 302**  
**DURATION : 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. The paper consists of three (3) printed pages including the cover page.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

**Question 1**

Discuss factors surrounding letter writing practices in the Greco-Roman world. To what extent do Pauline letters conform to that structure? Illustrate your answer with examples from at least one letter. [20]

**Question 2**

On what basis could the authority of Paul as an apostle be challenged? [20]

**Question 3**

Why did Paul write the letter to Philemon? Do you think Paul was for or against slavery? [20]

**Question 4**

Why is the authenticity of the Pastoral letters strongly contested? Why are the reasons forwarded to dispute the authenticity of those letters problematic? [20]

**Question 5**

Discuss problems behind the destination of Paul's letter to the Galatians? [20]

### Question 6

From the passages below, what inferences could be made about the Second Coming of Christ? Illustrate your answer with any Christian communities of your choice. [20]

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11, RSV**

**13** But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. **15** For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; **17** then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words

**1** But as to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** When people say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. **4** But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5** For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. **6** So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. **7** For those who sleep sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

#### **2 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 12, RSV**

**1** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **3** Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. **5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you this? **6** And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming. **9** The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders, **10** and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **11** Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, **12** so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.