

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

**TRS 301 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2016**

**TITLE OF PAPER : Studies in the New Testament I**  
**COURSE CODE : TRS 301**  
**DURATION : 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

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

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

## **TRS 301 Studies in the New Testament I, (S) July 2016**

### **SECTION A**

#### **Question 1**

Explore the features and emphases that distinguish the gospel of Mark from the other Gospels. [20]

#### **Question 2**

"The notion that the Gospels contain at least some stories that had been changed over the years is not pure speculation; in fact we have hard evidence of this preserved in the gospels themselves" (Ehrman 2008: 62). Using specific examples, demonstrate the extent to which you agree with this position. [20]

#### **Question 3**

To which recipients, from what point of view, and with what purpose was the Gospel of John written? [20]

### **SECTION B**

#### **Question 4**

Do you think the Acts of the Apostles is of any value in the reconstruction of the life of Paul? [20]

#### **Question 5**

Discuss ways in which Acts of the Apostles develops themes in the third gospel. Illustrate your answer with excellent examples. [20]

#### **Question 6**

From the extract provided below, what can be drawn about the followers of Jesus? What do you find intriguing about the response to the accusations? [20]

#### **Paul before Felix at Caesarea**

24 And after five days the high priest Anani'as came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertul'us. They laid before the governor their case against Paul; <sup>2</sup>and when he was called, Tertul'us began to accuse him, saying:

“Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your provision, most excellent Felix, reforms are introduced on behalf of this nation, <sup>3</sup> in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. <sup>4</sup> But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. <sup>5</sup> For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, an agitator among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. <sup>6</sup> He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>8</sup> By examining him yourself you will be able to learn from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

<sup>9</sup> The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all this was so.

### **Paul's Defense before Felix**

<sup>10</sup> And when the governor had motioned to him to speak, Paul replied:

“Realizing that for many years you have been judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. <sup>11</sup> As you may ascertain, it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem; <sup>12</sup> and they did not find me disputing with any one or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues, or in the city. <sup>13</sup> Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. <sup>14</sup> But this I admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the law or written in the prophets, <sup>15</sup> having a hope in God which these themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. <sup>16</sup> So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward men. <sup>17</sup> Now after some years I came to bring to my nation alms and offerings. <sup>18</sup> As I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— <sup>19</sup> they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, if they have anything against me. <sup>20</sup> Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, <sup>21</sup> except this one thing which I cried out while standing among them, ‘With respect to the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you this day.’”

<sup>22</sup> But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lys’ias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.” <sup>23</sup> Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but should have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.