

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : CHRISTIAN THOUGHT, PAST AND PRESENT

COURSE CODE : TRS 307

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- 3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A NEW PAGE.**
- 4. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT.**

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

QUESTION ONE

Describe the religious persecution prosecuted by Antiochus IV (176 BCE) against the Jews. How does this help you understand the tensions between Jews and Gentiles in the 1st century Palestine?

[25]

QUESTION TWO

Explain why Paul of Tarsus is often referred to as "the second founder of Christianity."

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Prior to Constantine's rule, Christians suffered greatly because of their beliefs and practices. To what extent did Constantine's imperial policy lead to the survival and growth of Christianity down the centuries?

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Discuss the debate between Ante Nicene Fathers and Anti Nicene Arians at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. Which side makes sense to you and why?

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

How and why had the Renaissance Church (1450-1535) become so corrupt that by the early 16th century many Christians felt the need for reform?

[25]

QUESTION SIX

Critically analyse the strategies employed by the Roman Catholic Church in an effort to retain its religious authority in a significant part of Europe during the wave of Protestantism.

[25]
