

# *New Testament Theology* and *Early Christian Literature*

*Catholic Bible Institute – Diocese of Orange*  
*June 3, 2017*

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<http://catholic-resources.org>



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**8:45 Opening Prayer & Announcements:** Pre-register for Year 2 (Fall 2017)

**9:00 Session 1 – New Testament Theology/Theologies**

*Small-group Discussion:* Is there an overall “message” in the NT? What is it?  
Types of Theology: God/Trinitarian, Christology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, Soteriology...  
Four Sources of Theology; Development of/in Theology; Hierarchy of Truths  
Theologies of the Four Evangelists  
Theologies of Paul, James, Hebrews, and other NT Writers

10:15 Mid-morning Break

**10:30 Session 2 – Early Christian Literature: An Overview**

Review: Definitions of “Canon” (Bible: OT & NT) & Criteria for Canonicity  
Definitions of “Non-canonical”; “Apocryphal”; “Patristic”; “Pre/Post-Nicene”; etc.  
Ancient Jewish Writings: OT Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha (HO, pg. 1)  
Early Christian Writings: Apocryphal Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Apocalypses (HO, pg. 2)  
Patristic Literature: Letters, Martyrdoms, Apologies, Sermons, etc. (HO, pg. 3)  
Pre-Nicene Writings: Didaché, Epistles of St. Ignatius, Martyrdom of Polycarp (HO, pp. 8-10)  
*Discussion:* *What can we learn from these post-biblical early Christian texts?*

12:00 Potluck Lunch (*Visit Spirituality Building Open House!*)

**1:00 Session 3 – Apocryphal Gospels: More Stories about Jesus**

HO texts, pp. 4-5: Gosp. James, Infancy Gosp. Thomas, Coptic Gosp. Thomas, Gosp. Peter  
PPT also: Gosp. Judas, Gosp. Mary Magdalene, Gosp. Philip  
*Q:* *Why were these Gospels not included in the NT Canon? What is their value for Christians today?*

2:30 Mid-afternoon Break

**2:45 Session 4 – Apocryphal Acts & Apocalypses: More Stories about the Apostles**

HO texts, pp. 5-6: Acts of Peter, Acts of Paul & Thecla  
HO texts, pp. 6-7: Revelation of Paul, Apocalypse of Adam  
*Q:* *Why were these texts not included in the NT Canon? What is their value for Christians today?*

**3:50 Announcements & Thanks; Closing Prayer & Blessing**

**4:00 To Be Continued... *Have a Great Summer! See you in the Fall!***