

STEPHEN SHERWOOD TAYLOR

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EDUCATION

A.B.D. University of Pennsylvania, Expect Ph.D. in Religious Studies May 2009
Dissertation: The Use of the Pauline Letters in Early Syrian Christianity
Supervisor: Dr. Robert A. Kraft

M.A. Wheaton College Graduate School, May 1982 (Summa Cum Laude)
Master's Thesis: The Nature and Influence of the Pharisees
Supervisors: Dr. Walter A. Elwell and Dr. J. Julius Scott

B.A. Belhaven College, May 1976 (Summa Cum Laude)
Majors: Biblical Studies and Greek

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: New Testament Studies, Syriac-Speaking Christianity, Early (or Late Second Temple) Judaism, Early Western Christianity, Greek, Semitic Languages

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Hebrew Bible, Christian Theology, Islamic Studies, Hermeneutics

HONORS RECEIVED

1982-86	Annenberg Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
1985	Merle Saunders Schaff Award for Palestine Studies, University of Pennsylvania
1979	Henry H. Waterman Award for Biblical Studies, Wheaton Graduate School
1978	Eta Beta Rho Semitic Languages Honor Society
1976	Junior Marshal (co-Valedictorian), Belhaven College
1975	American Bible Society Greek and Exegesis Award
1975	Omicron Delta Honor Society

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT, Biblical Theological Seminary (Hatfield, PA), 2008-present

- Acts and Paul (MDiv/MA)—a study of the career, letters and thought of the Apostle Paul against his ancient, Greco-Roman and Jewish background and against the background of recent scholarly discussions.
- Reading the New Testament Missionally (MDiv/MA) —an exploration of the New Testament designed to foster an appreciation for its link, mediated through Jesus the Messiah, to the (Old Testament) story of Israel and her God.
- New Testament Backgrounds (MDiv/MA)—an in-depth examination of primary Jewish and pagan sources that shed light on the meaning and formation of the New Testament and the early Christian movement.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT, Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia, PA), 1998- 2008

- Beginning Greek (MDiv)
- *Biblical Theology II* (MA): An exploration of the redemptive-historical coherence of the Bible in the light of the Christ event.
- *History of the Interpretation of the Bible* (ThM/PhD): A study of the interpretative assumptions, methods, and goals of the major Christian interpreters of the Bible from 95 C.E. to the present.
- *New Testament for Ministry* (MA): An examination of a New Testament book in light of the questions posed by a counseling and/or urban ministry; books vary.
- *Paul and His Ancient Interpreter* (Upper-level MDiv/ThM/PhD): A study of the uses and abuses of the Pauline epistles by their interpreters up to 500 C.E.
- And the courses listed under Assistant Professor

LECTURER and ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT, Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia, PA), 1996-1997

- *Galations* (Upper-level MDiv/ThM/PhD course): An in-depth, critical study of this Pauline epistle.
- *Greek C* (MDiv): An intensive study of Greek grammar and exegesis using both biblical and extra-biblical texts
- *New Testament History and Theology* (MA): A survey of the history and theology of the apostolic church.
- *New Testament Introduction* (MDiv): Introduction to Greek and Jewish backgrounds to the New Testament, issues surrounding the development of the New Testament canon and the use of textual criticism.

VISITING PROFESSOR, Miami International Theological Seminary in Istanbul, Turkey, Spring 2003

- *Jesus and Paul: Continuity and Discontinuity* (MDiv/Undergraduate): An intensive course dealing with the controverted issue of the relationship of Paul to Jesus and of both to the beginnings of the Christian church.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR, Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, Mississippi), Fall 1993

- *Greek Exegesis* (MDiv): An overview of basic New Testament exegesis using 1 Peter as a primary text.
- *Advanced Greek Grammar* (MDiv/ThM): An inductive study of advanced topics in Greek grammar and syntax using a variety of New Testament texts.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR, Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania), Fall 1992.

- *Introduction to Christianity* (Undergraduate): Overview of the Christian tradition from its inception up through the Enlightenment.
- *Gospels* (Undergraduate): Study of canonical and non-canonical gospels and their relationships to contemporary Jewish and Greco-Roman literature.

TEACHING FELLOW, University of Pennsylvania, 1984-85

- *Christian Origins* (Undergraduate): Taught semester half on the Quest for the Historical Jesus and Pauline Theology
- *Varieties of Christianity to Irenaeus* (Graduate/Undergraduate): Taught the final section on Early Syrian Christianity

PUBLICATIONS

"Canonical Gospels or Other Gospels: What's the Difference?"

<http://www.thetruthaboutdavinci.com/canonical-gospels-or-other-gospels-whats-the-difference.html> (June 2, 2006)

Hristiyan İnanc için Kim Mimarlık Oldu? (Turkish), (Istanbul: MINTS Pastor Training Center, 2003). (Translation of title: *Who is the Architect of Christian Belief?*)

"Faith, Faithfulness," *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology: Exploring the Unity and Diversity of Scripture*, Desmond Alexander, Brian S. Rosner *et al.*, eds. (Downers Grove/Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000).

"Paul and the Persian Sage: Some Observations on Aphrahat's Use of the Pauline Corpus," *Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity: Formation and Interpretation*, Craig A. Evans and James Sanders, ed. (SBL Symposium Series), 1997.

Review of *In the Way: A Study of Christian Missionary Endeavors*, by Kenelm Burridge, *International Journal of Comparative Religion*, 1986.

"Adam," *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Walter A. Elwell, ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988), vol. 1., pp. 26-28.

"Demythologization," *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*, vol. 1, pp. 612-14.

"Essenes," *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, Walter A. Elwell, ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), pp. 366-68.

"Pharisees," *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, pp. 849-51.

"Sadducees," *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, pp. 965-67.

PRESENTATIONS

Expert/scholar for the DVD, *The Gospel of Judas and other Gnostic Secrets Revealed*, Tom Dallis, producer (Vision Video, 2006)

"The Reliability of the New Testament," Tri-College InterVarsity Conference, Haverford, PA, January 2006.

"The New Perspective, N. T. Wright and Justification," Presentation to the Board of Trustees of Westminster Theological Seminary, December 2002

"Evidences for Jesus," Tenth International Students Fellowship Annual Retreat, January 1999

"Paul and the Persian Sage: Some Observations on Aphrahat's Use of the Pauline Corpus," Society of Biblical Literature, Session on Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity, November 1995

"Gunther Bornkamm's Philosophy of History in Jesus of Nazareth," Religious Studies Department Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 1983.

DOSSIER (required presentation to the Religious Studies Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania)

The Pharisees in Our Sources

Early Islamic Asceticism and Syrian Christianity: Reaffirming a Relationship

Gods of the Gap: A Critique of Peter Brown's *The Cult of the Saints* and a Proposal

Deconstructing Axis Mundi Or Why a Person Can't Be One: An Inverted Application of an Eliadan Category

Geology and Its Effects on the History and Religion of Palestine

Cleaving Clio: A Problematic Aspect of Bultmann's Philosophy of History

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

COORDINATOR, Westminster Theological Seminary Greek Program, 2003-2008

COORDINATOR, Westminster Theological Seminary MA Program, 2006-2008

LIAISON to the Philadelphia Interfaith Seminary Outreach Program, 2001-2008

LIAISON to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Inter-Seminary Seminar 2002-2004

STANDING ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

LIBRARY COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN, 1999-2000—Oversaw the final phases of planning and construction of the Andreas Academic Center.

WESTMINSTER HEBREW INSTITUTE COMMITTEE, SITTING MEMBER, 1997-2008—Provides faculty oversight to this research arm.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, SITTING MEMBER, 1997-2008—Plans and implements all of Westminster Theological Seminary's use of technology in education and administration.

JOINT BOARD-FACULTY DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, July 2000, Chaired subcommittee that drafted Westminster Theological Seminary's plan for the content and format of the distance educational courses.

OTHER DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

COMPUTER CONSULTANT for Intermodal Logistics, 1989 - 1996

COMPUTER CONSULTANT for *The Journal of the History of Ideas*, 1986-88

EDITORIAL and COMPUTER CONSULTANT for *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 1986-88

REPRESENTATIVE for Religious Studies Department, Graduate Students Association Council, University of Pennsylvania, 1982-85

ASSISTANT EDITOR, Tyndale Encyclopedia of Christian Knowledge Project, 1976-79

PRESIDENT, Wheaton College Graduate School Theological Society, 1978

PRESIDENT, Theological Society, Belhaven College, 1975

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

MEMBER, Society of Biblical Literature

ASSOCIATE FELLOW, Institute for Biblical Research

CHURCH and MISSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

OLNEY-EAST OAK LANE PARISH BIBLE STUDY LEADER, Tenth Presbyterian Church, 1989-present

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, Tenth Presbyterian Church Bible Study Class, 1986-1998

EVENING JUNIOR CHURCH CO-LEADER, 1986-94, 2005-2006—helped plan and implement programs to help primary school age children grow spiritually and develop a missional vision,

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP CO-FOUNDER AND LEADER, University of Pennsylvania, 1982-1986—taught a weekly Bible study that drew graduate students from the major universities in Philadelphia

CHURCH PLANTING TEAM, Atlanta, GA, 1980-82—helped plant New Covenant Presbyterian Church in the economically depressed area of southwest Atlanta (the Reverend David Clowney, founding pastor)

CHURCH PLANTING TEAM, Schaumburg, IL, 1978-79—primarily involved in adult education

PERSONAL

BORN IN BRAZIL of missionary parents

MARRIED to Terri Graves Taylor (ABD Philosophy) with five children ranging from 22 to 6 years of age.