



"Investing in Africa's Future"

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY,  
HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION**  
**INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**NTBS620 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES**

**END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**NOV/DEC 2020**

**LECTURER: Rev. DR. L. CHABATA**

**DURATION: 24 HRS**

***INSTRUCTIONS***

1. Do not write your name on the answer sheet.
2. Answer **ONE** question.
3. Each question carries 100 marks
4. Credit is given for neat, well written and lucid work.

*dbm*

1. The position and role of women in the New Testament has created controversies in the interpretation of the New Testament and the issue of gender has been at the center of contemporary New Testament interpretation.
  - a) Give a critical summary of the views of any three contemporary New Testament scholars regarding Paul's position on the status and role of women in the church. [30]
  - b) Examine the view that the Gospel writers smuggled women into the storyline of Jesus. [30]
  - c) From what you have learnt from contemporary New Testament scholars, attempt an independent reconstruction of what you may consider as a doctrine on the incorporation of women in church leadership in any one Africa Independent Church you have studied for this paper. [40]
  
2. Afrocentric biblical hermeneutics is an emerging contemporary method of interpreting the New Testament that seeks to apply the message of the New Testament texts to the African cultural context, taking cognizance of the African philosophy of Ubuntu.
  - a) With reference to specific examples from the New Testament, assess the extent to which the New Testament texts stand in close proximity to specified African cultural contexts. [30]
  - b) With reference to any five axioms of Afrocentric biblical hermeneutics you have studied, examine the extent to which Afrocentric biblical hermeneutics may be an attractive method of interpreting the New Testament in Africa today. [30]
  - c) Applying the philosophy of Ubuntu, attempt your own Afrocentric hermeneutical interpretation of **either** I Corinthians 11:23-34, **or** Philippians 2:6-7, **or** Matthew 25:31-46. [40]
  
3. Deconstructionism is an emerging contemporary method of interpreting the New Testament that has attracted mixed feelings among New Testament scholars with some embracing it as a 'new reformation' that is faith-affirming, while others are sceptical.
  - a) Give a critical explanation of the 'deconstruction theory'. [20]
  - b) Using your explanation in a) above, assess the extent to which Jesus Christ may be viewed as a deconstructionist. [40]
  - c) With reference to the views of Rudolph Karl Bultmann (1884-1976) and Jacques Derrida (1930-2004), examine the extent to which the 'deconstruction theory' may apply New Testament interpretation. [40]

**-THE END-**