

Pastor Prof. univ. dr. John Christopher Thomas

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Clarence J. Abbott Professor of Biblical Studies, Pentecostal Theological Seminary

Associate Director of the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies, Bangor University, Wales

Education

BA, Lee College (1976)

MA, Church of God School of Theology (1977)

MDiv, Ashland Theological Seminary (1978)

ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary (1979)

PhD, University of Sheffield (1990)

A member of the full-time faculty of the Pentecostal Theological Seminary since 1982 and a member of staff at Bangor University since 2007, Professor Thomas has been honored for his work in New Testament scholarship by his election into membership of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas and his appointment as the Clarence J. Abbott Professor of Biblical Studies at the Seminary. He has published articles in several leading international journals devoted to study of the New Testament including: *New Testament Studies*, *Novum Testamentum*, *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft*, and *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*. He has authored a major study entitled *Footwashing in John 13 and the Johannine Community*, published a collection of his essays for the church, *Ministry and Theology: Studies for the Church and Its Leaders*, written a significant monograph on healing entitled *The Devil, Disease, and Deliverance: Origins of Illness in New Testament Thought*, authored a brief study entitled *He Loved Them until the End: The Farewell Materials in the Gospel according to John*, written a commentary on 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and recently published a collection of his academic studies in *The Spirit of the New Testament*. Professor Thomas serves as the General Editor of the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* (Brill), the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology Supplement Series* (Deo), and the *Pentecostal Commentary Series* (Deo). Strongly committed to parish ministry, he has served as Associate Pastor of the Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens, Tennessee since 1981. Professor Thomas has been a Guest Lecturer or Visiting Lecturer at a variety of educational institutions on five continents. He was named *Alumnus of the Year* by Ashland Theological Seminary (1992) and by the Church of God Theological Seminary (2004). Dr Thomas served as the President of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (1997-98). He is married to Barbara and they have two daughters, Paige Thomas Scaperoth and Lori Thomas, and one son-in-law, David Scaperoth.

Publications

Books

Footwashing in John 13 and the Johannine Community (JSNTS 61; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1991).

Ministry and Theology: Studies for the Church and Its Leaders (Cleveland: Pathway Press, 1995).

The Devil, Disease, and Deliverance: Origins of Illness in New Testament Thought (JPTS 13; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998).

He Loved Them until the End: The Farewell Materials in the Gospel according to John (Pune, India: Fountain Press, 2003).

1 John, 2 John, 3 John (Pentecostal Commentary Series; London: T&T Clark International, 2004).

The Spirit of the New Testament (Blandford Forum, UK: Deo Publishing, 2005).

Books/Journals (Edited)

General Editor, Journal of Pentecostal Theology (Brill).

General Editor, Journal of Pentecostal Theology Supplement Series (Deo Publishing).

General Editor, Pentecostal Commentary Series (Deo Publishing).

Articles/Book Chapters

'A Reconsideration of the Ending of Mark', Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 26 (1983), pp. 405-19.

'Preliminaries to Exegesis', The Greek Review 1 (1983), pp. 6-8.

'Righteous Living: A New Testament Perspective', On Guard (May/June, 1984), pp. 14-15.

'The Meaning and Significance of Footwashing: John 13:1-20', Pentecostal Minister VI (Summer, 1986), pp. 52-56.

'A Note on the Text of John 13:10', Novum Testamentum 29 (1987), pp. 46-52.

'Discipleship in Mark's Gospel', in Faces of Renewal (ed. Paul Elbert; Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1988), pp. 64-80.

'The New Testament and the Kingdom', Pentecostal Minister VIII (Fall, 1988), pp. 22-26.

'Washing the Saints' Feet in Worship', Church of God Evangel 78 (10) (1988), pp. 26-27.

'Life in the Future', in Discipleship: Developing the Christlife (ed. Floyd Carey and Hoyt Stone; Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press, 1989), pp. 209-32.

'eujfraivnw', Complete Biblical Library XII (ed. Thoralf Gilbrant; Complete Biblical Library: Springfield, MO, 1990), pp. 654-56.

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'The Fourth Gospel and Rabbinic Judaism', *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* 82 (1991), pp. 159-82.

'The Word and the Spirit', *Church of God Evangel* 81 (April 15, 1991), pp. 5-7.

'The Kingdom of God in the Gospel according to Matthew', *New Testament Studies* 39 (1993), pp. 136-46.

'The Devil, Disease, and Deliverance: James 5:14-16', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 2 (1993), pp. 25-50.

'Women, Pentecostals, and the Bible: An Experiment in Pentecostal Hermeneutics', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 5 (1994), pp. 41-56.

'The Order of the Composition of the Johannine Epistles', *Novum Testamentum* 37 (1995), pp. 68-75.

'Is Footwashing Relevant?' *Church of God Evangel* 85 (3) (March, 1995), pp. 10-11.

' "Stop Sinning Lest Something Worse Come Upon You": The Man at the Pool in John 5', *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 59 (1995), pp. 3-20.

'Revival and Leadership: A Case Study', *Call to Revival* (Joe Sneed Ministries, 1995), pp. 66-74.

'Women in the Church: An Experiment in Pentecostal Hermeneutics', *Evangelical Review of Theology* 20 (1996), pp. 220-32.

' "An Angel from Satan": Paul's Thorn in the Flesh (2 Corinthians 12.7-10)', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 9 (1996), pp. 39-52.

'Footwashing in the Context of the Lord's Supper', *The Lord's Supper: Believers' Church Perspectives* (ed. Dale Stoffer; Scottdale, PA:Herald Press, 1997), pp. 169-84.

'Max Turner's *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts: Then and Now* (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1996): An Appreciation and Critique', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 12 (1998), pp. 3-22.

'Pentecostal Theology in the Twenty-First Century', *Pneuma* 20 (1998), pp. 3-19.

- 'The Literary Structure of 1 John', *Novum Testamentum* 40 (1998), pp. 369-81.
- 'Reading the Bible from within our Traditions: A Pentecostal Hermeneutic as Test Case', *Between Two Horizons* (ed. J.B. Green and M. Turner; Grand Rapids: Eerdmanns, 2000), pp. 108-22.
- 'Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet: A Study of John 13.1-20', *The Living Pulpit* 9 (January-March, 2000), pp. 28-29.
- 'Evangelism and the Bible: A Survey of the Gospels', *Church of God Evangel* 90 (March, 2000), pp. 28-29.
- 'The Spirit in the Fourth Gospel: Narrative Explorations', *The Spirit and the Mind: Essays in Informed Pentecostalism* (Donald N. Bowdle FS; ed. T.L. Cross and E. Powery; Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2000), pp. 87-104.
- 'Footwashing', *White Wing Messenger* 78 (Nov, 2000), pp. 10-13.
- 'Fusswaschung: I. Westliche Kirchen', *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart* 4 Band 3 (Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr {Paul Siebeck}, 2000), p. 444.
- 'Spiritual Conflict in Illness and Affliction', *Deliver Us From Evil: An Uneasy Frontier in Christian Mission* (ed. A.A. Moreau, et.al.; Monrovia, CA: World Vision Publications, 2002), pp. 37-60.
- 'Prophets and Prophecy – The New Testament Evidence', *Profiles* 8.2 (October, 2002), pp. 2-3, 6.
- 'Pentecostal Explorations of the New Testament: Teaching New Testament Introduction in a Pentecostal Seminary', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 11.1 (2002), pp. 120-29.
- (With Kimberly Ervin Alexander) ' "And the Signs Are Following": Mark 16.9-20 – A Journey into Pentecostal Hermeneutics', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 11.2 (2003), pp. 147-70.
- 'The Spirit, Healing, and Mission: A Survey of the Biblical Canon', *International Review of Mission* 93 (2004), pp. 421-42.
- 'The Charismatic Structure of Acts', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 13.1 (2004), pp. 19-30.
- 'Healing in the Atonement: A Johannine Perspective', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 14.1 (2005), pp. 23-39.
- 'Health and Healing: A Pentecostal Contribution', *Ex Auditu* 21 (2005), pp. 88-107.
- 'The Holy Spirit and Interpretation', *Dictionary of Biblical Criticism and Interpretation* (S.E. Porter, ed.; London: Routledge, 2007), pp. 165-66.
- 'Footwashing: Western Church', *Religion Past and Present* 2 (Leiden: Brill, 2007).

'Why Footwashing?' *Evangel* 97.9 (September, 2007), pp. 8-9.

'Pneumatic Discernment: The Image of the Beast and his Number', *Passover, Pentecost, and Parousia: Studies in Celebration of the Life and Ministry of R. Hollis Gause* (eds. S.J. Land, R.D. Moore, J.C. Thomas; Blandford Forum, UK: Deo, forthcoming).

'Study Notes on the Book of Revelation', *The Wesley Study Bible* (ed. J.B. Green; Nashville: Abingdon Press, forthcoming).

'What the Spirit Is Saying to the Church: The Perspective of a Pentecostal Working in New Testament Studies', *Spirit & Scripture: A Symposium on Renewal Hermeneutics* (ed. K. Spawn; London: Continuum, forthcoming).

Book Reviews

'A Review of Gordon Fee's *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*', *Pneuma* 10 (1988), pp. 73-74.

'A Review of James B. Shelton's *Mighty in Word and Deed* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991)', *Pneuma* 15 (1993), pp. 125-28.

'A Review of D. Moody Smith's *First, Second, and Third John* (Louisville: John Knox, 1991)', *Ashland Theological Journal* 25 (1993), pp. 153-55.

'A Review of Marianne Meye Thompson's *1-3 John* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1992)', *Ashland Theological Journal* 25 (1993), pp. 155-57.

'A Review of John W. Pryor's *John: Evangelist of the Covenant People* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1992)', *Ashland Theological Journal* 25 (1993), pp. 158-59.

'A Review of Michael G. Moriarity's *The New Charismatics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992)', *Ashland Theological Journal* 25 (1993), pp. 186-88.

'A Review of Christoph Niemand's *Die Fusswaschungserzählung des Johannesevangelium: Untersuchungen zu ihrer Entstehung und Überlieferung im Urchristentum* (*Studia Anselmiana* 114; Roma: Pontificio Ateneo S. Anselmo, 1993)', *Journal of Biblical Literature* 114 (1995), pp. 535-37.

'A Review of Sydney H.T. Page's *Powers of Evil: A Biblical Study of Satan & Demons* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995)', *Ashland Theological Journal* 29 (1997), pp. 169-72.

'A Review of Francis J. Moloney's *Glory not Dishonor: Reading John 13-21* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998)', *Review of Biblical Literature* (Nov. 26, 2000).

'A Review of Keith Warrington's *Discovering the Holy Spirit in the New Testament* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005)', *Pneuma* 28 (2006), pp. 382-84.

Scholarly Society Involvement

Elected Member, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (2000)

President, Society for Pentecostal Studies (1997-98)

Program Chair, Society for Pentecostal Studies (1997)

Chair, Biblical Studies Special Interest Group, Society for Pentecostal Studies (1993-96)

Paper Presentation, Respondent, and/or Session Chair:

Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, Society of Biblical Literature, Society for Pentecostal Studies, European Pentecostal Charismatic Research Association, European Pentecostal Theological Association, Believers' Church Conference, Appalachian Studies Conference, Evangelical Theological Society, Lausanne Consultation on Theology, and World Council of Churches Consultation(s) on Healing and Mission

Awards

Alumnus of the Year, Ashland Theological Seminary (1992)

Distinguished Faculty Award, Church of God Theological Seminary (1998)

Alumnus of the Year, Church of God Theological Seminary (2004)