

Dr. Richard Wright

Professor, Graduate School of Theology



Richard is Professor of New Testament in the Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University where he teaches courses on the languages and literature connected with the study of the New Testament in its cultural context. He holds degrees from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, Abilene Christian University, Southern Methodist University, and his PhD is from Brown University. His scholarship explores the intersection of the New Testament and early church with Greco-Roman philosophies and religions. He is active with the Christian Scholars Conference and involved with the Society of Biblical Literature at the regional, national, and international levels. Richard loves photography and staying physically active. He is an elder at the Minter Lane Church of Christ in Abilene and serves by leading songs, teaching classes, and occasionally preaching. Richard is married to Claudia whom he met at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music; he plays violin, she plays oboe. They both still perform as opportunities arise. They are the parents of four adult sons, two daughters-in-law, two grandsons and a granddaughter.



Richard A. Wright

Curriculum vitae

Rev. May 2021

Professor of New Testament
Abilene Christian University
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Abilene, TX 79699
325-674-3708

EDUCATION

- 1994 PhD Brown University (History of Religions: Early Christianity). Dissertation: "Christians, Epicureans, and the Critique of Greco-Roman Religion."
- 1988 MTS Southern Methodist University (Theology). Cum Laude.
- 1986 MA Abilene Christian University (Ancient Church History). Thesis: "A Study of Three Fourth Century Christian Writers' Reaction to Pagan Education."
- 1984 AB Oberlin College (Religious Studies)
- 1984 BMus Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Violin Performance)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019 Full Professor, Abilene Christian University
- 2019 Granted Tenure, Abilene Christian University
- 2015-2019 Associate Professor, Abilene Christian University
- 2014 Granted Tenure, Oklahoma Christian University.
- 2010-2015 Chair, Graduate School of Theology, Oklahoma Christian University.
- 2009-2015 Associate Professor, Oklahoma Christian University.
- 2006-2009 Assistant Professor, Oklahoma Christian University.
- 2003-2006 Director of Information Technology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.
- 2002-2003 Coordinator of Information Technology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.
- 2000-2003 Head of Information Technology, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.
- 1998-2000 Reference and Automation Librarian, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.
- 1994-1998 Documentation Manager, Lawson Software.
- 1993 Visiting Instructor, Northeastern Christian Junior College, Villanova, PA. Spring.
- 1991 Visiting Instructor, Wheaton College, Norton, MA. Spring.
- 1984-1986 Instructor of Violin, Abilene Christian University.

PUBLICATIONS

Books, Editor

- 2019 Thompson, James W. and Richard A. Wright, eds. *Ethics in Contexts: Essays in Honor of Wendell Lee Willis*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications.

Journal Articles

- 2017 “Drinking, Teaching, and Singing: Ephesians 5:18-19 and the Challenges of Moral Instruction at Greco-Roman Banquets.” *Lexington Theological Quarterly* 47: 85-104.

Chapters in Books

- 2019 “Reconsidering Assets: Paul and Galen on a Life Worth Living.” Pages 226-38 in *Ethics in Contexts: Essays in Honor of Wendell Lee Willis*. Edited by James W. Thompson and Richard A. Wright. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications.
- 2017 “The Creation, Care, and Preservation of Books in the Roman Empire: The Evidence of Galen’s *De indolentia*.” Pages 241-50 in *Reading for Faith and Learning: Essays on Scripture, Community, & Libraries in Honor of M. Patrick Graham*. Edited by John B. Weaver and Douglas L. Gragg. Abilene, TX: ACU Press.
- 2014 “Possessions, Distress, and the Problem of Emotions: *De Indolentia* and the Gospel of Luke in Juxtaposition.” Pages 251-273 in *Galen’s De Indolentia: Selected Essays*. Edited by Clare Rothchild and Trevor Thompson. Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum. Mohr Siebeck.
Review: Bryn Mawr Classical Review
<http://www.bmcreview.org/2015/07/20150722.html>
- 2013 “The Sounds of Silence: Hearing the Music in Pauline Assemblies.” Pages 341-349 in *The One Who Sows Bountifully: Essays in Honor of Stanley K. Stowers*. Edited by Caroline Johnson Hodge, et. al. Brown Judaic Studies. Society of Biblical Literature.
- 2009 “Greco-Roman Backgrounds to the New Testament.” Pages 41-54 in *The Transforming Word*. Edited by Mark Hamilton, et. al. Abilene, TX: ACU Press.
- 2007 “Plutarch on Moral Progress.” Pages 136-150 in *Passions and Progress in Greco-Roman Thought*. Edited by John T. Fitzgerald London: Routledge.

Translations

- 1998 Contributor to *On Frank Criticism. Philodemus: Introduction, Translation, and Notes*. Edited by D. Konstan et al. SBLTT 43. Atlanta: Scholars Press.

Articles for a Generalist Audience

- 2019 “Sacrifice and the Construction of Gendered Roles in Corinth.” [Point of View Publishing](#).
- 2015 “Flesh.” Pages 362-365 in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Theology*. Oxford University Press.

Reviews

- 2019 Review of Capes, David B. *The Divine Christ: Paul, the Lord Jesus, and the Scriptures of Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. *Theology Today* 76.3: 275-277.
- 2018 Review of Goodacre, Mark. *Thomas and the Gospels: The Case for Thomas’s Familiarity with the Synoptics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012. *Restoration Quarterly*. *Restoration Quarterly* 60.3: 188-189.
- 2014 Review of Thompson, James. *Moral Formation According to Paul: The Context and Coherence of Pauline Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 76.1:155-156.

- 2011 Review of Hays, Richard B. et. al., eds. *Reading the Bible Intertextually*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2009. *Stone-Campbell Journal* 14.1:107-109.
- 2010 Review of “Baptism in the Early Church: A Symposium on the Work of Everett Ferguson.” Hosted at the Christian Scholars’ Conference on the campus of Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. *Henoch* 32.2. Online.
- 2007 Review of Lee, Michelle V. *Paul, the Stoics, and the Body of Christ*. SNTS Monograph Series, 137. Cambridge University Press, 2006. *Review of Biblical Literature*. Online.
- 1999 Review of Wilson, Walter T. *The Hope of Glory: Education and Exhortation in the Epistle to the Colossians*. Brill Academic, 1997. *Religious Studies Review* 25:426.
- 1998 Review of Winter, Bruce W. *Seek the Welfare of the City: Christians as Benefactors and Citizens*. Eerdmans, 1994. *Religious Studies Review* 24: 418.
- 1998 Review of Court, John M. *Reading the New Testament*. Routledge, 1997. *Religious Studies Review* 24:419.
- 1997 Review of Beckwith, Roger T. and Martin J. Selman. *Sacrifice in the Bible*. Baker, 1994. *Religious Studies Review* 23:412.
- 1996 Review of Goulder, Michael. *St. Paul versus St. Peter: A Tale of Two Missions*. Westminster John Knox, 1995. *Religious Studies Review* 22: 70.
- 1996 Review of Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *Scripture, the Soul of Theology*. Paulist Press, 1994. *Religious Studies Review* 22:169.
- 1995 Review of Klauck, Hans-Josef, ed. *Weltgericht und Weltvollendung: Zukunftsbilder im Neuen Testament*. Herder, 1994. *Religious Studies Review* 21: 332.

Publications in Progress

Books, Author

Christians, Epicureans, and the Critique of Greco-Roman Sacrifice. Revision of doctoral dissertation. In conversations with publisher.

Reading the Church’s Bible: A Graded Greek Reader. Under contract. To be completed 2021.

Articles

“Out with the Christians . . . Out with the Epicureans!’ Atheism and Constructing the Other in Antiquity.” In preparation for *Gods, Spirits, and Worship in Christianity and the Greco-Roman World*. SSEJC 23. Craig A. Evans and Adam Z. Wright, editors. Submitted June 2019.

HONORS

- 2014 Rowe Distinguished Scholar Award, Oklahoma Christian University.
- 1991-1992 R. Bruce Lindsay Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University.
- 1990-1992 Christian Scholarship Foundation Fellowship.
- 1990, 1992 Certificate from the Center for the Advancement of College Teaching, Brown University.
- 1988-1989 University Fellowship, Brown University.
- 1988 Charles T. & Jesse James Bible Award, Southern Methodist University.
- 1986-1987 Nicholson Scholar Award, Southern Methodist University.

1985-1986 Lucile Walls Lewis Memorial Scholarship, Abilene Christian University
 1984 Koch Prize, Oberlin College

GRANTS

2021 Cullen Grant. Abilene Christian University. "Crisis Management and Boundary Maintenance: Early Christianity and Sacrificial Practices."
 2019 Cullen Grant. Abilene Christian University. "Negotiating Change: Praying and Prophesying in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16."
 2018 Cullen Grant. Abilene Christian University. "Sacrifice and Roman Antipathy Towards Christians in the Second Century."
 2017 Cullen Grant. Abilene Christian University. "Reconsidering Assets: Paul and Galen on a Life Worth Living."
 2016 Cullen Grant. Abilene Christian University. "Christians, Epicureans, and the Critique of Greco-Roman Religion."

INVITED TALKS

2019 "Philodemus and Household Management." Christian Scholars Conference. Lubbock Christian University. June.
 2018 Response to "Bryson and Philodemus: Two Perspectives on Household Management." A paper presented by John Fitzgerald, University of Notre Dame. Christian Scholars Conference. Nashville, TN. June.
 2017 Response to "Pauline Evidence for Extra-Pauline Christianity." A paper presented by Jeffrey Peterson, Austin Graduate School of Theology. Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. Irving, TX, March.
 2017 Response to "Generic Hybridity in the *Apologies* of Justin Martyr." A paper presented by Brandon Cline, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. Second Century Seminar. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University. February.
 2015 "Sacrifice and Roman Antipathy Towards Christians in the Second Century." Second Century Seminar. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University. October.
 2011 "'*On the Avoidance of Distress*' and the New Testament." Christian Scholars Conference. Pepperdine University. June.
 2008 "Music in the New Testament." Christian Scholars Conference. Lipscomb University. June.
 2005 "We Piped But You Did Not Dance: Musical Topography in the New Testament World." New Testament Colloquium, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. November.
 1995 "Ideas of Moral Progression and Regression among Greco-Roman Philosophers." Hellenistic Moral Philosophy and Early Christianity Group. Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November.
 1993 "The Issue of Sacrifice in Pliny's Encounter with Christians." Early Christianity and Greco-Roman World Colloquium, Yale University, March.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2019 Negotiating Change: Praying and Prophesying in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16." Society of Biblical Literature, International Meeting. Rome, Italy. July.
- 2018 "'Out with the Christians, . . . Out with the Epicureans!' Atheism and Constructing the Other in Antiquity." Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. November.
- 2017 "'It is Good for a Man Not to Touch a Woman': Sacrifice and Sex in Corinth." Society of Biblical Literature, International Meeting. Berlin, Germany. August.
- 2017 "Food Will Not Bring Us Close to God": Paul and Epicurus on Practicing Piety." Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. Irving, TX, March.
- 2016 "Drinking, Teaching, and Singing: Ephesians 5:18-19 and the Challenges of Moral Instruction at Greco-Roman Banquets." Meals in the Greco-Roman World. Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November.
- 2013 "Reconsidering Assets: Another Look at the Function of the Christ Hymn in Paul's Letter to the Philippians." Society of Biblical Literature, International Meeting. St. Andrews, Scotland. July.
- 2011 "Filled with the Spirit: Singing and Moral Formation in Ephesians 5:18-19." Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. November.
- 2011 "Food Will Not Bring Us Close to God: Idol Meat and Moral Instruction in Corinth." Society of Biblical Literature, International Meeting, London, England. July.
- 2010 "Paul on Praying and Prophesying: Sacrifice and the Ritual Construction of Gendered Roles in Corinth." Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November.
- 2009 "Sounds of Silence: Hearing the Music of Pauline Assemblies." Society of Biblical Literature, International Meeting, Rome, Italy. July.
- 2003 "Bringing Technology into the Classroom." American Theological Library Association, Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, June.
- 2003 "The Place of Digitization in the Library." Chicago Area Theological Library Association, Regional Meeting, Berien Springs, MI, April.
- 2002 Panelist for Translation of Cornutus's *Introduction to the Traditions of Greek Theology*. Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Toronto, November.
- 2002 Panelist for Electronic Publishing and the Academy: Goals, Problems, Challenges. Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting. November.
- 2002 "Creation of a Digital Art Archive." With M. Patrick Graham. American Theological Library Association, Annual Meeting, St. Paul, MN, June.
- 2001 "Redesigning Library Orientation." With Douglas L. Gragg and Laura C. Wood. American Theological Library Association, Annual Meeting, Durham, NC, June.
- 1995 Panelist for Translation of Philodemus' *On Frank Speech*. Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November.
- 1995 "Paul and the Corinthian Women: Sacrifice and the Construction of Gender in Antiquity." Society of Biblical Literature, Tri-regional Meeting, Boston, MA, April.
- 1994 "Paul and Greco-Roman Sacrifice." Pauline Literature Section. Society of Biblical Literature, Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, New York, NY, March.

- 1993 Panelist for Translation of Philodemus' *On Frank Speech*. Society of Biblical Literature, Annual, Washington, DC, November.
- 1993 "The Christian Critique of Greco-Roman Sacrifice." North American Patristic Society, June.
- 1991 "The Odes of Solomon and the Man from Heaven: A Comparison of the Imagery of Two Communities." Syriac Studies Symposium. Providence, RI, June.

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2004 "Teaching with Technology." Faculty Retreat, Candler School of Theology, August.

CHURCH LECTURESHIPS

- 2013 "I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel: Rom 1:16." Oklahoma Christian University Lectureship. October.
- 2009 "The Worship of Angels: Col 2:18." Pepperdine Bible Lectures. Pepperdine University. May.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Abilene Christian University

Undergraduate

2nd Year Greek

Corinthian Letters

3rd Year Greek

Graduate

Intermediate Greek

Ecclesiastical Latin

Biblical Theology

Advanced Exegesis

Critical Interpretation of the New Testament

Seminar in New Testament Epistles

Backgrounds to the New Testament and Early Christianity

Explorations in New Testament Literature

New Testament Ecclesiologies

Oklahoma Christian University

Honors Courses

The Bible and Classical Literature

General Education Courses

Matthew

Story of the Old Testament

Acts

Story of the New Testament

The Bible as Literature

Senior Bible Seminar

Courses for Majors in the College of Biblical Studies

Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians

2 Corinthians

Romans

Graduate School of Theology Courses

Graduate Survey of the Bible

Advanced Biblical Exegesis

Introduction to the New Testament

Introduction to New Testament Theology

New Testament Backgrounds

Seminar in Pauline Epistles

Paul's Macedonian Correspondence

1 & 2 Corinthians

SERVICE**To the Profession**

2020-2021	President Elect, Southwest Region, Society of Biblical Literature
2019-2020	Vice President, Southwest Region, Society of Biblical Literature
2019-2021	New Testament Program Co-Chair. Southwest Region, Society of Biblical Literature.
2016-Current	Steering Committee, New Testament Section, Christian Scholars Conference.
2013-2016	New Testament Program Chair. Southwest Region, Society of Biblical Literature.
2006-2011	Steering committee, Hellenistic Moral Philosophy and Early Christianity, Society of Biblical Literature
2006-Current	Session Chair or Convener of sessions at regional, national, and international Society of Biblical Literature and for the Christian Scholars Conference.

To the College of Biblical Studies, Abilene Christian University

2016-2019	Member, Academic Council
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To the Graduate School of Theology, Abilene Christian University

2020-2021	Member, GST DMin accrediting committee,
2020-2021	Member, GST Baptist Studies Center committee
2019-2020	Chair, GST Academic Committee.
2019	Member, GST Tenure and Promotion Committee.
2017-2019	Member, GST MA committee.
2017-Current	Member, GST Adjunct Teacher committee.
2016-2017	Chair, GST Writing Assessment for Admissions committee.
2016-2019	Member, GST Strategic Planning committee.
2015-2016	Member, Educational Standards and Degree Program Standards Subcommittee for GST Self-Study for Accreditation.
2015-Current	Regular participant in Graduate Chapel: speaker and song leader.
2014	Visiting Committee to review the Graduate School of Theology, Abilene Christian University. February 9-11.

To Oklahoma Christian University

2012-2015	Member, Institutional Review Board
2011-2015	Participant in the Preaching “Blitzes” to OC recruiting areas
2010-2015	Member, Graduate Council
2010	Member, Retention Strategic Interest Group
2009	Member, Search committee for dean of the College of Biblical Studies
2008	Member, Teaching and Technology subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Committee
2007	Chair, Teaching and Technology subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Committee

- 2007 Member, Ad Hoc Committee of the Academic Affairs Committee to review the International Studies Program, Spring.
- 2006-2008 Member, Academic Affairs Committee

To the College of Biblical Studies, Oklahoma Christian University

- 2013-14 Member, search committee for Baugh Chair of Preaching
- 2007-2015 Chair, Scholarship Committee
- 2007-2009 Biblical Studies Track Coordinator, Quest (Oklahoma Christian University Lectureship).
- 2007 Member, Committee to Recommend a Worship Ministry Major for the College of Biblical Studies
- 2006- Member, Scholarship Committee
- 2006-2015 Masters Comprehensive Examinations Committees

To the Church

- 2020-Current Elder, Minter Lane Church of Christ
- 2019 Member, Elder Selection Committee, Minter Lane Church of Christ.
- 2017-Current Regular song leader for Minter Lane Church of Christ (in rotation).
- 2015-Current Regular teacher for Bible classes for Minter Lane Church of Christ and for churches in Abilene area
- 2014 13 week curriculum on Philippians for the North Davis Church of Christ. Arlington, TX. May.
- 2006-2015 Regular teacher for Bible classes in OKC area
- 1998-2006 Regular teacher for Bible classes and song leader at the Northlake Church of Christ in Decatur, GA.
- 1996-1998 Regular teacher for Bible classes and occasional song leader at the Richfield Church of Christ in Richfield, MN.
- 1993-1996 Regular teacher for Bible classes, occasional song leading, occasional preaching for the King of Prussia Church of Christ, King of Prussia, PA.

Fieldwork

- 2017 Travel to Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Rome to photograph sites for classroom instruction.
- 2006 Travel Seminar. Emory University New Testament faculty and graduate students travel to archaeological sites in Turkey. January.
- 1983 Tell el-Hesi, Israel, Summer.

Professional Associations

- American Academy of Religion
- North American Patristics Society
- Society of Biblical Literature