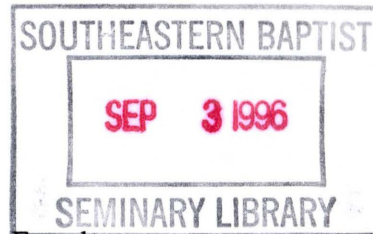


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Duke Grad Appointed to Southeastern Faculty

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Calling David Beck a "scholar's scholar," Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson announced Beck's appointment as assistant professor of New Testament March 29.

Beck, who currently serves on Southeastern's faculty as an adjunct professor, holds a Ph.D. from Duke University, Durham, N.C., with work in the Gospel of John, and also has been in the pastorate 14 years.

Beck received high recommendations from Duke faculty even though they knew he was conservative, said Russ Bush, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty of the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary.

"His professors all knew where he stood," Bush said. "Despite the fact he was known as a conservative theologically, he nevertheless received high marks for his academic ability."

Saying Beck has a strong commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention and its theological persuasions, Bush said the professor is committed to the authority of Scripture and a very careful exegesis of the biblical text. "He really desires to lead students in learning how to interpret God's Word so they get the real meaning of the text."

Patterson said Beck's intellectual strength is complemented by the fact that he is "an accomplished pastor with a servant's heart." Beck has been pastor of Tally Ho Baptist Church, Stem, N.C., since 1994 and previously led churches in Durham, N.C.; Salamanca, N.Y.; and Linesville, Pa.

Bush noted Beck has "a good grasp of the situations students will soon be facing themselves."

Beck said his years in church work are an asset in the classroom: "I teach the New Testament with a pastor's experience, trying my best to show students how scholarly study of the New Testament has a relevance for their work in the local church."

Beck, who calls Bethel, Ohio, home, is concerned students may set aside their pursuit of God in the face of seminary demands: "As a professor, I have a responsibility to help students understand that studying the Bible for an academic class or in preparation for preaching or teaching is not a substitute for personal Bible study.

"As good and necessary as those activities are, neither replaces studying the Bible devotionally to allow God to speak to you through his Word," Beck said.

Beck, who also holds a master of divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, cited his teaching experience at Southeastern as a confirmation of his call to theological education.

"I have appreciated the fact that spiritual matters are given a high interest on this campus -- among students, faculty and the administration," Beck said. "This atmosphere at Southeastern makes it a very positive place for training people for ministry. --30--

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