



The Religious Studies Department of
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Presents

Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson

In the 34th Annual Flannery Lecture

March 18, 2010, 7:30 PM • Globe Room of Cataldo Hall

"Empty Religion: Islam and Christianity's Common Peril"

Whatever we call it --- mysticism, devotion, piety --- the esoteric dimension of religion has always been in a tense yet creative relationship with exoteric observance in the three great monotheistic religions of the west. Recent developments in Christianity and Islam, however, have served to marginalize or even eliminate the concern for personal transformation. The result is to make spirituality superficial and to make religion little more than a form of politics, in uneven competition with secular rivals.



Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson is Robert W. Woodruff Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Professor Johnson's research interests encompass the Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts of early Christianity (particularly moral discourse), Luke-Acts, the Pastoral Letters, and the Letter of James. A prolific author, Johnson has penned numerous scholarly articles and more than 25 books. His latest book, *Among the Gentiles: Greco-Roman Religion and Christianity* (2009, Yale University Press), explores the relationship between early Christianity and Greco-Roman paganism. Other books include *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*; *A Commentary on the Gospel of Luke*; *Reading Romans: A Literary and Theological Commentary*; and *Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospels*. Johnson's current research concerns the literary, moral, and religious dimensions of the New Testament.

The **FLANNERY CHAIR OF ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY** is an endowed Chair gift of the late Maud and Milo Flannery of Spokane, to further excellence of theological study and teaching at Gonzaga University. The Flannery Lecture is delivered each year by the outstanding theologian who holds the Chair and is prepared and presented to benefit as wide an audience as possible.

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