



## *The Bible - A New Approach*

Presenter: Professor Howard Clarke

Three Mondays: 9:30am-12:30pm ~ November 9, 16, and 23

Valle Verde Social Room  
900 Calle de Los Amigos

The “new approach” I will be describing in these talks is called “reception history.” Behind it lies the persuasion that an essential way to understand—or experience—a Biblical text is to see it not only as a passive field for academic investigation but also as an active and creative force in the lives of individuals, in their religious communities, and in the events of history. So we will look at some of the ways in which over the centuries readers have been inspired, transformed, and in some cases even mystified or appalled by the Bible’s hallowed words. While traditional approaches look back to the texts’ composers (“What did St. Paul mean to say in *Romans*?”), this one will look forward to the Bible’s readers and to their use and abuse of Scripture from the earliest days to modern times. This approach is historical and descriptive (and often very entertaining); it is not dogmatic nor denominational. My talks will be illustrated wherever possible by art works.



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### **ENROLLMENT FORM: *The Bible - A New Approach***

**VISTAS Members \$30 per person — Non-members \$45 per person**

**Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc., P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228**

**Deadline for registration: November 1, 2009**

**If you are interested in ride-sharing, please circle here**

Howard Clarke received his B.A. from Holy Cross and his Ph.D. from Harvard. He has taught Classics and Comparative Literature at Harvard, Boston University, Oakland University, and UCSB, from where he took early retirement in 1991. With a special interest in the classical tradition, he has written or edited six books on classical and Christian antiquity, ranging from Homeric epic to St. Matthew's Gospel. In addition to his current research in the reception of biblical texts in American history, he has been lecturing for many years on cruise ships in and around the Mediterranean.



### VISTAS Fall 2009 Calendar

<b>Seminar/Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>Documentary Club</b>	<b>Thurs., Nov. 19</b>	<b>2:00-4:30pm</b>	<b>Maravilla Auditorium</b>
<b>Tragic Lives of Three Artists: Michelangelo, Caravaggio &amp; Van Gogh</b>	<b>Tues, Nov 24, Dec 1, 8, 15</b>	<b>1:30pm-3:30pm</b>	<b>Valle Verde Auditorium</b>
<b>Winter Social</b>	<b>Sun., Jan. 31</b>	<b>2:00pm-5:00pm</b>	<b>Lehman Hall Music Academy</b>



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