

HUMANITY, CHRIST, SALVATION

Institute of Biblical Studies

Spring 2023

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Indianapolis

April 10-14, 2023

9:30 - 11:30 am and 1:00pm–3:00pm

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE

The Institute of Biblical Studies exists in order to help develop Christ-centered missionaries who possess the biblical and theological competencies they need (head, heart and hands) to live out the Great Commandment and helpfully fulfill the Great Commission through the ministry of Cru. This course addresses three areas of Christian doctrine that are foundational to our life and mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is the gospel? Few questions are more fundamental to our personal lives and organizational calling than this. Although we spend a lot of time and energy strategizing how to introduce men and women to the gospel, we often spend little time reflecting on the gospel itself. Furthermore, we often live as if the gospel is only for “lost” people and not also for those of us who have been “found.” In this class we will explore historic Christian teaching regarding the doctrine of humanity, the person and work of Christ, and the doctrine of salvation. Together these doctrines shape our understanding of the gospel. We will explore the basis of salvation in the Father’s sovereign plan; the accomplishment of salvation through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and the application of salvation to God’s children by the Holy Spirit. Because theology includes not merely what we believe but also how we live, we will also explore the ethical implications of these doctrines so that we may better live to the glory of the triune God. (2 IBS credits)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Deepen your motivation to know, love and worship God and to reflect God’s character as an image-bearer.
2. Develop a deeper understanding of and commitment to the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith expressed in our Statement of Faith (particularly the doctrine of humanity, the person and work of Christ, and the doctrine of salvation).
3. Become more familiar with major viewpoints, differences, and conflicts which exist among Christians regarding these doctrines.
4. Become persuaded that Christian theology is not just about right beliefs (orthodoxy) but also right living (orthopraxy). Better understand the ethical implications of foundational doctrines.

5. Grow in your capacity to relate these doctrines to personal growth, evangelism, discipleship, movement-launching, and cross-cultural mission.
6. Grow in your ability to read Scripture “theologically.”
7. Be better prepared to partner with those who hold differing theological views allowing for difference of opinion on matters not central to our statement of faith and calling while pointing people to a compelling center (i.e., Christ, the gospel and our mission).
8. Develop a deeper understanding of and greater confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as the need to contextualize the gospel.

REQUIRED TEXT

You will read the assigned chapters from one of the following texts:

Gregg Allison, *50 Core Truths of the Christian Life: A Guide to Understanding and Teaching Theology*.

Baker, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-3102-8670-7. Retail Price: \$29.99. (Chapters 15-17, 20- 21, 25-31, 33-34) (100 pages) Calvinistic Baptist

Jack Cottrell, *The Faith Once for All* College Press, 2002. ISBN: 978-0899009056. Retail Price: \$34.99.

(Chapters 6-14, 16-19) (200 pages) Arminian Church of Christ

Larry Hart, *Truth Aflame: Theology for the Church in Renewal* Zondervan, 2010. ISBN: 978-0310259893.

Retail Price: \$32.99. (Chapters 5-8) (250 pages) Arminian Pentecostal

Millard J. Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*, Baker, 2015. ISBN: 978-0801049194. Retail Price:

\$42.99. (Chapters 17-27, 31-35) (200 pages) Calvinistic Baptist

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine, Second Edition: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith*, Zondervan,

2022. ISBN: 978-0310124306. Retail Price: \$44.99. (Chapters 11-24) (200 pages) Charismatic Calvinist

You are welcome to propose another theology for your reading.

REQUIRED READINGS

You'll find links to the readings on this page under the class title <http://ibs.cru.org/ibs/local/>

Gerry Breshears & Debbie Dodd, Women in Leadership Chart

Andy Crouch, “the Return of Shame” *Christianity Today* (March 2015) http://andy-crouch.com/articles/the_return_of_shame

Carl Ellis, Jr., “Biblical Righteousness Is a Four-Paned Window,” *The Gospel Coalition* (August 22, 2018).

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/biblical-righteousness-four-paned-window/>

Jayson Georges, “Talking about Faith in Non-Western Contexts,” *Modern Reformation* 27 (July 2017).

https://ibs.cru.org/index.php/download_file/view/1492/631/231/

Tim Keller, *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City* (Grand Rapids:

Zondervan, 2012), chapter 9.

Beth Moore, “A Letter to My Brothers” (<https://blog.lproof.org/2018/05/a-letter-to-my-brothers.html>)

and Thabiti Anyabwile, “An Apology to Beth Moore and My Sisters”

(<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/thabiti-anyabwile/apology-beth-moore-sisters/>)

Adrian Pei, *The Minority Experience: Navigating Emotional and Organizational Realities* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2018), (chap 2)

Peter Scazzerro “11 Signs You Are an Emotionally Mature Christian” Outreach Magazine (Jan. 4, 2017)
<https://outreachmagazine.com/features/21028-emotionally-mature-christian.html>

Richard Wayne Wills, Sr. *Martin Luther King Jr. and the Image of God* (New York: Oxford, 2009), (chap 5)

Christopher Wright, “Atonement in the Old Testament,” in *The Atonement Debate*, pp. 69-82

REQUIRED PODCASTS

Bryan Loritts [Insider, Outsider](#) Think Biblically March 22, 2019 (click the title for the link)

Christopher Yuan [Holy Sexuality](#) Think Biblically February 28, 2019 (click the title for the link)

Jon Tyson, [Jesus & The Gay Community](#) God and Sexuality, Bridgetown Church, March 17, 2019, (click the title for the link)

Jon Tyson, Jesus, [Gender, & Trans Community God and Sexuality](#), Bridgetown Church, March 17, 2019, (click the title for the link)

THEOLOGY RESOURCES

I have a lot of theology resources including the theology outlines we will be using in the class linked on my web site: www.breshears.net. The link is [here](#).

LEARNING TASKS

1. **Reading:** Reading should be done thoroughly and thoughtfully with a sincere attempt to learn all you can. Given the compressed nature of this course, it is imperative that you complete all the readings prior to the first class session. The final reading report is due **Friday, April 14**. All reading must be completed by then. You will submit your reading report to the instructor using the form at the end of this syllabus.
2. **Class participation:** Attend all class sessions and participate actively in course discussions.
3. **Affirmations:** You will write a two-page affirmation and interaction on **five** of the following issues. One of them must be the one on holy sexuality. Choose which one of the remaining ones you most need to figure out for yourself. You may use Bible, books, and notes but not other people as you prepare your essays. On each affirmation, you will (1) state your own position on a specific question carefully, (2) support it with Scripture explained for Chris to understand and other relevant arguments, (3) answer one significant question that someone who disagrees with you might raise about your position, and (4) conclude with a paragraph or two on integration with your specific ministry assignment. In your affirmation, you will explain all theological terms you use, support your answer by showing specifically how Bible passages support your view.

Submit your papers in the appropriate section of the web classroom. The first affirmation is due by **Thursday April 13** by 5:00 pm EDT. The other four are due no later than **Friday, April 21** by 5:00 pm EDT. Email your document to me in either .docx or .doc format, please.

- a. **Election:** Focus on the basis of God's election, the basis of God's pre-creation choice to bless certain people. If you are more Calvinist, defend against the objection of injustice of God's selectivity and the decisiveness of faith. If you are more Wesleyan, defend against the biblical statements of God's selectivity and His sovereignty. If you are more Calvinian, respond to questions about how we can trust a God who relates to different people in different ways. Relate this specifically to God's role in blessing people.
- b. **Nature of Atonement:** State your view of the atonement (e. g., multi-faceted or penal-substitutionary). If you do the multi-faceted view, you will need to define all the facets but you need only support three of them, one of which must be substitution. Relate this to your view on forgiveness and cleansing in your pastoral work.
- c. **Healing in the Atonement:** How does the atoning work of Christ relate to cleansing, emotional and physical healing? Be sure to look at Isaiah 53 in context of Isaiah 1, Matt. 8:1-17; Heb. 9:14-22; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2:24; Jas. 5:13-20
- d. **Image of God:** Clarify your understanding of the image of God in regard to substantive-relational-functional, the body as the image, the state of the image in fallen humans. Relate this to the dignity and worth of all humans in a racially diverse world.
- e. **Depravity:** What is the depth of depravity in the unsaved person? Specifically speak to spiritual ability in fallen humans.
- f. **Divorce and Remarriage:** Are there biblical grounds for dissolution of a marriage? If so, what are they? How do you understand the grounds for remarriage in biblical perspective? Be sure to deal with the passages in Matthew 5 and 19 as well as 1 Corinthians 7.
- g. **Nature of Sanctification:** Focus on answering the question, "How do I deal with sin in my life as I pursue maturity" and support your answer biblically. Be sure and deal with Romans 6-8, Galatians 2:20; 5:16-25. Clarify sanctification as setting apart and moral cleansing, indicative-imperative as well as the roles & responsibilities of Spirit and believer. How can your pastoral work help someone achieve holiness?
- h. **Perseverance of the Believer:** Focus on the question, "Can a truly regenerate person lose his or her salvation?" At minimum you must deal clearly with John 10 & 15, Romans 8, Hebrews 6 & 10. Relate this to how a person can deal with spiritual anxiety.
- i. **Holy Sexuality:** What is God's design for marriage and sexuality? Speak specifically to the context of LGBTQ issues and the assertion that God will bless a same sex marriage on the condition that it is loving and faithful.

GRADING

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
100-94%	93-92%	91-90%	89-84%	83-82%	81-80%	79-74%	73-72%	71-70%	71-65%	64-0%

Required Assignments	Points
Reading and Podcasts	250
Affirmation 1	150
Affirmations 2-5	600
Total	1000

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics	Readings & Podcasts
Monday, April 10	The Practice of Theology; Origin & Nature of Humanity, Corruption of Humanity Male & Female	Breshears/Dodd, Crouch, Moore & Anyabwile
Tuesday, April 11	Person & Work of Christ; Marriage and sexuality	Yuan, Tyson
Wednesday, April 12	Salvation – Election, Calling, Regeneration, and Conversion; Racism	Wright, Pei, Wills, Loritts
Thursday, April 13	Salvation –Justification, Adoption, Assurance	Georges, Keller
Friday, April 14	Salvation –Sanctification, Perseverance and Glorification	Scazzero, Ellis

WORK REPORT

I completed reading all of the assigned readings and podcasts by 9:30 am EDT, April 10

_____ Yes

_____ I did not read the following portion(s) on time but have completed it before the end of class.

_____ I did not complete reading the following portion(s):

My report is truthful.

Name: _____