

# Humanity, Christ and Salvation

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## Organizational Purpose

The Institute of Biblical Studies (IBS) exists 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 help fulfill the Great Commission through the ministry of Cru. This course explores several Christian doctrines 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. We will examine these doctrines as they are taught in Scripture and confessed by the church so that we may better live to the glory of the triune God (2 IBS credits – Theology and Apologetics).

## 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. Grow in your capacity to relate these doctrines to ethics, personal growth, evangelism, discipleship, movement-launching, and cross-cultural mission.
5. Grow in your ability to read Scripture “theologically.”
6. 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).
7. Develop a deeper understanding of and greater confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as the need to contextualize the gospel.

## Required Texts

Robert E. Coleman, *The Heart of the Gospel: The Theology Behind the Master Plan of Evangelism* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011). ISBN: 9780801013706. This book discusses the key doctrines we will be discussing in this class and relates them to the gospel. Coleman writes from a Wesleyan perspective. [HG]

David Platt, *Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age*, revised and updated (Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 2017). ISBN-13: 978-1414390383. Theology includes not only what we believe but also how we live (ethics). The doctrines we are examining in this course have important ethical implications. Platt relates the gospel to poverty, abortion, sex slavery, marriage, sexual morality and ethnicity. [CC]

Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* (Penguin: New York City, 2008). ISBN-13: 978-1594484025 Keller uses the parable of the Prodigal Son to teach about the gospel. We will discuss this book in class each day. [PG]

## Recommended Texts

Timothy C. Tennent, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church Is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007).

Timothy J. Keller. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).

Gregg Allison, *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011).

## Learning Tasks

1. **Reading:** You will be reading selections from three books: Coleman's *Heart of Evangelism*, Platt's *Counter Culture*, Keller's *Prodigal God*, as well as a couple articles and videos posted online. **Given the compressed nature of this course, it is important to complete the reading prior to the first session. Every year on the course evaluation, staff write "I wish I had completed the reading before I came to class."** See the "Course Schedule and Assignments" for a list of required readings. The last day of class you will electronically submit a reading report indicating how much of the required reading you completed. **DUE: Friday, August 10, 2018 by 5:00pm.**
2. **Case Studies:** You will compose responses to a series of case studies. These case studies integrate the doctrines we are studying in this class with practical ministry situations. They will be posted on the IBS website. **DUE: Monday, August 13 by 5:00 pm. When you email your file, please name it using the following format: YourLastName\_casestudies.doc.**

3. **Theology Project:** You will write a paper exploring the relationship between Trinity and salvation in Ephesians. *Be sure to consult the course notes from the session on Trinity and salvation.* These notes will give you some patterns to watch for as you read. In order to write this paper, you will need to take the following steps:
- a. **Survey:** Read through the whole book of Ephesians. For each chapter, record your observations regarding the relationship between the Trinity and salvation. As you read, pay careful attention to the way Paul relates specific aspects of salvation to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (e.g., Paul associates the cross with the Son, not the Father or Holy Spirit). Be watching for patterns. You might make three columns as you take notes: one for the Father, another for the Son, and a third for the Holy Spirit. Observe what aspects of the work of salvation he associates with each person and how they work together to accomplish salvation.
  - b. **Synthesize:** What stands out to you regarding the relationship of Trinity and salvation in Ephesians? Do you see any recurring themes? What patterns do you observe about the working of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Are certain aspects of salvation associated with particular divine persons? How do the divine persons work together in bringing about salvation? What aspects of salvation does Paul emphasize? How do these emphases connect to the rest of Scripture?
  - c. **Write:** Based upon the preceding analysis, write a paper (7-9 pages, double spaced, 12 pt. font) summarizing what Ephesians teaches about the trinitarian nature of salvation. This is not a verse by verse commentary on Ephesians but a synthesis of the teaching of Ephesians regarding the relationship between Trinity and salvation. You will need to make a decision about how to *structure* your paper as you write. One simple way to structure your paper would be to organize your presentation in the following way: (a) Father in salvation, (b) Son in salvation, (c) Holy Spirit in salvation, (d) unity and distinction of the divine persons in salvation. In the last page or two of your paper, address the following questions for personal application: What was the most helpful thing you learned about the trinitarian nature of salvation from your study? What implications does your study have for (1) worship, (2) prayer, (3) how we read the Bible, (4) Christian growth, and (4) gospel ministry? **DUE: Friday, August 17, 2018 by 5:00pm. When you email your file, please name it using the following format: YourLastName\_project.doc.**

#### Course Grade

Reading Report	25%
Case Studies	25%
Theology Project	<u>50%</u>
	100%

**Course Schedule and Assignments**

**NOTE: Given the compressed nature of this course, it is important to complete the reading prior to the first session. We will be discussing *Prodigal God* in class each day so you can wait till class to read that.**

Date	Topic	Reading Due
Monday morning August 6	<b>What is Theology and Why does it Matter?</b>	HG introduction [4pp] CC ch2 [34pp]
	<b>Convictions, Persuasions and Opinions</b>	
Monday afternoon August 6	<b>Trinity and Salvation</b>	PG intro and parable [9pp]
	<b>The Story of God and the Music of the Gospel</b>	
Tuesday morning August 7	<b>Creation: God Made All Things</b>	PG ch1 [10pp]*** HG ch3, ch4 [23pp] CC ch7 [30pp] “Preaching the Gospel Amidst Racism: Remembering Billy Graham” Ellis [2pp, online]
	<b>Creation: Made in the Image of God</b>	
Tuesday afternoon August 7	<b>Creation: Race and Ethnicity</b>	PG ch2 [12pp]*** HG ch5 [17pp] CC ch8 [28pp] Watch “Biblical Theology of Race” by Jemar Tisby (15 min)
	<b>Fall: Corruption of Humanity</b>	
Wednesday morning August 8	<b>Who is Jesus Christ?</b>  <b>Navigating LGBT+ Questions: A Conversation with Rachel Gilson</b>	PG ch3 [20pp]*** HG ch6 [13pp] Watch “Dear Church: I’m Gay” (20 min)
Wednesday afternoon August 8	<b>What Did Jesus Christ Do To Save Us?</b>	PG ch4 [25pp]*** HG ch7, ch8 [30pp] CC ch4 [28pp]

Course Schedule and Assignments (continued)

Date	Topic	Reading Due
Thursday morning August 9	<b>Election: God Chose Us</b>	PG ch5 [17pp]*** HG ch10 [14pp] “Gifts Flowing from the Grace of God,” <i>Plain Theology for Plain People</i> , Boothe [20pp, online] “Is Water Baptism Necessary for Salvation?” [11pp, online]
	<b>God’s Work in Salvation: Calling and Regeneration</b>	
Thursday afternoon August 9	<b>Our Response to God’s Initiative: Conversion</b>	PG ch6 [15pp]*** HG ch11, ch12 [30pp] CC ch9 [20pp] “Talking about Faith in Non-Western Contexts” Georges [2pp, online]
	<b>Salvation: Justification and Adoption</b>	
Friday morning August 10	<b>Salvation: Assurance and Sanctification</b>	PG ch7 [29pp]*** HG ch13, ch14 [27pp] <i>Today we will be discussing the Platt ethics book you read</i> ***
	<b>Can You Lose Your Salvation?</b>	
Friday afternoon August 10	<b>What is the Gospel?</b>	Jabbour, <i>Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross</i> [11pp]*** Keller, “Biblical Contextualization” [9pp]***
	<b>Contextualizing the Gospel</b>	
		<b>TOTAL READING = 490pp</b>