



Humanity/Christ/Salvation

Institute for Biblical Studies (CRU)

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May 2024

SYLLABUS

COURSE SCHEDULE

May 13-17 11:00am – 1:00pm, 2:30-4:30pm EDT (8:00am-10:00am, 11:30-1:30 PDT)
– Over Zoom

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 help 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. 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)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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 doctrines of humanity, sin, the person and work of Christ, and salvation).
3. Become persuaded that Christian theology is not just about right beliefs (orthodoxy) but also right living (orthopraxy). You will be invited to explore the ethical implications of every doctrine we study.
4. Become more familiar with major viewpoints, differences, and conflicts which exist among Christians regarding these 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.

TEXTBOOKS

Books

- Gregg Allison. [*50 Core Truths of the Christian Life: A Guide to Understanding and Teaching Theology*](#). Baker, 2018. ISBN: 978-0801019128 (Chapters 15-17, 20- 21, 25-31, 33-34) (100 pages)
- Todd Miles, *Superheroes Can't Save You: Epic Examples of Historic Heresies*. B&H Academic, 2018. ISBN: 978-1462750795 (all) (175 pages)

- Timothy Tennent. [*Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology*](#). Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-3102-7511-4 (Chaps 4, 5, 6) (85 pages)

Articles (I will provide and place in the Canvas class website)

- Adrian Pei, *The Minority Experience: Navigating Emotional and Organizational Realities* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2018), (chap 2)
- Richard Wayne Wills, Sr. *Martin Luther King Jr. and the Image of God* (New York: Oxford, 2009), (chap 5)

Podcasts

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation (15%)

You are responsible to regularly attend and participate in class discussions. The class time will be conducted seminar style, so active, prepared, and intentional student participation is necessary to maximize learning.

2. Reading (25%)

All reading is to be completed prior to our first class meeting on May 13. Reading completed by May 17 will receive 90% credit. Reading completed by May 24 will receive 80% credit. A reading log is attached at the end of the syllabus.

3. Affirmations (60%)

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 **Friday May 17** by

8:00 pm EDT. The other four are due no later than **Friday, May 24** by 8:00 pm EDT. Upload your documents onto the Canvas website, 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

May 13-14 – Doctrine of Humanity
May 14-15 – Doctrine of Sin
May 15 – Doctrine of Person of Christ
May 16 – Doctrine of Work of Christ
May 17 – Doctrine of Salvation

GRADING

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

Reading Log
Please upload onto Canvas classroom website by May 24, 2024

Allison [50 Core Truths of the Christian Life:](#) (Chapters 15-17, 20- 21, 25-31, 33-34)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 5/24 _____

Miles. [Superheroes Can't Save You:](#) (All)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 5/24 _____

Tennent. [Theology in the Context of World Christianity:](#) (Chapters 4, 5, 6)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 5/24 _____

Pei. *The Minority Experience* (chap 2)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 5/24 _____

Wills. *MLK and the Image of God* (chap 5)

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 5/24 _____

Listen to Christopher Yuan, "Holy Sexuality"

Date Completed _____ -Or- % completed by 5/24 _____