

# **BIBLICAL STUDIES COURSE CURRICULUM**

## **Our Teaching Philosophy:**

Our aim is to rightly interpret and honour God's word and we endeavour to communicate the Scriptures in a clear and understandable way. Although we are unable to thoroughly examine every book of the Bible, we want our course of study to provide a solid basis upon which students can build throughout the rest of their lives. We cover all the Bible doctrines thoroughly in our classes, but that being said our course is laid out chronologically so that "Bible Doctrines" are discovered in the context of the setting of each book of the Bible. We do offer some small overview doctrine classes for the purpose of drawing together what the Bible says as a whole on the subject.

We are committed to allowing the Holy Spirit to use the teaching to change lives, including our own, to make a difference in our world. We desire the exaltation of the One who so loved that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

## **'FOUNDATIONS'**

### **Terms 1 & 2**

#### **Bible Study Methods – 10h**

This is a course to teach as simply as possible the tools necessary for understanding the Bible and applying it to one's life. Students will learn key principles for interpreting Scripture. Several different methods of study will be presented and put into practice using selected scripture passages.

#### **Bibliology - 10h**

A study of how God revealed His word to us through inspiration, and its inerrancy. The canonisation of the Bible, its preservation, and how it is presently available to us in various versions.

#### **Pentateuch - 47h**

The survey of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy lays the foundation for how God deals with both individual men and a nation. Topics discussed are: Creation, the flood, tower of Babel, Patriarchs, the Law, the tabernacle and God's deliverance of the nation of Israel from the bondage of Egypt to the entrance into the Promised Land.

#### **Old Testament History - 28h**

A survey through the Old Testament History books to develop a historical timeline from Joshua through to the return from the Exile with Ezra and

Nehemiah. This will include the structure and overview of Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings while covering the major themes. Ruth will be related to Judges, 1 & 2 Chronicles will be touched on with some insight into comparisons and differences with 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings, while Ezra and Nehemiah will complete the Old Testament history as recorded in the Bible.

Attention will be given to leaders, nations (Israel and Judah), and the lives of some of the prophets while referencing the historical timing of other Old Testament prophets and the Davidic line.

### **Hermeneutics – 7h**

An examination of our method of interpretation and some of the challenges we face in understanding the Bible. An overview of different hermeneutics that have historically been used to understand the Bible's meaning will be given. A comparison between allegorising and the literal method leads to emphasising the historical, cultural and literary context and a study of sound principles of interpretation, before considering some more difficult forms to interpret.

### **Theology - 14h**

A study establishing who God is and how He has revealed Himself to man. Consideration is given to the following topics: the names of God, God is spirit, God is a person, God is trinity, and the attributes of God.

### **Christology - 10h**

A study of the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ with a special focus on the "Kenosis".

### **Pneumatology - 11h**

The Holy Spirit is considered through His work in the Old and the New Testament. The study will include His titles, personality, deity, and the indwelling, sealing, anointing, and baptism of the in-Christ believer.

### **Major Prophets – 24h**

This study will look at Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. It will be clearly seen that God has not finished with His people Israel. Even though in Isaiah's time He called in vain for them to repent, He still promised to send them a Messiah who would first come to offer Himself as a sacrifice for their sin, and then later, in what is still future, would return as King to restore Israel to Himself by faith, making Israel the glory of the earth. All of the promises made to the patriarchs will be wonderfully fulfilled in His Kingdom.

### **Minor Prophets – 16h**

A study of the 12 Minor Prophets. Their writings were less in volume than the 5 Major Prophets but of no less importance and significance. Their

prophetic themes not only addressed issues of their time but they spoke of things to come some of which have taken place and others that will most assuredly be fulfilled.

### **Psalms - 12h**

An overview will be given of the history of the Psalms, including the 5 different divisions within the book of Psalms. We will also highlight key Psalms and key themes within the Book of Psalms. We will also learn about the various forms of poetry used in the Psalms, with the purpose of understanding them better.

### **Life of Christ - 38h**

This study presents the life of Christ thematically and thus is to be viewed as complementary and supplementary. An attempt is made to harmonise the Gospels in such a way that we can trace the development of the life of Christ chronologically. This is to make clear the theme of the life of Christ.

### **Major Religions - 10h**

This is a study looking at the beliefs and practices of the world's major religions in the light of the Word of God, and considers how we can witness to their adherents.

### **Church History - 10h**

This class discusses the perversion that crept into the early church. We look at how the church fell away from being based only on Scripture. Most time is spent on the changes that took place during the reformation. Some time is spent bringing us into the modern church era.

### **Eschatology - 15h**

This class discusses end times events. Special attention will be given to various views held amongst evangelical Christians today. Specific topics covered are the second coming of Christ, the tribulation, Millennial Kingdom, new heavens and new earth. In addition, some time is spent on hell, judgements, resurrections and Satan. This class is also meant to lay a foundation for the core Biblical principle of a consistent literal hermeneutic used promotes hope.

### **Bible Memory 1 - 10h**

This module introduces the memorisation of individual verses with their verse reference. The students write out 2 Bible verses that they have memorised. They then continue to study the following set of 2 verses. This module then introduces the memorisation of a chapter.

### **Practical Programme – 9h/week**

This normally runs three afternoons each week, and is a time when all students join together in a practical programme in which various tasks are

given to assist in the practical running of the campus. It also provides useful experience in learning to apply Christian life principles at work and a practical opportunity to serve the Lord and each other.

### **Terms 3 & 4**

#### **Inter-Testament History - 3h**

A short but interesting study on the 400 silent years between the Old and the New Testament. This study leads us up to the Life of Christ and explains synagogue life for Jews. We look at all the different sects of religious leaders in Israel such as the Pharisees, Sadducees and Zealots.

#### **Acts - 26h**

A study looking at how the Holy Spirit started and continues to build the church of Jesus Christ, noting how the Spirit used ordinary men and women with their ministries and lifestyle in establishing the church throughout the world. Special focus will be on understanding Acts as a transitional book, seeing how the Gospel spread from Jerusalem to the Gentile world, and how the church became a distinct entity from the nation of Israel. It will also be highlighted how Acts reveals the background for each of the epistles.

#### **Epistle Survey - 4h**

Typically both Paul's epistles and the general epistles are studied by order of canon (how they are placed in the Bible). This class takes a brief look at all the epistles in the order they were written chronologically, thus giving us some insight into actual chronological teaching of church growth among the early church.

#### **Romans - 40h**

A study through the book of Romans looking at Paul's development of key Biblical doctrines including the depravity and condemnation of humanity, justification, sanctification, and glorification, and God's purpose in history and vindication in regard to His dealing with Israel and the Gentiles. Theology lays a foundation for growth in grace and this good news is to be lived out practically in everyday life and ministry.

#### **1 Corinthians - 40h**

A study of 1 Corinthians deals with the issues of carnality in the Church. We look at many of the major issues of division within this early church, and how many of these issues are still valid today. Other discussions include misuse of Christian liberty, body function, taking believers to court, church discipline, marriage, divorce, remarriage, legalism, the Lord's Table, spiritual gifts, tongues and the resurrection.

#### **2 Corinthians - 10h**

A study looking at Paul's explanation and defence of his ministry and apostleship. This is the most personal of Paul's letters, revealing the

heart of the apostle, the message God had given him and the cost in getting this message out. The study will also deal with the subjects of comfort, false teachers, and the grace of giving financially.

### **1 & 2 Thessalonians - 15h**

The study of these letters will emphasise the coming of the Lord, focusing especially on the Rapture of the Church, and how this relates to the Day of the Lord, and many other important principles of Christian living and ministry.

### **Firm Foundations, Creation to Christ - 28h**

This module introduces and examines the background, concept and content of the "chronological teaching approach" to evangelism and discipleship. Students participate by preparing and teaching brief lessons covering the redemptive highlights of God's Story and revealed Glory in overview of the Old and New Testaments as presented in the course text "Firm Foundations - Creation to Christ."

### **Each One Reach One, Each One Teach One - 10h**

An examination of the "Who, What, Where, How and Why" of Christ's Great Commission, with specific and detailed attention given to training in the "How" of personally sharing the message of the Bible and one-to-one disciple-making / mentoring. This highly motivational study clearly emphasises the priority and practice of personally sharing the message of the Bible and one-to-one discipling in ministry both at home and abroad.

### **Missions - 8h**

This course takes a look at God's perspective on world evangelisation from the Bible. Some of the questions answered in this class are: Are the heathen really lost? What is the biblical basis for missions? Who are called to missionary service?

### **Bible Memory 2 - 10h**

This module completes the memorisation of a chapter, includes memorising a portion of the Bible, and then introduces memorising a whole book of the Bible.

The inclusion of verse references is still emphasized. The students write out 2 Bible verses that they have memorised, review previous verses and can continue to study the following set of 2 verses.

### **Practical Programme – 9h/week**

This normally runs three afternoons each week, and is a time when all students join together in a practical programme in which various tasks are given to assist in the practical running of the campus. It also provides useful experience in learning to apply Christian life principles at work and a practical opportunity to serve the Lord and each other.

## 'CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY'

### **Terms 5 & 6**

#### **Galatians - 15h**

This study looks at the meaning of the Gospel and how Paul challenges believers, considering their new position in Christ, to walk in freedom through the help of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Ephesians - 24h**

The first three chapters in this epistle teach us who we are in Christ. Chapters 4 through 6 then discuss how we should live our lives in light of this. Special attention is given to Paul's two prayers and the armour of God.

#### **Daniel - 12h**

This is a study of the prophecies of the book of Daniel through which God reveals the course of Gentile world power; the relationship of Israel to this course; her liberation from this power at the Second Coming of Christ and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

#### **Philippians - 10h**

Paul's letter to the church at Philippi was to thank them for their help and to encourage them to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. To walk with the Lord produces joy and joy is emphasised and encouraged throughout this letter.

#### **Colossians - 10h**

This module consists of a verse-by-verse study of Paul's letter written to the Church at Colosse, with a focus on the believer's daily walk and important Christian doctrines within the context of Christian living.

#### **John's Epistles – 10h**

A look at the 3 Epistles of the Apostle John. John challenges us with walking in the light, not darkness, walking in love, not in disunity and walking in truth, not a lie. We will spend 10 hours looking at John's treatise on fellowship with God and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Also out of this fellowship comes the desire to keep his commandments, which John says are not burdensome.

#### **Anthropology - 8h**

This is a study of humanity's creation, nature and constitution both material and immaterial.

#### **Hamartiology - 5h**

This study covers the origin of sin in the heavenlies and on earth,

consequences of sin and the divine permission of sin. Through a word study in the Old and New Testament a definition of sin will be developed. The extent of sin will be considered through inherited, imputed and personal sins before looking at depravity.

## **Soteriology - 6h**

From God's perspective, salvation includes the total work of God in bringing people from death to eternal life. From the human perspective it incorporates all of the blessings that being in Christ brings, both in this life and the life to come.

### **1 Peter - 7h**

1 Peter was written to Christians who were experiencing various forms of persecution. Peter encouraged these Christians to steadfast endurance. Peter's warm expressions along with his practical instructions make this epistle an encouragement for all believers who live in conflict with their culture.

### **2 Peter - 5h**

2 Peter was also written to Jewish Christians who were experiencing various forms of persecution in the early Church period. This is a book about being alert and not falling asleep to our surroundings. God deals with us both in truth and grace. Peter addresses some moral issues and corruption within the church. He helps us to know how we can resist all this by showing us what God has provided and what he requires of us. There are certain key words or key phrases that relates to the themes carried throughout the book

### **1 Timothy - 12h**

The study of 1 Timothy focuses on the truths with reference to the local assembly of believers. What were the expectations for the church members meeting together? Who were the leaders and how did they qualify for the role? How were the believers to live out their lives in their pluralistic and pagan society?

### **2 Timothy - 7h**

This is the final, inspired letter written by Paul while awaiting execution. We examine his concerns and his confidence for the ongoing spread of the gospel through the early church.

### **Titus - 6h**

This is a study looking at the qualifications of church leadership and the qualities to be found in the people of the church. The gospel of grace is explained and an emphasis on the importance of good works.

### **James - 10h**

This study focuses on various practical truths for the everyday walk of the believer such as difficult circumstances, wisdom, the tongue, and conflict resolution.

### **Hebrews - 24h**

The superiority of Christ is highlighted in comparison to angels, prophets, Moses, the Aaronic priesthood and the Mosaic Covenant. This leads to an understanding of the walk of faith, the better ministry and the better covenant established by Christ.

### **Jude - 3h**

A study of Jude's letter, its structure and purpose. Jude warns against false teachers while appealing for believers to contend for the faith in response to false teachers. This is backed up with references to the Old Testament, before applying how we are to consider our spiritual condition and life with God, and finishing in praise to God.

### **Revelation - 22h**

In the book of Revelation we build upon the foundation of Daniel as we consider the completion of the testimony of the true Church; the judgment of both the false religious system of this world and its commercial and political system during the Tribulation; the Millennial Kingdom; the final destiny of Satan, his demons and all unbelievers; and the New Heaven and New Earth.

### **Christian Life – 15h**

This course brings together what has been learned through the year in all the Biblical Studies modules. This review of birth truths includes the believer's identification in Christ, security and assurance. These are applied in growth truths and Christian liberty. Practical discussions include responding to issues with important concepts to keep in mind while loving and discipling others.

### **Bible Memory 3 - 10h**

This module completes the memorisation of a whole book of the Bible. The inclusion of verse references and review is emphasised. The students write out 2 Bible verses that they have memorised, review previous verses and can continue to study the following set of 2 verses.

### **ALL TERMS**

Chapel/HTR – 2.5h per week

Fellowship Group – Monday evenings

\*h = class hour = 50 minutes