

BIBLICAL STUDIES

'FOUNDATIONS'

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.

MODULES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

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.

Anthropology - 6h

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

Bible Memory - 15h

This module introduces the memorisation of individual verses with their verse reference (which is always emphasised). It also includes the memorisation of a portion of the Bible as well as a whole chapter of the Bible. Classes involve the students writing out 2 Bible verses that they have memorised, they then continue to study the following set of 2 verses. Periodically the students will write out a larger section of verses as review, as well as reciting them audibly.

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.

Christology - 10h

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

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.

Colossians - 10h

This module is a study of Paul's letter to the Colossians. It will look at Paul's Christological teaching, as he deals with the potential threat of external false teachers, to understand the foundation of the believers' security in Christ, their completeness in Christ and their life in Christ.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Life of Christ - 38h

This module is a detailed, thematic overview and harmonization of the 4 gospel accounts, showing the life of Jesus Christ and the significance of His person and work. This module will trace the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and show how these are the foundation of our faith

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.

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 taken place and others that will most assuredly be fulfilled.

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.

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.

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.

Practical Programme – 9h/week

This normally runs three afternoons each week, and is a time when students join together in the house keeping necessary to keep things clean and tidy. It is also a practical opportunity to serve each other and the Lord, and it provides useful experience in learning to apply Christian life principles.

Psalms - 12h

In this module, an overview will be given of the book of psalms – including the historical background of the Psalms, the 5 divisions within the book of Psalms and the authorship of the psalms. The module will also highlight key Psalms and key themes within the Book of Psalms. The module will also focus on the various forms of poetry used in the Psalms, with the purpose of understanding the psalms better.

Romans - 43h

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.

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.

OTHER

Chapel/HTR – 2.5h per week

Fellowship Group – Monday evenings

*h = class hour = 50 minutes