

PURPOSE OF THE CLASS

Jesus commands his followers to love the Lord their God with their whole hearts, souls, and minds (Matthew 22:37). Biblical and Theological Foundations is designed to supply students with the knowledge they need to obey Christ's commandment. Additionally, it will give students the tools to continue in their learning of the Bible and theology for fruitful lives of obedience and love to the Lord their God.

The main goal and guiding objective is to equip Christians with a familiarity and ease in navigating foundational biblical and theological concepts.

Additional objectives are to:

- Equip individuals for ministry in their local church
- Prepare individuals to potentially serve the church in the office of elder or deacon, as well as other leadership roles such as deaconess or growth group leader
- Provide a fair assessment of an individual's fitness for ordained office in the church
- Reinforce understanding of the contents of the Old and New Testaments
- Ground class members with a growing knowledge of the major doctrines of our faith
- Raise up leaders who take initiative to influence others through Christ-centered relationships

ASSIGNED READING

40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible, Robert L. Plummer (portions)

Everyone's a Theologian, R.C. Sproul (whole book)

The Westminster Confession of Faith

EXPECTATIONS

- Attend at least eight of the ten sessions
- Come to each session with the assigned Bible and book portions read, and any additional homework tasks completed (highlighted at the end of each session in the binder)
- Come prepared to state and explain the significance of your assigned Key Terms
- Pray for yourself and the others in the class, that you would grow in holiness and a richer understanding of Scripture and theology for service in the local church
- Complete and turn in the take-home final exam by the Celebration Breakfast

FINAL EXAM

- Two parts: Part One is closed book and Part Two is open Bible
- Takes most people 2-4 hours to complete in one sitting
- Covers the Key Passages, Key Terms, Key Dates ("Big Picture" tab 3), and a portion will be graded on the assigned reading
- You are encouraged to start studying early on! (e.g. the [Quizlet](#) app)

SCHEDULE

Note: All class periods are Thursday mornings from 6:30-7:45am, Sept 16 - Nov 18, 2021.

Class 1 Introduction and Growing in Godliness

Class 2 Old Testament Overview: Pentateuch and History

Preparatory Reading:

Genesis 3, 12; Exodus 20; Leviticus 16; 2 Samuel 7

40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible, chs. 1-7

Key Terms: The Fall, Covenant

Class 3 Old Testament Overview: Poetry and Prophecy

Preparatory Reading:

Job 19; Psalms 22, 110, 119; Isaiah 7, 9, 40, 53, 61; Jeremiah 31; Ezekiel 36; Joel 2;

Micah 5; Zechariah 9; Malachi 4

40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible, chs. 8-13

Key Terms: Hebrew Poetry, Messianic Expectation

Class 4 New Testament Overview

Preparatory Reading:

Matthew 5-7; Mark 2; John 3, 8, 17; Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8; Matthew 14, Mark 6,

Luke 9, John 6; Luke 15

40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible, chs. 14-20

Key Terms: Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification

Class 5 The Doctrines of Revelation and God

Preparatory Reading:

Acts 2, 9, 17; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Peter 1

Westminster Confession of Faith, chs. 1-5

Everyone's a Theologian, chs. 1-15

Key Terms: Trinity, Inspiration, Inerrancy

Class 6 The Doctrines of Creation and Man

Preparatory Reading:

Romans 3, 8; Galatians 2; James 1

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 6-7

Everyone's a Theologian, chs. 16-22

Key Terms: Imago Dei, Complementary Roles of Men and Women, Total Depravity, Providence

Class 7 The Doctrines of Christ and the Holy Spirit

Preparatory Reading:

Matthew 16, Mark 8, Luke 9; 1 Corinthians 15; Colossians 1; Hebrews 1

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 8-9

Everyone's a Theologian, chs. 23-37

Key Terms: Incarnation, Resurrection

Class 8 The Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

Preparatory Reading:

Romans 9; Ephesians 1; Hebrews 11; 1 John 2

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 10-18

Everyone's a Theologian, chs. 38-45

Key Terms: Faith, Particular Atonement, Election and Reprobation, Union with Christ

Class 9 The Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)

Preparatory Reading:

Matthew 28; 1 Corinthians 11

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 19-31

Everyone's a Theologian, chs. 46-52

Key Terms: Sacrament, Disciple-making Disciples

Class 10 The Doctrine of the Last Things (Eschatology)

Preparatory Reading:

Revelation 4-5, 21

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 32-33

Everyone's a Theologian, chs. 53-60

Key Terms: Perseverance, the Millennium/Amillennialism

“Class 11” Celebration Breakfast

Exams are due

Key Passages and their Content

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

<u>KEY PASSAGE</u>	<u>CONTENT</u>
Genesis 3	The Fall
Genesis 12	The Call of Abraham
Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Leviticus 16	The Day of Atonement
2 Samuel 7	The Davidic Covenant
Job 19	My Redeemer Lives
Psalms 22	My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?
Psalms 110	Sit At My Right Hand
Psalms 119	Your Word is a Lamp to My Feet
Isaiah 7	The Virgin Birth of the Messiah
Isaiah 9	For to Us a Child is Born
Isaiah 40	Comfort for My People
Isaiah 53	The Suffering Servant
Isaiah 61	The Year of the Lord's Favor
Jeremiah 31	The New Covenant
Ezekiel 36	I Will Give You a New Heart
Joel 2	A Prophecy of Pentecost
Micah 5	A Ruler to Be Born in Bethlehem
Zachariah 9	Rejoice Greatly, Your King is Coming to You
Malachi 4	The Sun of Righteousness Shall Rise with Healing in its Wings
Matthew 5-7	The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 28	The Great Commission
Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8	The Parable of the Sower
Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6	Jesus Feeds the 5,000
Matthew 16, Mark 8, Luke 9	Peter Confesses Jesus is the Christ
Mark 2	Jesus Heals and Forgives a Paralytic
Luke 15	Parables of the Lost Sheep, Coin, and Son
John 3	You Must Be Born Again
John 8	I Am the Light of the World and Before Abraham Was, I Am

John 17	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer
Acts 2	Pentecost
Acts 9	Conversion of Saul
Acts 17	Paul Preaching at the Areopagus
Romans 3	The Righteousness of God Through Faith
Romans 8	There is No Condemnation for Those in Christ
Romans 9	God's Sovereign Choice
1 Corinthians 11	The Lord's Supper
1 Corinthians 15	The Resurrection of Christ
2 Corinthians 4	The Glory of God through Jars of Clay
Galatians 2	Justified By Faith and Not By Works of the Law
Ephesians 1	Spiritual Blessings in Christ
Philippians 2	The Humility of Christ
Colossians 1	A Hymn to Christ
1 Timothy 3	Qualifications for Elder and Deacon
2 Timothy 3	All Scripture is Breathed Out By God
Hebrews 1	The Supremacy of God's Son
Hebrews 11	Hall of Faith
James 1	The Testing of Your Faith
2 Peter 1	Scripture Writers were Carried Along By the Holy Spirit
1 John 2	Christ is the Propitiation for our Sins
Revelation 4-5	The Throne in Heaven and the Lamb
Revelation 21	New Heaven and New Earth

Key Terms and their Definitions

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

<u>KEY TERM</u>	<u>DEFINITION AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES</u>
Regeneration	The work of the Holy Spirit to bring new spiritual life to a person without which it is impossible to enter the Kingdom of God; to be “born again.” Scripture passages: John 3:3-8; Titus 3:4-7
Justification	An act of God’s free grace, in which he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone. Scripture passages: Romans 3:21-26; 4:1-8
Sanctification	The work of God’s free grace, by which we are renewed throughout in the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness. Scripture passages: Romans 6:1-4; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 10:14
Perseverance	Because of God’s preserving grace, all of his elect will remain in Christ all their days, will demonstrate his work in them by their fruitfulness, and will be glorified by him on the Last Day. Scripture passages: John 10:27-29; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
Union with Christ	The believer’s intimate relationship with Christ through faith which is the source of every spiritual blessing. Scripture passages: John 15:1-11; Ephesians 1:3-14
The Fall	In unbelief and pride, Adam disobeyed the command of God and brought condemnation, corruption, and misery to the entire human race. Scripture passages: Genesis 3; Romans 5:12
Covenant	A relationship that God established with us and guarantees by his Word. Scripture passages: Genesis 15; Jeremiah 31:33
Hebrew Poetry	An emotive literary style employing parallelism, rhythm, and imagery that is used in teaching and worship. Scripture passages: Psalm 1, Lamentations
Messianic Expectation	God promised a redeemer, a seed, an anointed one, a king, a prophet, a priest who would reconcile the creation to himself and restore the relationship lost through sin. Scripture passages: Genesis 3:15; Deut 18:15; 2 Sam 7; Is 9:6-7; 61:1-4

Incarnation	The act whereby the divine Son of God took on true humanity so that he might save us from our sins. Jesus is truly God and truly human in one person. Scripture passages: Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:10-20
Resurrection	God raised Jesus bodily from the dead on the third day proving his divine Sonship and the effectiveness of his sacrifice on our behalf. Christians will also be raised in Christ on the last day to enjoy eternal life with him forever. Scripture passages: Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:12-22
Disciple-making Disciple	A follower of Jesus who invests him/herself in others by sharing life and the gospel with them, in order that they would do the same with others also. This is the expectation of every believer. Scripture passages: Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:1-2
Trinity	The doctrine that God exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is uncreated, co-eternal, and equal in power, glory, and honor. They are rightly worshiped as the one true God, one-in-three and three-in-one. Scripture passages: Matthew 28:19; John 14: 26; 2 Corinthians 13:14
Providence	God actively sustains and governs all created things according to his holy will, in such a way, that nothing happens in this world without his orderly arrangement. Scripture passages: Colossians 1:17; Job 37:6-13; Proverbs 16:33; Matthew 10:29-30
Inspiration	The words of Scripture are “breathed out” and spoken by God through human authors so that the Bible’s words are the exact ones God intended. Scripture passages: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21
Inerrancy	The Bible in the original manuscripts is perfectly reliable, completely true, and without error. Scripture passages: Psalm 19:7-8; Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 5:17-20; John 10:35
<i>Imago Dei</i> (Image of God)	God created human beings in his likeness and to be his representatives to the rest of creation in this world. We are created to know, enjoy, and reflect God’s glory to others. Scripture passages: Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 4:24
Complementary Roles of Men and Women	While men and women are created equal in image, dignity, value, and glory, they are assigned different roles by God: men are to sacrificially lead in the home and church, and women are to voluntarily submit to this leadership by using their gifts to support it. Scripture passages: Ephesians 5: 22-33; 1 Timothy 2:8-15

Total Depravity	<p>Every part of man’s nature is affected by sin, so that he cannot choose what is spiritually good apart from God’s grace.</p> <p>Scripture passages: Romans 3:9-12; Ephesians 2:1-3</p>
Faith	<p>The gift of God that enables us to understand and trust in his Word and respond appropriately to it. Saving faith is directed toward Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.</p> <p>Scripture passages: Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 11:1-6</p>
Particular Atonement	<p>The work of Christ in his life, death and resurrection to secure salvation for his chosen people. This doctrine affirms that he <i>definitely</i> saves those who are <i>particularly</i> his.</p> <p>Scripture passages: John 10:11, 14-16; Romans 8:28-30</p>
Election and Reprobation	<p>God’s decision from before the creation of the world to choose some of his fallen human creatures to be saved and by his grace to become holy and blameless in his sight. In his wisdom and for his glory he passed over others, holding them accountable for their sins.</p> <p>Scripture passages: Ephesians 1:4; Romans 9:14-24</p>
Sacrament	<p>A holy ordinance instituted by Christ that is both a sign of the new covenant and a seal that applies its benefits to the believer. There are two: baptism and the Lord’s Supper.</p> <p>Scripture passages: Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 4:11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26</p>
The Millennium / Amillennialism	<p>The thousand year reign of Christ with the saints characterized by righteousness, peace, prosperity, and the defeat of Satan. Amillennialism is the belief that there is no literal millennium; that Christ reigns now in heaven and on earth through the church. Good and evil will both remain until Christ returns to destroy evil and bring in everlasting righteousness and joy.</p> <p>Scripture passages: Revelation 20:1-6; Ephesians 1:15-23</p>

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED RESOURCES

- Bavinck, Herman. *The Wonderful Works of God*. Glenside, PA: Westminster Seminary Press, 2019.
- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, 1949.
- DeYoung, Kevin. *Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough, and What That Means For You and Me*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Ferguson, Sinclair. *The Christian Life: A Doctrinal Introduction*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2013.
- Hendriksen, William. *More Than Conquerors*. An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation. Baker Pub Group, Reprint edition 1979.
- Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*.
- Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. 20th Anniversary Edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- . *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*. Cambridge: Tyndale House, 2001.
- Ryle, J.C. *Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2014.
- Sproul, R.C. *Chosen by God*. Cambridge: Tyndale Momentum, 1994.
- . *The Holiness of God*. Cambridge: Tyndale Momentum, 2000.
- Stott, John R.W. *The Cross of Christ*. 20th Anniversary Edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.