

THE GOSPELS

I. Catalog Description

An exposition of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John with emphasis on the biblical theology of these books, their genre, and application. (2 hours)

Prerequisite: BE101 Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics

Recommended Prerequisite: BE104 Old Testament Prophets

II. Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will . . .

A. Cognitive Objectives

1. Give a subject/purpose statement for each book studied in the course. *Subject* means that portion or whole of the book which the Holy Spirit guided the human author of Scripture to include; that selection of material which provides the structure and contents of the passage. *Purpose* means the reason(s), as expressed explicitly or implicitly within the text, which show(s) why the writer included that material; that significance or contribution which the passage makes toward the development of the argument of the section or book.
2. Trace the major outline and argument of the books studied. Evaluation of this design will take the form of five quizzes which will test the introductory materials and synthetic charts of each book studied. The material for each quiz is cumulative.
3. Interact with the major interpretive problems which surface in the study of these books. Students will contract for a number of papers which will address dispensational, hermeneutical, or synoptic areas of concern or debate.
4. Summarize the biblical theology which underlies the argument of Luke or John. This will be demonstrated by a 5–10-page paper.
5. Implement a strategy of discipleship based entirely on the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Gospels. A 5–10-page paper would probably be adequate to summarize such a strategy.

B. Affective Objectives

1. Appreciate the various literary forms by which God chose to communicate His message to man.
2. Sense a feeling of accomplishment at being able to handle correctly this section of God's Word.
3. Evaluate their own lifestyle in comparison with that of Jesus Christ with regard to the commands Jesus gave and the relationships which He modeled.
4. Love and serve God more faithfully as a result of seeing the plan and progress of His kingdom and redemptive programs in history.

5. Apply the principles of discipleship as modeled by Christ toward the continuing goal of living a transformed life.

III. Course Requirements

A. Contract Grade

All students will complete the following work:

1. Read each of the Bible books studied in this course twice.
2. Attend the lecture video sessions.
3. Satisfactorily participate in the interactions.
4. Pass the Final Exam

In addition, students will complete the following work . . .

1. To earn a "C":
 - a. Average 35 or more points out of 50 on the quizzes.
 - b. Satisfactorily produce one (1) paper from the assignment schedule.
2. To earn a "B":
 - a. Average 40 or more points out of 50 on the quizzes.
 - b. Satisfactorily produce two (2) papers from the assignment schedule.
3. To earn an "A":
 - a. Average 45 or more points out of 50 on the quizzes.
 - b. Satisfactorily produce three (3) papers from the assignment schedule. One of these three (3) must be the Discipleship Strategy.

B. Assignment Rubrics

All assigned papers coordinate with the modules in which the material is covered. Submit all papers on time. Late papers will not be accepted!

The following rubrics apply to papers¹:

1. Excellent (100) means you understood and fulfilled the goal for the assignment, and your work was superior quality.
2. Good (96) means your work was solid with all the major elements of the assignment included.
3. Acceptable (90) means your work was adequate, although the work may not reflect the effort, thought, and organization expected in the above categories.
4. Unacceptable means your work is incomplete and has not met the minimum requirements for Master's-level work. Absence of research, planning, well-stated ideas, or neatness justifies an unacceptable grade. Edit and re-submit an unacceptable paper to increase your grade to Acceptable.

¹ You may receive a plus or minus for your final contract grade according to the quality of your interactions and the average grades earned.

C. Assignments

1. Book Synthesis

A synthetic study for a "Bailey Class" consists of both a synthetic chart portraying the structure of the book and an outline of the subject/purpose statements of each of the major divisions and sections of the book.

Module 1's lecture videos discuss the instructions and provide a sample of the requirements. Outline as far as two dimensions. No more is necessary for this assignment. Compose a subject/purpose statement for each of these levels. Compose a finalized subject/purpose statement reflecting the book as a whole. This statement is the key thesis of the writer as seen in the development of his argument.

2. Biblical Theology

A biblical theology is distinguished from a systematic theology in that the former serves as a foundation to the latter. A biblical theology is organized around those themes, unique to the human author who was directed by the Holy Spirit, which were revealed at a most appropriate point of time in history. Therefore, the study may be said to be both historical and theological in its place in the progress of revelation.

The suggestions listed below are given as an aid to this assignment:

- a. A biblical theology is the theology of the particular human author being studied.
- b. The categories of consideration are to be those emphasized by the text and not a systematic theology.
- c. Do not confuse a biblical theology with the argument of the book. The argument is based on the literary development of the book through both subject and purpose. The theology is that which underlies such a presentation. While a book may not reveal an author's whole theology, the burden of the assignment is to discover what is included!
- d. Attempt to use the terminology of the author and not systematic titles or categories in the discussion. Let the text inform you.
- e. Outline the theological concepts as they occur in the text to identify any possible historical or literary developments of thought.

Bible Exposition Department Statement

Biblical theology is that exegetical and synthetic study of a biblical text, texts, or section of the Bible that seeks to determine the theological meaning of that portion as it was written and then to explicate what that theology means for today.

Producing a biblical theology involves setting forth what God has revealed in the Bible within a designated section of Scripture (e.g. the Gospels), through a writer of Scripture (e.g. Luke), material in a

selected period of time (e.g., post-exilic prophets), or across the entire canon, using the categories of the module in question.

When a student writes a biblical theology paper for the BE Department, the student must set forth what God has revealed in a specified portion of the Bible (e.g. the Gospel of Matthew) on a particular subject (e.g., the kingdom of God). The professor will specify the portion(s) of the Bible, the subject (or choice of subjects), and the length of the paper. The student must organize the divine revelation in the paper using categories that arise out of the study, or categories that the professor may specify, according to the professor's discretion. These criteria by which the paper will be evaluated are the comprehensiveness of the coverage of the revelation, the quality of the presentation of the material, and any other criteria the professor may specify.

3. Discipleship Strategy²

This assignment is an inductive study. Focus on what Jesus said about being and making disciples. Because of the brevity of your time and the length of the paper (5–10 pages), outline the key character qualities emphasized by Christ which form the seedbed out of which a discipleship ministry might flourish.

Based on your results of this inductive study, develop a strategy of implementation for the reproduction of these characteristics in the lives of others. Include target goals as definable in content, time of involvement, projected life changes, or whatever else you feel necessary as the result of this inductive study.

4. Assignment Topics (only one paper per Gospel please with the exception of the gospel of Mark)

- a. The significance of the fulfillment formulas for the Old Testament quotations in the Gospel of Matthew
- b. Synthetic paper on Mark
- c. The argument of the Gospel of Mark (This assignment counts as 2 papers. Review video instructions in module 1 for details)
- d. Synthetic paper on Luke
- e. A biblical theology of Luke
- f. The significance of the salvation of the Gentiles in the Book of Luke
- g. Synthetic paper on John
- h. A biblical theology of John
- i. The purpose of "signs" in the Gospel of John
- j. The strategy of biblical discipleship (This paper is required if contracting for an "A")

² If you contract for an "A," you must include this assignment.

IV. Course Supplemental Information

The Presence of the Professor

While the online learning environment is different than the live classroom environment, your professor is still involved and available. You can expect your professor to participate in the required interactions/discussions regularly and substantially. You can also expect your professor to have at least 3 virtual live “office hours”. Your professor will inform you of the times and means that these will occur. Most professors will likely use the Chat feature provided by our online platform at online.dts.edu.

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

V. Course Schedule

| Module | Gospel | Title | Assignment Due |
|---------------|------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | | Introduction to the Course and to the Gospels | |
| 2 | Matthew 1-7 | Jesus the Messiah: The Person & Platform of the King | |
| 3 | Matthew 8:1-13:52 | Jesus the Messiah: The Power and Parables of the King | |
| 4 | Matthew 13:53-25:46 | Jesus the Messiah: The Progressive Rejection & Presentation of the King | The significance of the fulfillment formulas for the Old Testament quotations in the Gospel of Matthew Quiz #1 |
| 5 | Mark | Jesus Christ the Servant | Synthetic paper on Mark The argument of the Gospel of Mark Quiz #2 |

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|---------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 6 | Luke | Jesus Christ the Son of Man | Synthetic paper on Luke A biblical theology of Luke The significance of the salvation of the Gentiles in the Book of Luke Quiz #3 |
| 7 | John | Jesus Christ the Son of God, Part 1 | |
| 8 | John | Jesus Christ the Son of God, Part 2 | Synthetic paper on John A biblical theology of John The purpose of "signs" in the Gospel of John Quiz #4 |
| 9 | Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John | The Passion Narratives | Quiz #5 |
| Module | Gospel | Title | Assignment Due |
| 10 | | Course Conclusion and Final Assessment | The strategy of biblical discipleship ³ Final Exam |

VI. Bibliography

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B. Matthew

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³ This paper is required if contracting for an "A."

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