



# Birmingham Theological Seminary

## BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NEWS Summer 2013 Newsletter

BTS is a non-profit Alabama corporation and an independent, Reformed evangelical seminary.

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## The Benefits of Seminary Education

Rev. Michael E. Reese

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).*



*Rev. Michael Reese  
teaches Preaching at BTS.  
He is also a BTS Board  
member and Pastor of  
New Zion Missionary  
Baptist Church*

It has been said that life is like an onion; we grow layer by layer. Paul exhorts Timothy to be a student of the Word of God and I have personally experienced and witnessed many times the powerful contributions theological education makes to effective ministry. Prior to my Seminary experience, I lacked the tools and training necessary for an effective ministry. At Birmingham Theological Seminary I have been bountifully blessed and richly rewarded from this experience. I have also been equipped and encouraged to apply these practical principles to my ministry at the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in the City of Bessemer. This training helped inspire in me a plan, purpose and passion for progress, getting the church involved in the overall goal of winning the lost to Jesus Christ. BTS is a ministry training program that focuses on equipping all who desire to reproduce.

Preaching is the minister's primary calling. He is called to preach from the Bible and the Bible is, to quote J. I. Packer, a "very big book." Therefore, it takes a certain amount of learning to understand the history, theology, background, and proper application of God's Word. Preaching is first and foremost a preparation in the Scriptures and then a proclamation of the Scriptures.

Seminary provides the tools to mine the gold of the Gospel, the truths of God's Word necessary "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12). Oswald Chambers wrote: "If a man lets his garden alone, it very soon ceases to be a garden; and if a saint lets his mind alone, it will soon become a rubbish heap for Satan to make use of."

I think apart from formal training, one risks slipping into theological imbalance, error, or even heresy. A well-meaning, but untrained pastor, might fall into doctrinal error or heresy and take his congregation with him. And therefore, tremendous problems can arise in a church as a result

## Announcements

### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY COHORTS

BTS is now accepting applications for the D.Min. in Biblical Counseling and D.Min. in Pastoral Leadership programs.

To learn more about these degree programs, please contact the BTS office at 776-5356.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number or e-mail address? Please remember to update your contact information on your registration form. It is important to have current contact information.

Also included on the registration form is a place to indicate your church membership and denomination. Please take a moment to provide or update this information.

### DEGREE PROGRAM

If you wish to pursue a degree, be sure to declare your degree program to ensure you take the appropriate classes. Also, if you are following a degree checklist, but have not declared your program, it is a good idea to declare your degree in the case that degree program is revised. If you would like to discuss degree programs, please contact the office to set up an appointment. You may also change your degree program, but please be aware that you will fall under the degree catalog in place at the time you select your program.

*(Continued from Page 1)*

of a lack of theological education among its leadership. Thus, the minister's error may have far-reaching implications.

There are many benefits to be had through self-study, but it can never replace the sort of community which exists between professors and students in classroom experience. Seminaries will not "gift" a person but seminaries can almost always enhance the gifts God has given to a person. I believe seminary is a wonderful thing that helps train pastors and parishioners to fulfill their calling as faithful servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We give God our best when personal faith and innate abilities are combined with serious study and comprehensive preparation for ministry. And why wouldn't we seek to give God only our very best?

Jesus said in Matthew 22:37, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." Don't forget about the mind because theology, I think, is loving God with your mind. Your mind is like the hard-drive on a computer, therefore, you have to download the software of the Gospel. But you also have to download an antivirus protection to prevent you from picking up a false-doctrinal virus. We not only have a devotion to God but we also have a duty to our fellowman.

This seminary curriculum will train you to "rightly divide the Word of truth," to think and live biblically and theologically and to proclaim His truth boldly to people everywhere in fulfillment of the Great Commission. I do believe that you can be a very effective pastor without seminary, however, I think that it is a critical step for a pastor that desires to impact the world for Christ to understand that the correct interpretation of Scripture is the best source for understanding life. Seminary really sets you up for a lifetime of learning.

## DISTANCE EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Robbins, BTS Director of Distance Education, has been working diligently on the distance education program and materials. New Testament I and II, and Old Testament I, II and III all have new, updated syllabi. The new syllabi are organized to aid students in knowing when to take exams and what to study. Study guides are also now provided.

Another change is that we will no longer include the syllabi on the CD-ROMs. Students will receive the syllabi in the registration confirmation e-mail.

The Old and New Testament courses are some of our most popular courses, and we hope these changes will aid students in their studies.

For more information on the distance education program, contact the BTS office at 776-5356.

# BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**SUMMER SEMESTER: June 3 – August 30, 2013**

**Registrations/Tuition due by June 7 to avoid late fees • Drop/Add period ends June 14**

## **BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS** **Briarwood Presbyterian Church**

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>PROFESSOR</b>	<b>DAY/TIME</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
PT5750 Public Worship & Music	Dr. Richard Trucks	Mon. 6:00-8:00AM	W202
NT2521 Advanced Greek	Mr. Bruce Horsley	Mon. 5:30-7:30PM	W202
BC7631 Pre-Marriage Counseling <sup>1</sup>	Dr. Howard Eyrich	Mon. 5:30-7:30PM	W203
ST3528 Systematic Theology III (Christology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	Mon. 5:30-7:30PM	A202
ST3531 Systematic Theology VI (Eschatology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	Mon. 7:30-9:30PM	A202
HT4721 Reformation & Modern Church History	Rev. George Shamblin	Tues. 6:00-8:00AM	W202
OT1021 Old Testament I (Genesis-Ruth)	Dr. Frank Barker, Jr.	Tues. 4:00-6:00PM	A202
BC7775 Counseling Case Studies <sup>1</sup>	Dr. Larry Dozier	Tues. 5:30-7:30PM	W202
AP8510 Logic & Critical Thinking <sup>2</sup>	Mr. Brandon Robbins	Tues. 5:30-7:30PM	W203
OT1526 Old Testament History & Theology	Dr. John Wood, Jr.	Tues. 7:30-9:30PM	W203
NT2521 Advanced Greek	Mr. Bill Stroup	Wed. 6:00-8:00AM	W202
OT1023 Old Testament III	Dr. Frank Barker, Jr.	Wed. 5:30-7:30PM	W203
AP8625 Apologetics & Personal Evangelism <sup>2</sup>	Rev. Clete Hux	Thu. 5:30-7:30PM	W202
BC7623 Understanding & Evaluating Prof. Literature <sup>1</sup>	Dr. Luis Orteza	Thu. 5:30-7:30PM	W203
DM9105 Personal Leadership Development <sup>3</sup>	Rev. Thad James, Jr.	Fri. 9:00-4:30PM	A202

1. BC7501 Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite for BC7631, BC7623 and BC7775

2. AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics is a prerequisite for AP8510 & AP8625

3. DM9105 Personal Leadership Development will meet on June 21st, July 19th and August 16th.

## **DOTHAN**

**Extension Coordinator: Catesha Nelson • 334-202-3920 • dothan@birminghamseminary.org**

### **Various Locations**

BC7501 Introduction to Biblical Counseling <sup>4</sup>	Rev. Lynn Miley	Thu. (See below)
PT5637 Personal Evangelism <sup>5</sup>	Dr. Charles Lewis	Thu. 5:30-7:30PM

4. The class schedule is June, 6, 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25 will meet from 5:00-8:00PM - Saturday June 29 will meet from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at Westwood Presbyterian Church 5480 W. Main St.

5. PT5637 will meet at Dothan Community Church 4390 Westgate Pkwy

## **TUSCALOOSA**

**Extension Coordinator: Charles Williams • 205-292-4620 • tuscaloosa@birminghamseminary.org**

### **First African Baptist Church • 2621 Stillman Blvd. 35401**

PT5673 Ministry of Teaching	Rev. Charles Williams	Mon. 5:30-7:30PM
BC7502 Counseling in the Local Church I <sup>6</sup>	Dr. William Scroggins	Mon. 7:30-9:30PM

6. There are no prerequisites for this class

\* Old Testament I-III, New Testament I-II, and Systematic Theology I-VI do not need to be taken in any particular order

**Courses will not be offered this summer in Demopolis, Montgomery, or Huntsville.**

*Extension campus students may consider taking a distance education course over the summer. For more information, visit our website at [www.birminghamseminary.org](http://www.birminghamseminary.org). You may also contact the office to discuss the possibility of a directed study.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  Check if contact info has changed

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_ New Student?  Yes  No When did you last take classes at BTS? \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ DENOMINATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE ONLY**  
Tuition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mat. Fee: \_\_\_\_\_  
App. Fee: \_\_\_\_\_  
ID Fee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Late Fee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amt. Past Due: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_  
CC Fee (4%): \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Due:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
ck# \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_  
Balance Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Course # \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  Credit  Audit

Course # \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  Credit  Audit

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Course # \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  Credit  Audit

**Fees: M.A. Application Fee \$30 (one time) • Tuition \$100 per M.A./Cert. credit hr.; \$150 per DMIN credit hr. \$40 per audit hr. • Late Fee: \$25 per course after June 8 • Annual Student ID: \$15**

By completing and signing this form, I am registering for the above courses and agree to pay all tuition and fees.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MC  VISA  DISCOVER Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

\*Use of Credit card incurs a 4% service charge

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# Graduation



The Graduation ceremony is on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Briarwood Presbyterian Church Worship Center in Birmingham, followed by a reception.

Dr. Frank M. Barker, Jr., BTS Chancellor and Chairman of the Board, will be the commencement speaker. Dr. Barker is also Pastor Emeritus of Briarwood Presbyterian Church and long-time professor of Old Testament and Evangelism. Come support our 2013 graduates!

If you are planning to graduate in 2014, please inform the registrar at [jhamamatsu@briarwood.org](mailto:jhamamatsu@briarwood.org) or 776-5354.



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