New BTS Mission Statement

At the most basic level, the seminary’s vision statement should answer the question “what does success look like?” Likewise, the mission statement should answer the questions “what do we do?” and “why do we do it?” With that in mind, the BTS Board of Directors recently formed a committee to re-examine our mission and vision statements. After several months of work, the Board approved the recommendations of this committee – resulting in the new mission and vision statements set forth below. We pray the Lord will continue to keep us on track with these “big picture” statements of what BTS is all about.

**Mission:** Providing sound Biblical and practical theological training to equip leaders for Christ’s Church.

BTS is theologically Reformed, evangelistic in focus and committed to the inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture. The seminary strives for academic excellence, through a program of instruction which is practical and useful for effective ministry. BTS maintains relationships with several seminaries overseas and is intentionally engaged in global missions.

The BTS faculty is composed of pastors and others in full-time ministry who serve the seminary on an adjunct basis. Classes are held in existing Church facilities in the Birmingham area and at extensions around Alabama. These two unique features combine to produce practical theological training at a cost of less than 20% of the national average for seminary tuition. The faculty and student body represent a remarkable ethnic and denominational diversity.

The BTS student body is composed of lay leaders interested in learning more about theology and individuals called to full-time vocational ministry. Classes are offered in the evenings, early mornings and by distance education. Most BTS students take classes on a part-time basis, and many students are already serving churches as full-time or bi-vocational pastoral staff members.

**Vision:** Producing leaders for Christ’s Church who are becoming spiritually mature as evidenced by effective ministry.
Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were trying to explain the existence of God in a rational way to someone who didn’t know the Lord? However, the more you spoke to this person about the doctrines of Christianity the more they hammered you with questions you were unable to answer. Did you just stand there feeling guilty that you hadn’t intellectually defended what you prize so much? Or maybe you have a longing to know the answers to the more challenging questions we’ve all wondered about at some point in our lives.

Take heart! We can all feel overwhelmed by our lack of knowledge of the philosophical musings. This is where apologetics is useful. Apologetics is providing answers in a persuasive manner to the many questions about the Christian faith.

Apologetics comes from the Greek word apologia meaning, “to speak in defense of.” This word is found in scripture, particularly when in 1 Peter 3:15-16a it says: “But in your hearts, regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense for the reason of the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.” The practice of apologetics is peppered throughout the New Testament in the many times when the apostles clearly defend the existence of Absolute Truth. To explain God rationally is in no way to replace the Spirit with intellect, nor is God really in need of defending Himself. We practice apologetics because God has graciously given us minds to know Him and his world. He desires for us to boldly and lovingly engage an unbelieving world that does not give honor where honor is due.

Even today our culture does not believe in an Absolute Truth, and yet God has designed humans to know him. We as Christians have been commissioned to evangelize to all the peoples of the earth. Unless we are equipped to provide answers for why we believe what we believe, we are limiting our ability to clearly convey to others what Francis Schaeffer coined, “true Truth.” As Ranald Macaulay has poignantly said, “Evangelism without apologetics is like trying to run with one leg.”

This spring we will look at such issues as God’s sovereignty, faith and science, philosophy, the reliability of scripture, the nature of Christ and various religions of the world. In our pursuit of understanding these subjects we will also learn to communicate truth with the best apologetic that God has gifted us with: his love.

Be sure to register for Mr. David Illman’s class in Montgomery.
A Word of Encouragement
from BTS President Glenn Waddell

What are the things that interfere with your studies? Do you find yourself picking up a good novel instead of finishing the paper due on Monday? Or, would you really rather watch college football on Saturday than study for your midterm exam? I, like you, struggle to find time to finish the truly important projects. OK, to be candid, it’s not always much of a struggle. My approach is better described as practicing the “art” of procrastination.

Mark Twain said “never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.” I’ve routinely followed Twain’s advice, in the firm belief that “tomorrow holds the possibility for new technologies, astounding discoveries, and a reprieve from all my obligations.”

Even as I rationalize my behavior and attitude with these worldly ideas, I am convicted of the need to view all of life through the lens of Scripture. So then, what exactly does the Bible say about procrastination?

One passage which directly addresses the issue is Colossians 3:23-24: “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Of course, Paul is not encouraging us to engage in senseless activity. In II Thessalonians 3:11, Paul warns against those who walk in idleness, who are “not busy at work, but busybodies.” One Greek-English lexicon points out that the word translated as “busybodies” means “to do something unnecessary or useless.” Another reference text describes it as “everywhere doing everything but doing nothing.”

Scripture provides us with abundant guidance on determining what is necessary, starting with such verses as Psalm 37:4 and Matthew 6:33. So, even as our attention is diverted from the task at hand, we are reminded that God calls us to be diligent in fulfilling our obligations – ever mindful of the need to discern what is necessary and what is unnecessary.

The Coherence of the Trinity and Incarnation

Isn’t the doctrine of the Trinity contradictory? How can God be both one and three? Does it mean that we worship three different gods? What about the incarnation of the Son of God? How can God become a man? If Jesus is fully God and fully man, wouldn’t He have contradictory attributes such as being both omnipotent and non-omnipotent at the same time?

The Trinity and the incarnation are two of the most fundamental Christian doctrines, defining, in part, what it means to be a Christian. Yet both of these doctrines have been charged with logical incoherence by Muslims, Jehovah’s Witnesses, atheists, and others.

This course will examine recent attempts of Christian philosophers to defend the coherence of the Trinity and incarnation.

Register for: AP8791-Special Topics in Apologetics: Trinity and Incarnation
Prerequisites: AP 8521, ST 3526 or ST 3528.
AP 8510 & AP 8511 highly recommended.

Apostles, Prophets, and Revelation

In the church today there is practically universal acceptance of evangelist, pastor, and teacher as valid gifts and ministries (Ephesians 4:11). However, when it comes to that of apostles and prophets there is much disagreement. Many in the body of Christ are taking a closer look at what the Scriptures teach about these increasingly hard questions: Are there apostles today? Are there prophets today? Did those gifts and offices pass away with the close of Christian canon of Scripture? Was the message these men were given by God in their office of apostle and prophet considered scriptural revelation? What is revelation? Do the modern day-apostles and prophets continue revelation? Isn’t it just a matter of semantics? What’s the difference?

These questions are quite prevalent, and should be, because of the emphasis that is put on the modern movement of apostles and prophets. Birmingham Theological Seminary recognizes the need to teach what the Bible says about these issues.

Register for AP8791- Special Topics in Apologetics: Apostles, Prophets, and Revelation.
BTS Grad’s Book Review

Congratulations to recent BTS graduate and professor, Dr. Mark Shaw, on receiving a great review for his new book, *Hope and Help for Video Game, TV, and Internet “Addiction.”* Dr. Jay E. Adams commented,

This 29-page giveaway booklet is just the ticket! Recognizing that sin is not addiction (note the quotation marks in the title), Shaw treats the sinful habits mentioned in a truly biblical manner. I know of no other simple, yet helpful booklet of the kind. You will want to get a couple to keep on hand for the next time you counsel a thought “addict.”

The book can be ordered from www.focuspublishing.com. Be sure to to check out Dr. Shaw’s new book!


Attention M.A. Grads: D.Min. Cohort to Begin Fall 2009

Attention M.A. in Biblical Counseling and MDIV grads. BTS will begin the new Doctor of Ministry cohort in Fall 2009. D.Min. programs are offered in Biblical Counseling and Pastoral Leadership.

For more information, contact Dr. Luis Ortega at 205-307-9542, or contact the seminary office at 776-5650.

Don’t forget...

**BTS TUITION**
At 1/5 the average cost of seminary tuition, BTS’ tuition is still a great deal at $80 per credit hour. Don’t miss out on taking classes this semester!

**GRADUATION**
Planning to Graduate in May? Be sure to contact the registrar, Meg Hawley, at 205-776-5354. Graduation will be on May 15, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

**LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE**
All degree-seeking students are required to purchase the Logos software. LOGOS is a Bible study software which contains thousands of books, articles and other valuable resources. Visit the BTS website for information on purchasing LOGOS at a 50% discount. Also, BTS owns a copy of LOGOS for student use and it is located in the Briarwood library. Students may contact the office to obtain the password.

**INCOMPLETE GRADES**
Reminder: Incomplete grades are due in the seminary office by the end of the 6 week incomplete period. Grades received after the deadline will be lowered one full letter grade.

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
### Spring Semester

**January 26 – May 1, 2009**

**Drop/Add Period Ends February 6, 2009**

**Spring Break is March 16th to 20th**

**Graduation is Friday, May 15, 2009**

### Birmingham Theological Seminary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC7502 Counseling in the Local Church I</td>
<td>Dr. Luis Orteza</td>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>5:00-7:00PM</td>
<td>BBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>HT4721 Reformation &amp; Modern Church History</td>
<td>Dr. Richard Trucks</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td><strong>6AM-8:00AM</strong></td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT2012 Beginning Greek II</td>
<td>Mr. Bruce Horsley</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W202</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT5602 Biblical Principles of Christian Education</td>
<td>Dr. Dave Matthews</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC7505 Advanced Biblical Counseling</td>
<td>Dr. Faye White</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-A209</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC7555 Counseling in the Local Church II</td>
<td>Dr. Larry Dozier</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W204</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP8645 God, Ethics &amp; Society</td>
<td>Mr. Frank Ellis</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W202</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT5673 Ministry of Teaching</td>
<td>Dr. Richard Trucks</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC7616 Biblical Counseling &amp; the Law</td>
<td>Dr. Glenn Waddell</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-A209</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT5713 Biblical Origins of Church. Gov. &amp; Discipline</td>
<td>Rev. Tom Cheely</td>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W202</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP8612 Advanced Apologetics II</td>
<td>Dr. Vic Minish</td>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
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<tr>
<td>HT4743 Presbyterian Church History</td>
<td>Dr. Bob Crandall</td>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-A209</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC7624 Readings in Biblical Counseling</td>
<td>Dr. Luis Orteza</td>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W202</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP8661 Christianity and Contemporary Culture</td>
<td>Dr. Vic Minish</td>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST3550 Bible Interpretation^</td>
<td>Rev. Thad James</td>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-A209</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT1022 Old Testament II</td>
<td>Dr. Frank Barker</td>
<td>WED</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC7755 Counseling in the Local Church II</td>
<td>Dr. Howard Eyrich</td>
<td>WED</td>
<td>6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-A209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT5637 Personal Evangelism*</td>
<td>Dr. Frank Barker</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>9:00-NOON</td>
<td>BWD-F Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT5723 Expository Preaching II</td>
<td>Rev. Michael Reese</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>9:00-11:00AM</td>
<td>BEBBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST3537 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>Rev. Robert Alexander</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>11:00-1:00PM</td>
<td>BEBBC</td>
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<td>NT2023 New Testament II</td>
<td>Rev. Morris Johnson</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W202</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST3527 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>Rev. Jim Maples</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS6652 Techniques of Church Planting</td>
<td>Rev. Larry Cockrell</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>5:30-7:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-A209</td>
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<tr>
<td>HT4529 Cultural History of the Church in America</td>
<td>Rev. Morris Johnson</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W202</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST3530 Systematic Theology V</td>
<td>Rev. Jim Maples</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP8791 Special Topic in Apologetics**</td>
<td>Rev. Clete Hux</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>7:30-9:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-A209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT2012 Beginning Greek II</td>
<td>Mr. Adam McCollum</td>
<td>FRI</td>
<td><strong>6AM-8:00AM</strong></td>
<td>BWD-W202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT2023 New Testament II</td>
<td>Rev. Mike Jones</td>
<td>FRI</td>
<td><strong>6AM-8:00AM</strong></td>
<td>BWD-W203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP8791 Special Topic in Apologetics***</td>
<td>Dr. Steve Cowan</td>
<td>FRI</td>
<td><strong>8AM-10:30AM</strong></td>
<td>SEBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT7803/7804 Clinical Writing/Final Project+</td>
<td>Rev. Larry Cockrell</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM9101/PT5800 Church Revitalization#</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DM9332 Bib. Counseling &amp; Psych. Assessment/Evaluation~</td>
<td>Dr. Howard Eyrich</td>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>9:00-4:30PM</td>
<td>BWD-F Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^ST3550 Bible Interpretation will be delayed two weeks, as Rev. James will be teaching in Uganda. The first class will meet on February 10, 2009.

*Contact Ruth Dagman for PT5637 Personal Evangelism (776-5236). Students must also register with the Seminary office to receive credit. E.E. will begin Thurs., Jan. 22nd.

**AP8791 Apostles, Prophets and Revelation, will be taught by Rev. Clete Hux (see article in Newsletter)

***AP8791, The Coherence of the Trinity and Incarnation, will be taught by Dr. Cowan (see article in Newsletter)

+Required for Master of Arts in Ministry students graduating in May 2009 (This is a 4 hour course).

## Students must register with the Seminary and Pre-register with Embers to a Flame.

Contact Carolyn Phillips (Embers to a Flame) at 776-5399 for pre-registration and the complete schedule for the conference.

Tentative dates for DM1112 are Jan. 30th, March 6th and April 20th.

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BEBBC - Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College 630 Ishkooda Rd. Birmingham, AL. 35215

BWD - Briarwood Presbyterian Church

BBC – Bethel Baptist Church 8332 Moody Parkway Odenville, AL. 35210 (205-640-6553)

SEBC – Southeastern Bible College 2545 Valleydale Road Birmingham, AL 35244
NAME: _____________________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: _____________________________________________________ CITY: __________________ STATE: _______ ZIP: _______
PHONE: (Home):________________  (Work)________________  (Cell)_________________  EMAIL: _____________________________
DEGREE PROGRAM: ____________________    New Student?  
   ☐ Yes  ☐ No   When did you last take classes at BTS? __________

** OFFICE USE ONLY **
Tuition:_____________
Mat. Fee:____________
App. Fee:____________
ID Fee:_____________
CC Fee (4%):________
Late Fee:____________
Amt. Past Due:_______
Total Due:___________
Amount Paid:________
ck#______ Cash______
Balance Due:_________

BTS SPRING TERM 2009
January 26- May 1
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:
ADDRESS:___________________________ CITY:___________________ STATE:_________ ZIP:_________
PHONE: (Home):__________ (Work)__________ (Cell)__________ EMAIL:_______________________
DEGREE PROGRAM:________________________ New Student?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No   When did you last take classes at BTS? __________
Course #________________ Instructor________________ Location____________ ☐ Credit ☐ Audit
Course #________________ Instructor________________ Location____________ ☐ Credit ☐ Audit
Course #________________ Instructor________________ Location____________ ☐ Credit ☐ Audit
Course #________________ Instructor________________ Location____________ ☐ Credit ☐ Audit

Birmingham Theological Seminary • 2200 Briarwood Way • Birmingham, AL 35243 • (205) 776-5650
Fees: Application Fee $30 (one time) • Tuition $80 per credit hour; $40 per audit hour • Late Fee: $25 per course after first week of class • 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: ______________________________

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT* ___________________________________________________________________________
☐ MC  ☐ VISA  ☐ DISCOVER Credit Card #: _____________-__________-__________-__________ Exp. Date __________

*Use of Credit card incurs a 4% service charge