

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Providing sound Biblical and practical theological training to equip
Spring 2009 leaders for Christ's Church.*

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NEWS A Semesterly Newsletter

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

Subscriptions are available free of charge from:

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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.

Spotlight: Montgomery

Introducing Greg Duke

Meet the Montgomery extension's new coordinator. Greg and his wife, Courtney, are both from Montgomery, Alabama and have been married for 13 years. They are the proud parents of three very active little boys.

Greg is the assistant to the Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Prattville, and enjoys working in Member Care, Administration and outreach. Greg's hobbies include hiking, reading, turkey hunting, building massive lego structures, and song writing.

Greg, a fellow BTS student, is looking forward to working with you. Please contact him at (334) 414-3100 or montgomery@birminghamseminary.org for more information on registration, course offerings in Montgomery, and applying to BTS.



Greg is the new extension coordinator for the Montgomery Campus.



Farewell & Thank You

Lydia Pickett has been a part of BTS since 2003, first as a student working towards an MA in Biblical Counseling and later serving as our Montgomery Extension Coordinator. Lydia kept track of all the details for our Montgomery students and worked hard recruiting, supporting, and speaking about BTS. She truly has a passion for BTS. We are so grateful to her and ask the Lord to bless as she continues her works for a non-profit organization in Montgomery and continues to care for her mother.

Intro To Apologetics: Montgomery

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.

May we recommend...

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 check out Dr. Shaw's new book!

*Excerpted from *The Journal of Modern Ministry*; Jay E. Adams, General Editor, A Publication of Timeless Texts, Vol. 5, Issue 2, Spring 2008, p. 207.

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 Orteza 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.

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BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

COURSE	PROFESSOR	DAY	TIME	ROOM
BC7502 Counseling in the Local Church I	Dr. Luis Orteza	SUN	5:00-7:00PM	BBC
HT4721 Reformation & Modern Church History	Dr. Richard Trucks	MON	<u>6AM-8:00AM</u>	BWD-W203
NT2012 Beginning Greek II	Mr. Bruce Horsley	MON	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-W202
PT5602 Biblical Principles of Christian Education	Dr. Dave Matthews	MON	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-W203
BC7505 Advanced Biblical Counseling	Dr. Faye White	MON	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-A209
BC7555 Counseling in the Local Church II	Dr. Larry Dozier	MON	6:30-8:30PM	BWD-W204
AP8645 God, Ethics & Society	Mr. Frank Ellis	MON	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-W202
PT5673 Ministry of Teaching	Dr. Richard Trucks	MON	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-W203
BC7616 Biblical Counseling & the Law	Mr. Glenn Waddell	MON	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-A209
PT5713 Biblical Origins of Church. Gov. & Discipline	Rev. Tom Cheely	TUE	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-W202
AP8612 Advanced Apologetics II	Dr. Vic Minish	TUE	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-W203
HT4743 Presbyterian Church History	Dr. Bob Crandall	TUE	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-A209
BC7624 Readings in Biblical Counseling	Dr. Luis Orteza	TUE	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-W202
AP8661 Christianity and Contemporary Culture	Dr. Vic Minish	TUE	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-W203
ST3550 Bible Interpretation [^]	Rev. Thad James	TUE	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-A209
OT1022 Old Testament II	Dr. Frank Barker	WED	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-W203
BC7755 Counseling in the Local Church II	Dr. Howard Eyrich	WED	6:30-8:30PM	BWD-A209
PT5637 Personal Evangelism*	Dr. Frank Barker	THU	9:00-NOON	BWD-F Hall
PT5723 Expository Preaching II	Rev. Michael Reese	THU	9:00-11:00AM	BEBBC
ST3537 Systematic Theology II	Rev. Robert Alexander	THU	11:00-1:00PM	BEBBC
NT2023 New Testament II	Rev. Morris Johnson	THU	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-W202
ST3527 Systematic Theology II	Rev. Jim Maples	THU	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-W203
MS6652 Techniques of Church Planting	Rev. Larry Cockrell	THU	5:30-7:30PM	BWD-A209
HT4529 Cultural History of the Church in America	Rev. Morris Johnson	THU	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-W202
ST3530 Systematic Theology V	Rev. Jim Maples	THU	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-W203
AP8791 Special Topic in Apologetics**	Rev. Clete Hux	THU	7:30-9:30PM	BWD-A209
NT2012 Beginning Greek II	Mr. Adam McCollum	FRI	<u>6AM-8:00AM</u>	BWD-W202
NT2023 New Testament II	Rev. Mike Jones	FRI	<u>6AM-8:00AM</u>	BWD-W203
AP8791 Special Topic in Apologetics***	Dr. Steve Cowan	FRI	<u>8AM-10:30AM</u>	SEBC
PT7803/7804 Clinical Writing/Final Project+	Rev. Larry Cockrell			
DM9101/PT5800 Church Revitalization#	Dr. Harry Reeder	JAN. 22-25		BWD-F Hall
DM9332 Bib. Counseling & Psych. Assessment/Evaluation~	Dr. Howard Eyrich	FRI	9:00-4:30PM	

[^] 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 Dagnan 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

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

DEMOPOLIS – CHRISTIAN CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

PT5630/5631 Church Administration Rev. Fred Moore THU 5:30-7:30PM

HUNTSVILLE-WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*

NT2023 New Testament II Dr. Mike Calvert MON 5:30-7:30PM
 BC7630 Marriage and Family Counseling Mr. Jeff Townsley MON 5:30-7:30PM
 ST3526 Systematic Theology I Dr. Fred Rice TUE 5:30-7:30PM
 NT2012 Beginning Greek II Dr. Fred Rice TUE 7:30-9:30PM
 BC7555 Counseling in the Local Church II Mr. Jeff Townsley THU 5:30-7:30PM

*Temporary location 5640 Oakwood Rd. NW Huntsville, AL. 35806 (256-830-5754)

MONTGOMERY- VARIOUS LOCATIONS

OT1021 Old Testament I Rev. Kirby Smith MON 5:30-7:30PM YMPC
 OT1511 Hebrew I Rev. Kirby Smith MON 7:30-9:30PM YMPC
 AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics Mr. David Illman MON 7:30-9:30PM YMPC
 PT5531 Christian Worker’s Personal Life Dr. Jeff Lawrence TUE 5:30-7:30PM YMPC
 PT5710 Discipleship Dr. Jiles Williams TUE 5:30-7:30PM YMPC
 BC7501 Introduction to Biblical Counseling* Mr. Lou Priolo TUE 6:30-9:30PM EPC
 ST3531 Systematic Theology VI Rev. Lee Bloodworth TUE 7:30-9:30PM YMPC
 PT5637 Personal Evangelism (3 Hrs)** Dr. Jeff Lawrence WED 6:00-9:00PM YMPC
 HT4743 Presbyterian Church History Rev. Henry Smith THU 5:30-7:30PM YMPC

* BC7501 students must register with and pay tuition to Eastwood Presbyterian Church. Students seeking Seminary credit must also register with the Seminary office and pay a \$30 per hour posting fee. Dates are Jan. 20th to April 14th.
 ** PT5637 will be held from Feb. 3rd through May 7th and on one Saturday March 29th from 9-4PM. Students must register with Young Meadows and with the Seminary.
 YMPC-Young Meadows Presbyterian Church • EPC-Eastwood Presbyterian Church

TUSCALOOSA-FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

BC7501 Introduction to Biblical Counseling Dr. William Scroggins MON 5:30-7:30PM
 PT5531 Christian Worker’s Personal Life Rev. Charles Williams MON 7:30-9:30PM
 NT2012 Beginning Greek II Dr. Andy Montgomery TUE 5:30-7:30PM
 PT5710 Discipleship Rev. Leander Jones TUE 7:30-9:30PM
 HT4721 Reformation & Modern Church History Dr. Steve Woods THU 5:30-7:30PM
 PT5527 Communications I Dr. Steve Woods THU 7:30-9:30PM

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 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit
Course # _____	Instructor _____	Location _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit
Course # _____	Instructor _____	Location _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit
Course # _____	Instructor _____	Location _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit

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: _____

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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 # _____ Name as it reads on card _____ Billing Address _____ City/State/Zip _____ Exp. Date _____

*Use of Credit card incurs a 4% service charge