



Birmingham Theological Seminary

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NEWS Summer 2015 Newsletter

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

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WHY STUDY CHURCH HISTORY?

Dr. Jim Maples

As C. S. Lewis said, “Most of all perhaps, we need intimate knowledge of the past. Not that the past has any magic about it, but because we cannot study the future, and yet need something to set against the present, to remind us that the basic assumptions have been quite different in different periods... A man who has lived in many places is not likely to be deceived by the errors of his native village: the scholar has lived in many times and is therefore in some degree immune from the cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of his own age.”



Church History has value. First, it helps us avoid the great cataract of nonsense that issues in false teaching and bad theology. Second, it exposes us to the experiences of the early church. Imagine if Anselm or Augustine was your professor. Through historical writings you can hear their words and benefit from the greatest teachers God has given to the church. Third, church history helps set theological boundaries. We don't always like to admit it, but we have our own traditions, and tradition is not on par with Scripture. Fourth, studying history broadens our perspective on the church. The church is in dire straits today. There is serious moral decline, and post-modernism, human secularism, and pluralism are rampant in our culture. But Church History reminds us that there has always been a struggle with the culture. This gives us a little perspective so we are not overwhelmed by the present. Our God is a powerful God. Our Lord is Lord of lords and King of kings. This is His church and He is moving history toward His goals and His ends, for His glory. Finally, church history has value as a cause for optimism. Despite wars, attacks, and the rising and falling of empires, God is sovereign over history. It is our God who ordains these things – we should not fear. Church History is more than an academic exercise. It is edification. It is a category of divine providence and thus a sub-category of theology proper.

For all these reasons taking a course in Church History at BTS, whether for credit or audit, would serve the church and be both edifying and encouraging to pastors, elders, deacons, and lay leaders.

Check the schedule and join us to see what God has done in His church and how it speaks to your church today.

Notice to Certificate Students



You may have noticed that certificate and masters degree students have been asked to satisfy the same academic requirements in each class. After much prayerful consideration, we have concluded that this policy should be changed. Beginning with the summer semester, we are asking BTS professors to decrease the academic workload they place on certificate students.

While classes will still be challenging and enriching for certificate students, we believe it appropriate to require more work from students pursuing a masters degree than from those pursuing a certificate.

Students who wish to have their certificate credits applied towards a masters degree in the future will need to advise the Seminary office and satisfy the higher “masters” standard for each class. Previously earned certificate credits already satisfy that standard and are so designated in the Seminary’s records.

Please contact the seminary office if you have any questions about this change.

Anniston/Calhoun County Extension COMING THIS FALL

By: Bob St. John

In Calhoun County, Alabama, several churches have come together to welcome an extension of Birmingham Theological Seminary. Because it is our conviction that “if you build the man, you will build the ministry,” we are establishing this local BTS training center to provide doctrinal training and practical instruction to equip Christian men and women to build the kingdom of God through the gospel.

We are so grateful for the help of the BTS staff in laying the foundation for this opportunity in East Alabama. Churches involved include Grace Fellowship, Redeemer Church, Hope Community Church, The Living Church, Christian Fellowship Bible Church, and Anniston Bible Church. We plan to provide six core classes this Fall taught by qualified local pastors. It is our prayer that through this extension BTS will equip many new servants for the Lord’s work. If you have questions or are interested enrollment please call the seminary office at 205.776.5650.



Now accepting applications for admission. Look for classes in Calhoun County on the Fall semester schedule.

Announcements

2015 GRADUATION

The Graduation ceremony this year is on May 16th at 7:00 PM in the Briarwood Presbyterian Church Worship Center in Birmingham, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. You are invited!

Dr. Howard Eyrich, BTS President Emeritus and Board member, will be the commencement speaker. Come support our 2015 graduates!

If you are planning to graduate in 2016, please inform the registrar at 776-5354.

DEGREES AWARDED IN UGANDA & NEW ZEALAND

Westminster Theological Seminary

Kampala, Uganda • Dec. 6, 2014

M.A. Theological Studies:

Robert Happy
Charles Ssenyonga

M.A. Biblical Counseling:

Janipher Kanagwa
Nehemiah Kwizera

Grace Theological College

Auckland, New Zealand
December 12, 2014

M.A. Ministry:

Anthony Bracefield
Alex Robinson

M.A. Biblical Counseling:

Andrew Dickson

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SUMMER SEMESTER: June 1 – August 28, 2015

Registrations/Tuition due by June 5 to avoid late fees • Drop/Add period ends June 12

BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS: Briarwood Presbyterian Church

COURSE	PROFESSOR	DAY/TIME	ROOM
NT2669 Book Study: Ephesians	Dr. Gary Purdy	MON 5:30-7:30PM	A201
NT2521 Advanced Greek	Mr. Bruce Horsley	MON 5:30-7:30PM	A202
ST3528 Systematic Theology III* (Christology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON 5:30-7:30PM	A209
ST3531 Systematic Theology VI* (Eschatology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON 7:30-9:30PM	A209
BC7775 Counseling Case Studies ¹	Dr. Larry Dozier	TUES.5:30-7:30PM	A202
OT1526 Old Testament History & Theology	Rev. George Shamblin	TUES.5:30-7:30PM	A209
BC7623 Understanding & Evaluating Professional Lit. ¹	Dr. Larry Dozier	TUES.7:30-9:30PM	A202
NT2521 Advanced Greek	Mr. Bill Stroup	WED. 6:00-8:00AM	A201
OT1023 Old Testament III*	Dr. Frank Barker, Jr.	WED. 5:30-7:30PM	W201
OT1021 Old Testament I* (Genesis -Ruth)	Dr. Frank Barker, Jr.	THU. 9:00-11:00AM	A201
PT5750 Public Worship & Music	Rev. Justin Glenn	THU. 5:30-7:30PM	A201
AP8625 Apologetics & Personal Evangelism	Rev. Clete Hux	THU. 5:30-7:30PM	A209
PT5673 Ministry of Teaching	Rev. Justin Glenn	THU. 7:30-9:30PM	A201
AP8510 Logic & Critical Thinking	Mr. Brandon Robbins	THU. 7:30-9:30PM	A209
DM9107 Transformational Leadership ²	Dr. Howard Eyrich	FRI. 9:00AM-4:30PM	A201

1. BC7501 Intro to BC is a prerequisite for BC7775 AND BC7623. 2. DM9107 Transformational Leadership will meet on June 19, July 17 and August 21.

HUNTSVILLE

Extension Coordinator: Matt Ligon 256-509-5822 - huntsville@birminghamseminary.org

AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics	Rev. Chris Bolt	MON. 5:30-7:30PM	CPC
PT5531 Christian Workers Personal Life	Rev. Chris Bolt	MON. 7:30-9:30PM	CPC
PT5637 Personal Evangelism	Rev. Bob Illman	TUES.5:30-7:30PM	CPC
PT5710 Discipleship	Rev. Bob Illman	TUES.7:30-9:30PM	CPC
ST3528 Systematic Theology III* (Christology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON. 5:30-7:30PM	#
ST3531 Systematic Theology VI* (Eschatology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON. 7:30-9:30PM	#
OT1056 Old Testament History & Theology	Rev. George Shamblin	TUES.5:30-7:30PM	#
AP8625 Apologetics & Personal Evangelism	Rev. Clete Hux	THU. 5:30-7:30PM	#
AP8510 Logic & Critical Thinking	Mr. Brandon Robbins	THU. 7:30-9:30PM	#

CPC: Connections Presbyterian Church • 897 Capshaw Rd. Madison, AL 35757

TUSCALOOSA

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

OT1022 Old Testament II*	Dr. Josh Carmichael	MON 5:30-7:30PM	WC
ST3528 Systematic Theology III* (Christology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON. 5:30-7:30PM	#
ST3531 Systematic Theology VI* (Eschatology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON. 7:30-9:30PM	#
OT1056 Old Testament History & Theology	Rev. George Shamblin	TUES.5:30-7:30PM	#
AP8625 Apologetics & Personal Evangelism	Rev. Clete Hux	THU. 5:30-7:30PM	#
AP8510 Logic & Critical Thinking	Mr. Brandon Robbins	THU. 7:30-9:30PM	#

WC: Classes meet at Williams Chapel Church • 3520 County Road 19 Greensboro, AL. 36744

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

#: These classes will be available by video conference via internet for a limited number of students. Pre-registration is essential for these courses and students must have reliable internet connection and the necessary computer equipment to participate in a video conference. An additional \$25 fee applies for each video conference class.

MONTGOMERY, DOTHAN, and DEMOPOLIS

COURSE	PROFESSOR	DAY/TIME	ROOM
ST3528 Systematic Theology III* (Christology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON. 5:30-7:30PM	#
ST3531 Systematic Theology VI* (Eschatology)	Dr. Jeff Lowman	MON. 7:30-9:30PM	#
OT1056 Old Testament History & Theology	Rev. George Shamblin	TUES. 5:30-7:30PM	#
AP8625 Apologetics & Personal Evangelism	Rev. Clete Hux	THU. 5:30-7:30PM	#
AP8510 Logic & Critical Thinking	Mr. Brandon Robbins	THU. 7:30-9:30PM	#

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

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SUMMER 2015	REGISTRATION FORM Registrations due the week of June 1	JUNE 1 -AUGUST 28
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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: _____

App. Fee: _____

Student Serv. Fee: _____

Late Fee: _____

Video Conf. Fee: _____

Amt. Past Due: _____

Subtotal: _____

CC Fee (4%): _____

Total Due: _____

Amount Paid: _____

ck# _____ Cash _____

Balance Due: _____

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

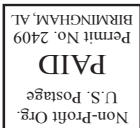
Fees: M.A. App. Fee \$30 (one time) • Tuition \$100 per M.A./Cert. credit hr.; \$150 per DMIN credit hr. \$40 per audit hr. • Late Fee: \$25 per course after June 5 • Annual Student Serv. Fee: \$30
By completing and signing this form, I am registering for the above courses and agree to pay all tuition and fees.

Signature _____ Date: _____

MC VISA DISCOVER Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ - _____

*Use of Credit card incurs a 4% service charge

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED