



September 6, 2024

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 6:4–7 (Note 6:1-3 context of God’s command to Moses to “teach you, so that you may do...” through generations and the promise of reward for obedience.)

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing (baptizing) them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18–20

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14–17

Faculty Contact

Paul Birston paulbirston@glbc.ca (204) 471–7720 (cell/text)

Please contact me with your comments, suggestions, questions or if you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Course Description

Building on God’s commands to His people to keep His words on their heart and teach their children (Deuteronomy 6:4–7), to the church to make disciples of all nations and teach them all things Jesus has commanded them (Matthew 28:18–20) and the complete sufficiency of Scripture to teach, reprove, correct and train us (2 Timothy 3:14–17), this course explores the many ways in which God has taught and prepares His people for this work.

The course aims to equip students to become effective Bible teachers and ministry leaders. It examines the history of Christian education and the educational ministries of the church at all age levels from young children to senior members and methods that are helpful for each stage in life. The course examines the Biblical content, needs, aims and organization of the various opportunities for teaching and edifying the church and those seeking God: Sunday morning and evening, mid-week, home Bible studies, other small groups and 1:1 personal outreach. The course discusses the practical challenges of recruiting, training, encouraging and retaining volunteer workers and helps to establish criteria for self-evaluation and spiritual growth.

Course Objectives

Bible

1. Build our faith, knowledge and awareness of God and His Word as the foundation of all learning and teaching, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7).
2. Survey Scripture from Genesis to Revelation examining the many ways God teaches us directly through His Word, His Creation, His delegated servants and His providential work in our lives (Philippians 1:6).
3. Learn from Jesus our Master teacher and Word incarnate of the many ways in which He teaches in 1:1 personal encounters, small groups and larger audiences through dynamic means: parables, narratives, questions, challenges, homework assignments, compassion and meeting needs in sacrificial service to others (in Acts the miracles opened the way for the preaching of the gospel and repentance; “our ‘miracles’ are love”).
4. Elevate and restore God’s meaning of Torah and doctrine (teaching) to the high regard which He means them to have in the hearts and minds of His people.
5. Review the major doctrines (teachings) delivered to us in God’s Word that form the heart of Christian education and spiritual growth to maturity and service. Affirm the eternal importance of the vocabulary and application of God’s Word without adding to or taking away from it.
6. Understand and promote awareness of the integrated nature of the Old and New Testaments and the ongoing value of the Hebrew Scriptures in teaching and living today (cf. 2 Timothy 3:14–17).
7. In keeping with God’s commands (e.g. 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22; 1 John 4:1–6), develop awareness and discernment with respect to widespread false doctrines in religion and misinterpretations of Scripture and how they impact the church.
8. Review resources that can help people understand challenging Bible passages and passages that are clear but whose eternal truths are rejected by individuals and power structures of secular western society.

Bible & Ministry

9. Develop skills and approaches to team leadership with the church’s leadership and members, including where available, elders, deacons, evangelists and volunteer members, that will build a comprehensive and effective education ministry in the local church that equips members for the works of service God has prepared for them (Ephesians 2:8–10; 4:11–16) and to be catalysts for church growth and renewal.

Teaching ministry is a joint responsibility of all God's church members and functions best when all members of the body of Christ work together cooperatively, supportively and energetically through teaching and support through prayer, giving, encouragement and hospitality. In keeping with Jesus' command in Matthew 28:18–20 teaching is a continuation of the ministry of Jesus, central to making disciples and feeding and renewing the body of Christ. Encourage people to engage and use of their skills and spiritual gifts in as many diverse ways as possible, "large" or "small," they are all important.

10. Understand and develop the relationship of teaching to other dimensions of ministry including discipleship, preaching, evangelism, long and short-term missions, Bible schools, worship, visitation, counselling, children's ministry, youth ministry, adult and seniors ministry and ministry to special needs children and adults.
11. Study the importance of education in the homes of Christian families and how the church can support parents in their God-given responsibilities to educate their children and be examples of living the ways and will of the Lord daily amidst the significant pressures of the twenty-first century world. Given God's concern for the poor and marginalised, attend to those from difficult and broken homes. In light of Jesus' and Paul's teachings (Matthew 19; 1 Corinthians 7) ways to support and encourage single Christians of all ages in their spiritual growth and ministries.
12. Integrate into your teaching ministry all you have learned in Bible classes, college classes and personal experience to invigorate your teaching and ignite the desire to learn in others. A great teacher is a great student and a great listener (Jesus with individuals in John, God with Adam and Eve). A teacher's zeal and enthusiasm for God, His Word and their subject can be contagious, inspiring others.
13. Survey the history of Christian education throughout church history from the early church to the present including its specific history and application in churches of Christ congregations and schools.
14. Learn various listening, learning and teaching styles and their relevance to the age and cultural demographics of our local congregations. + Build understanding of God's given four-fold nature of people (heart, soul, mind and strength) and the basics of cognitive processes, psychology* of education and learning disabilities. (*The etymology of psychology begins with *psyche*, soul.)
15. Develop skills in communication: fundamentals of speech and listening, audience setting, engagement and group dynamics.
16. Develop Biblically sound, engaging and creative teaching materials and methods appropriate for different age levels in your local congregation.
17. Develop skills in selecting and using published Bible teaching curriculum.
18. Develop your own study skills in the life-long pursuit of learning from God

(2 Timothy 2:15). Build your own library and bibliography of sound Biblical resources that will serve you well over many years as you grow in your education ministry. Understand the value of primary sources and the discerning use of secondary and tertiary sources. + Reflect deeply on the importance of teaching to God and the great responsibilities that come with it including living lives exemplary of God's character He builds into us and speaking His Word while controlling ourselves (James 3:1–2ff).

19. Develop skills in meditating upon and memorizing Scripture and help others to do the same as a profoundly helpful means to deepen our knowledge and love of God (+ class resources 40, 41 and 42).
20. Explore ways to recruit and train church members to become enthusiastic, effective and engaging Bible teachers. Help teachers to develop their own Bible knowledge, spiritual gifts (+class resource 14) and range of methods through personal study, workshops, retreats and “sabbaticals.”
21. Examine the multi-cultural nature of churches in the first century and today to develop awareness of others and approaches and methods for teaching cross-culturally.
22. Develop a Christian life that is exemplary of Christ, compassionate and caring in its outlook and sensitive to others in their need to know God and become disciples of Christ who will inherit eternal life through study, obedience, service and faithful holy living (+1 Timothy 4:16).

Worldview

23. Articulate our Biblical worldviews and develop approaches to help church members of all ages to understand their worldviews in Christ and live in accordance with God's Word and His view of His world.
24. Gain confidence in identifying the key dimensions of our Christian worldview based on how God's Word speaks to these questions and use these questions to analyze other worldviews of people from other cultures and religions as a bridge to understanding and communication of the gospel, the good message of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?

12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
25. Articulate ways we by our thoughts, actions and words can graciously communicate God's worldview to others to inspire them to know God and fulfil His purpose for their lives:

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5)

Readings

Primary Source

The Bible

Secondary Source

Only selected chapters from:

Anthony, Michael J., editor. *Introducing Christian Education: Foundations for the Twenty-first Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Available as a Kindle book.

See statement of caution about secondary sources at top of Bibliography. Read all secondary sources critically to see whether or not they agree with Scripture.

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88387046801?pwd=EX5lQbFTwaraXYVMnflbvp3S7jLvMO.1>

Meeting ID: 883 8704 6801

Passcode: 980728

Online Class Resource Folder

Resources are uploaded to Populi "Files" folder.

Assignments

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Bible Curriculum | 35% |
| 2. Class Presentation of 1. | 5% |
| 3. Research Paper | 30% |
| 4. Quiz 1 | 15% |
| 5. Quiz 2 | 15% |

1. Bible Curriculum for one Quarter (13 Weeks)

Create a series of 13 lessons from one Bible book or pair of shorter Bible books (e.g. 1 and 2 Timothy) for a specific age demographic* that you can give in your local congregation. Use the skills being developed in this course and your textual, historical, interpretive and ministry courses to research the Bible book(s) in-depth, including relevant background context material to prepare your instructional material and class plans. Include specific application goals for your students they can live out in practical service and spiritual growth. Format your curriculum in a way that you could also circulate it to teachers in other congregations. (*You may also prepare your curriculum for a multi-generational church group if this is more suitable for your congregation.)

2. Class Presentation

Present an overview of your Bible curriculum in our class explaining your goals, methods and desired outcomes for your students and how they may apply their lives to the Bible passages you are teaching.

3. Research Paper

The paper is an opportunity for you to research a dimension of Bible education that interests you and is relevant to your teaching ministry with God.

You can choose from any of the subjects in our course objectives or another subject of your own choosing in discussion with me.

Length Your paper will be 8 to 10 pages (minimum), double-spaced, 12-point font (bibliography, appendices or personal research, title page, etc. are over and above the 8 to 10 page content body of your paper).

Application One fifth (20% or 1.5 to 2 full pages) of your paper should focus on application (“so what now?”). What does this study mean for my congregation and me?

Sources Use a variety of reliable sources: Scripture, lexicons, conservative scholarly books and journal articles.

Use a minimum of 12 scholarly sources including 3 scholarly articles.

I have access to the ATLA Religion Database with ATLA Serials through my graduate school. If you need help, please let us know.

For this paper do not use Internet sites and do not include them in your bibliography or footnotes. The purpose of this direction is to keep you focused on high quality published and peer-reviewed sources that have the most value.

Form Follow SBL Handbook of Style, second edition (Society of Biblical Literature). If you are unfamiliar with SBL please talk to me for guidance in their use.

The ultimate purpose of writing form is effective communication, particularly communicating God's Word credibly and convincingly with those you are trying to teach and reach. Form counts for 10% of your grade.

This term you will audit the first five lessons of Introduction to Bible and Research I which will help you with Biblical research and writing.

A preliminary review of your draft papers can be very helpful. Comments may be helpful in completing your research, composition and application in good quality form to most effectively communicate your insights. I will be pleased to review your draft paper two weeks before the due date we agree upon.

Grading	Research and use of sources	30%
	Application (so what now?)	20%
	Development of thought	30%
	Clarity of Structure	10%
	Correct Language & Form	10%

Quizzes

Two quizzes based on our text book and class discussions. You will find a study guide to help you prepare in Populi Files resource titled "Quiz Prep Review Christian Education."

Church of Christ Curriculum Resources

Gospel Advocate www.gospeladvocate.com

Sweet Publishing <https://sweetpublishing.com/>

Twenty-First Century Christian www.21stcc.com

See also "A Christian's Home Library" for further references and links.

Bibliography

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so (Acts 17:11). One of our main goals in this course is to become sound and effective teachers of God's Word, our primary resource for our education ministry. The following secondary sources have some value but should always be read critically to discern what is in harmony with Scripture and what is not and therefore should be left aside.

Baxter, Batsell Barrett. *Speaking for the Master: A Study of Public Speaking for Christian Men*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1980.

- Benson, Dennis C. *Creative Bible Studies: 401 Experiences to Help Youth Crawl Inside the Scriptures, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts*. Loveland, CO: Group Books, 1985.
- Bibby, Reginald W. *Beyond the Gods and Back: Religion's Demise and Rise and Why It Matters*. Lethbridge, AB: Project Canada Books, 2011.
- . *The Boomer Factor: What Canada's Most Famous Generation Is Leaving Behind*. Toronto, ON: Bastion Books, 2006.
- . *Canada's Teens: Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow*. Toronto, ON: Stoddart, 2001.
- . *Restless Churches : How Canada's Churches Can Contribute to the Emerging Religious Renaissance*. Toronto, ON: Novalis, 2004.
- . *Resilient Gods: Being Pro-Religious, Low Religious, or No Religious in Canada*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 2017.
- . *Restless Gods: The Renaissance of Religion in Canada*. Toronto, ON: Novalis, 2004. (Selected for its survey data and trends analysis.)
- Birston Paul. "A Christian's Home Library." Online Class Resources Folder. Christian Education. Great Lakes Bible College, Fall Term 2018. (Available in your online class folder and hardcopy.)
- . "Saved by..." Class Handout Resources. Christian Education. Great Lakes Bible College, Fall Term 2018. A comprehensive list of Scriptures revealing the many provisions God has given by which we must be saved. (Available in your online class folder and hardcopy.)
- . "Worldviews & World Religions in Light of Scripture: Studies 1-30 for Christian Education." Waterloo, ON: Great Lakes Bible College, September 2019 or later.
- Childs, Sonny. *Teaching Teenagers*. Only, IL: Childs Publications, 1990.
- Choquette, Robert. *Canada's Religions*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2004.
- Detton, John M. *Introduction to Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.
- Echols, Eldred. *Discovering the Pearl of Great Price: The Parables of Jesus*.
- Ellas, John W. *Church Growth through Groups: Strategies for Varying Levels of Christian Community*. Houston, TX: Center for Church Growth, 1990.
- . *Clear Choices for Churches: Trends among Growing and Declining Churches of Christ*. Houston, TX: Center for Church Growth, 1994.

- . *Measuring Church Growth: A Research-Based Tool for Evaluating & Planning*. Houston, TX: Center for Church Growth, 1997.
- . *Small Groups & Established Churches: Challenge and Hope for the Future*. Houston, TX: Center for Church Growth, 2005.
- Exum, Tommy. *In the Days of Thy Youth*. Nashville, TN: 21st Century Christian, 1986.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Churches of Christ: An Ecclesiology for Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Ford, LeRoy. *A Curriculum Design Manual for Theological Education*. Eugene, OR: Reprint, Wipf and Stock, 2000.
- . *Design for Teaching and Training: A Self-Study Guide to Lesson Planning*. Eugene, OR: Reprint, Wipf and Stock, 2003.
- . *Design for Teaching and Training - A Teacher's Guide: A Teacher's Guide for Interactive Learning and Instruction*. Eugene, OR: Reprint, Wipf and Stock, 2002.
- Gangel, Kenneth O. and Howard G. Hendricks. *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Teaching: A Comprehensive Resource on the Distinctiveness of Christian Teaching*. Grand Rapids, Baker, 1988.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.
- . *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2, The Reformation to the Present Day*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.
- Graendorf, Werner C. *Introduction to Biblical Christian Education*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1981.
- Hendricks, Howard G. *Teaching to Change Lives: Develop a Passion for Communicating God's Word to Adults or Children in the Church, Home, Bible Study or School*. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1987.
- Hesselgrave, David J. *Communicating Christ Cross Culturally: An Introduction to Missionary Communication*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.
- Hodge, Charles. *Teachers*. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 1991.
- Lewis, David K., Carley J. Dodd and Darryl L. Tippens. *The Gospel According to Generation X: The Culture of Adolescent Faith*. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 1995.
- Livingstone, A. E. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. (Earlier editions are acceptable and

available economically online.)

Miles, M. Scott. *Families Growing Together*. Equipped for ministry series. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1990.

Oglesby, Robert. *Group Dynamics in the Bible Class: A Handbook for Discussion Leaders*. Richardson, TX: RKO Publications, 1974.

Olson, Roger E. and Frank S. Mead, Samuel S. Hill and Craig D. Atwood. *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*. 14th Edition. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2018.

Otts, Shane. *How to Use Muscle and a Shovel Effectively: Instructions to Begin A Second Restoration Movement*. Np: Shane Otts Ministries, 2016.
Available as a Kindle Book.

Ramsey, Chad. *In God's Image: A Study of the Nature of Man*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 2013. Available as a Kindle book.

Richards, Lawrence O. *Creative Bible Teaching*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1970.

Schaller, Lyle E. *Activating the Passive Church: Diagnosis and Treatment*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1981.

———. *Assimilating New Members*. Creative Leadership Series. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1992.

Scofield, Willard A. *Teaching the Bible: Creative Techniques for Bringing Scripture to Life*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1976.

Shank, Harold. *Children Mean the World to God*. Nashville: 21st Century Christian, 2001.

Shank, Michael J. *Muscle and a Shovel*. 8th edition. Np: Michael Shank Ministries, 2011.
Available as a Kindle Book.

———. *When Shovels Break: Sequel to Muscle and a Shovel*. 3rd edition. Np: Michael Shank Ministries, 2011. Available as a Kindle Book.

Shelley, Bruce. *Church History in Plain Language*. Fourth edition. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2013.

Status of World Missions 2017 in Context of 1900-2050. Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell. Available at:
<http://www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/globalchristianity/resources.php>.

Elmer L. Towns. *Towns' Sunday School Encyclopedia: A Practical Guide for Sunday School Teachers*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993.

Van Rheenen, Gailyn and Anthony Parker. *Missions: Biblical Foundations and*

Contemporary Strategies. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan 2014.
Available as Kindle Book.

Van Rheenen, Gailyn and Bob Waldron. *Status of Missions: A Nationwide Survey of Churches of Christ*. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 2002.

Wamberg, Steve and John Conaway. *Faith Teaching: Teachers Like You Can Grow Faith Kids*. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications, 1999.

Wilbert, Warren N. *Teaching Christian Adults*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1980.

Wilhoit, Jim and Leland Ryken. *Effective Bible Teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1988.

+Yount, William R. *Created to Learn: A Christian Teacher's Introduction to Educational Psychology*. Second edition. Nashville, TN: B&H, 2010.

———. *The Teaching Ministry of the Church*. Second edition. Nashville, TN: B&H, 2008.

Zuck, Roy B. *Teaching as Jesus Taught*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.

Zuck, Roy B. and Gene A. Getz. *Adult Education in the Church*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1970.

Zuck, Roy B. and Robert E. Clark. *Childhood Education in the Church*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1978.

Zuck, Roy B. and Warren S. Benson. *Youth Education in the Church*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1978.

Fathers, Families and Children

Canfield, Ken R. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Fathers: Becoming the Father You Want to Be*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1992.

Christiansen, Larry. *The Christian Family*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1970.

Dobson, James. *Dare to Discipline*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1983.

———. *The Strong Willed Child: Birth Through Adolescence*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1982.

Fugate, J. Richard. *What the Bible Says About Child Training: Parenting with Confidence*. Apache Junction, AZ: Foundation for Biblical Research, 1996.

Griffin, Em. *Making Friends and Making Them Count*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1987.

Hallowell, Edward M. and John J. Ratey. *Delivered from Distraction: Getting the Most out of Life with Attention Deficit Disorder*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2005

———. *Driven to Distraction: Recognizing and Coping with Attention Deficit Disorder*. Revised edition. New York: Anchor, 2011.

Johnson, Greg and Mike Yorkey. *“Daddy’s Home”: A Practical Guide for Maximizing the Most Important Hours of Your Day*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1992.

Levine, Mel. *A Mind at a Time*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002.

———. *The Myth of Laziness*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.

Williams, John. *The Family, God’s Handiwork: What the Bible Says About Marriage, Family and You*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndall House, 1984.

Brief Counselling for Christian Servants

Benner, David G. *Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-Term Structured Model*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

*Flatt, Bill. *Building a Healthy Family*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 2001.

———. *From Worry to Happiness: You Can Cope Successfully with Guilt, Worry, Fear, Sexuality, Tension or Grief*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 1988.

———. *Growing Through Grief*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 2014.

———. *Personal Counseling: A Guide for Christian Counselors and Help for Individuals in Working Through Personal Problems Toward Positive Solutions*. Memphis, TN: Flatt Publications, 1991.

———. *Since You Asked*. Np: Quality Printing & Publications. 1983.

———. *Restoring My Soul: The Pursuit of Spiritual Resilience*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate Company, 2001.

*Bill Flatt is former dean of Harding School of Theology, professor of counselling and licensed family therapist. He uses excellent methods of counselling like Jesus.

Koller, Charles Allen. *Solution-Focused Pastoral Counseling: An Effective Short-Term Approach for Getting People Back on Track*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Nottingham, Ed. *It’s Not as Bad as It Seems: A Thinking Straight Approach to Happiness*. Revised and expanded edition. Np.: 2001. First edition, Np.: Castle Books, 1993.

Stone, Howard W. *Brief Pastoral Counseling: Short-term Strategies and Approaches*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2011.

———. *Crisis Counseling (Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling)*. Revised edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2009.

———. *Depression and Hope: New Insights for Pastoral Counseling*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

———. *Theological Context for Pastoral Caregiving: Word in Deed*. Revised edition of *Word of God and Pastoral Care*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1996.

Books on Bible Difficulties and Evidences (Secondary)

Note: All primary sources are invaluable in this area for evangelism, apologetics and church instruction and edification. Examples.

Archer, Gleason L., Jr. *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1982.

———. *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Barrett, Eric C. and David Fisher. *Scientists Who Believe: 21 Tell Their Own Stories*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1984. Available as Kindle book.

Geisler, Normal L. and Thomas Howe. *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008.

———. *When Critics Ask: A Popular Handbook on Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr., Peter H. Davids, F. F. Bruce and Manfred Brauch. *Hard Sayings of the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996.

Lewis, Jack P. *Exegesis of Difficult Bible Passages*. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 1988.

McDowell, Josh and Sean McDowell. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2017.

McDowell, Josh and Bill Wilson. *A Ready Defense: The Best of Josh McDowell*. 2nd edition. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992.

Ramsey, Chad. *In God's Image: A Study of the Nature of Man*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 2013. Available as a Kindle book.

———. *Reasons to Believe: A Survey of Christian Evidences*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 2008. Available as a Kindle book.

Schroeder, Gerald L. and Zola Levitt. *Genesis One: A Physicist Looks at Creation*. Np: Zola Levitt Ministries, 2014.

———. *The Hidden Face of God: How Science Reveals the Ultimate Truth*. New York, NY: Free Press, 2001.

Goal 7

In keeping with God's commands (e.g. 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22; 1 John 4:1–6), develop awareness and discernment with respect to widespread false doctrines in religion and misinterpretations of Scripture and how they seriously impact the church today.

Related Goals From Denominational Teachings and Practices

1. To affirm and increase our awareness of Scripture's emphasis on sound teaching (doctrine) and the ways Scripture is our guide and plumb line for assessing truth and error (1 Thessalonians 5:21–22; 1 John 4:1–6; 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 4).
2. Briefly review the broad sweep of church history and theology in general as one important context for understanding denominational teachings and practices.
Recall charts on
 - inspiration
 - truth/tradition/theology [4 epistemic criteria]
 - Baptism through 2,000 Years
 - streams of denominational history.
3. Where necessary to understand reasons behind certain teachings and practices, briefly examine the religious, social, political, economic and cultural forces that shaped the complex reality of denominations and their teachings and practices.
4. Critically understand our own faith in light of Scripture, history and practice and therefore enhance our appreciation of the New Testament church today as it lives by God's Word in faith, salvation, worship, leadership, service and evangelism.
5. To gain a deeper understanding of the religious traditions and doctrinal errors that surround us in the 21st century world to equip God's people for meaningful dialogue with our religious and non-religious neighbours in the pursuit of the truth and their salvation according to Scripture.
6. To align our faith, life and worldview completely with God and His Word.

Selected Bibliography on Teachings (Doctrine), Practice and Theological Terms of Christendom

The Bible is our primary source for understanding God's teachings and His will for our practices of faith that are pleasing to Him. The books in this bibliography are secondary sources. As such they are non-inspired but are included as historical records and references for understanding denominational teachings and practices. Their contents are not necessarily in harmony with Scripture. Their inclusion does not signify endorsement or accuracy of all their content.

Basic Resources for

- **Worldviews**
- **World Religions**
- **Denominational Teachings**
- **Doctrinal Errors and their Development**
- **Church History in General**

- Personal Experience
through Seeking God, Evangelism, Ministry

Birston, Paul. *Worldviews and World Religions*. Waterloo, ON: Great Lakes Bible College, 2021.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.

———. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2, The Reformation to the Present Day*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.

Livingstone, A. E. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. (Earlier editions are acceptable and available economically online.)

Olson, Roger E. and Frank S. Mead, Samuel S. Hill and Craig D. Atwood. *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*. 14th Edition. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2018.

Ridenour, Fritz. *So What's the Difference: A Look at 20 Worldviews, Faiths and Religions and How They Compare to Christianity*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House (Baker), 2001. Watch for evangelical denominational biases.

Shelley, Bruce. *Church History in Plain Language*. Fourth edition. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2013.

Additional Resources

Abbott, Walter M., gen. ed. *The Documents of Vatican II*. New York: Guild Press, 1966.

Bettenson, Henry, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*. London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

Catholic Catechisms

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 1997.

Important because in Canada 40%+ of the people you meet will be practising catholics or have catholic backgrounds that retain profound influences on how they think of God, “church” and how they lead their lives.

Plus, importantly in our time, the number of catholic immigrants to Canada is large.

We need to know what their parallel extra-biblical authority says as it very often contradicts the plain teachings and practices of Scripture particularly with reference to 1) Salvation, 2) Worship and 3) Church leadership, congregational autonomous governance, 4) recognition of every member as i) a priest and ii) a holy one (“saint” from the Latin)...

<http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html>

Examples of doctrines added to Scripture with superseding authority
122–126–128, Mariology, 319 original sin in infants,
347 (1376) transubstantiation, 349 sacrifice perpetuated,
350 weekly and daily Communion, 398 (1599) holy orders and celibacy

Dyer, George L. et al, editors. *An American Catholic Catechism*. New York, NY: Seabury Press, 1975.

Marthaler, Berard L., ed. *Introducing the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Traditional Themes and Contemporary Issues*. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1994.

Clark, Elmer T. *The Small Sects in America: An Authentic Study of almost 300 Little-Known Religious Groups*. New York, NY: Abingdon, 1949.

Dillenbergh, John, ed. *Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings*. New York: Random House, 1962.

Dowley, Tim, ed. *Eerdmans Handbook to the History of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Third edition Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003. PB

———. *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013. GLBC

———. *Church History, Early and Medieval*. The Way of Life Series. Abilene, TX:

Biblical Research Press, 1966. GLBC 270.07 FER v. 1
Excellent brief overview.

———. *Church History, Reformation and Modern*. The Way of Life Series. Abilene, TX: Biblical Research Press, 1966. GLBC 270.07 FER v. 2
Excellent brief overview.

———. *Early Christians Speak: Faith and Life in the First Three Centuries*. Vol. 1, third edition. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 1999. GLBC 270.1 FER v. 1

———. *Early Christians Speak: Faith and Life in the First Three Centuries*. Vol. 2. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 2001. GLBC 270.1 FER v. 2

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.

———. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2, The Reformation to the Present Day*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.

Greef, W. de. *The Writings of John Calvin: An Introductory Guide*. Translated by Lyle De Bierma. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1993.

Harvey, Van A. *Handbook of Theological Terms: Their Meaning and Background Exposed in Over 300 Entries*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 1997.

Leith, John H. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. Third edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021.

Lightfoot, Neil R. *How We Got the Bible*. Revised and expanded 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Noll, Mark et. al., eds. *Eerdmans' Handbook to Christianity in America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1983.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. Five volumes. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1973–1990.

1 *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition 100–600* (1973)

2 *The Spirit of Eastern Christendom 600–1700* (1974)

3 *The Growth of Medieval Theology 600–1300* (1978)

4 *Reformation of Church and Dogma 1300–1700* (1984)

5 *Christian Doctrine and Modern Culture since 1700* (1990)

———. *Credo: Historical and Theological Guide to Creeds and Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition*. Hartford, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.

———. *Historical Theology: Continuity and Change in Christian Doctrine*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2014.

———. *The Riddle of Roman Catholicism: Its History, Its Beliefs, Its Future*. New York, NY: Abingdon, 1959.

Pelikan, Jaroslav and Valerie R. Hotchkiss, eds. *Creeds and Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition*. Volumes 1-4. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.

Rowell, Geoffrey, ed. *Tradition Renewed: The Oxford Movement Conference Papers*. Allison Park, PA: Pickwick Papers, 1986.

Seeberg, Reinhold. *Text-book of the History of Doctrines. Vol. II*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, trans. by Charles E. Hay, 1952.

White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1993. PB

———. *Documents of Christian Worship: Descriptive and Interpretive Sources*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992. PB

———. *Introduction to Christian Worship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1980. GLBC 246 WHI

———. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989. GLBC 246 WHI

———. *The Sacraments in Protestant Faith and Practice*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1999.

Selected Bibliography of Church in General

Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1978.

———. *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1952.

Bireley, Robert. *Religion and Politics in the Age of the Counterreformation*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1980.

Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009

Carroll, James. *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, First Mariner Books edition, 2002.

Daniel-Rops, Henri. *The Protestant Reformation, Vol. 1*. Translated by Audrey Butler. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1963.

Erikson, Erik H. *Young Man Luther: A Study in Psychoanalysis and History*. The Norton

- Library. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1962.
- Elton, G. R., ed. *Renaissance and Reformation, 1300-1648*. New York: Macmillan Company, 1968.
- Estep, William R. *Renaissance and Reformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986.
- _____. *The Anabaptist Story: An Introduction to Sixteenth Century Anabaptism*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.
- Faludy, George. *Erasmus*. New York: Stein and Day, Publishers, 1970.
- Floyd, John Fletcher. *The Morning Star: The Saga of John Wycliffe*. Fort Worth, TX: Star Publications, 1990. (Historical novel)
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.
- _____. *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2, The Reformation to the Present Day*. Revised and updated second edition. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.
- Gritsch, Eric W. *Martin - God's Court Jester: Luther in Retrospect*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.
- Grimm, Harold J. *The Reformation Era, 1500-1650*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1973.
- Haile, H. G. *Luther: An Experiment in Biography*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1980.
- Handy, Robert T. *A History of the Churches in the United States and Canada*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976.
- Harbison, E. Harris. *The Christian Scholar in the Age of the Reformation*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956.
- Hillerbrand, Hans J., ed. *The Protestant Reformation*. New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1968.
- Hughes, Philip E. *Theology of the English Reformers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1980.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity: Volume II: Reformation to the Present*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. Revised edition by Prince Press, 1997.
- Laverdure, Paul, ed. *Christianity in Canada: Historical Essays by John S. Moir*. Yorkton, SK: Redeemer's Voice Press, 2002.
- Mattox, F. W. *The Eternal Kingdom: A History of the Church of Christ*. Delight, AK:

Gospel Light Publishing Co., 1961.

Miller, Andrew. *Miller's Church History: From First to Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1964.

Murphy, Terrence, ed. *A Concise History of Christianity in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Noll, Mark. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992.

Orr, J. Edwin. *The Flaming Tongue: The Impact of Twentieth Century Revivals*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1973.

Ozment, Steven. *The Age of Reform, 1250-1550: An Intellectual and Religious History of Late Medieval and Reformation Europe*. New Haven, CN: Yale University Press, 1980.

Renwick, John. *Reformation to Restoration: The Restoration Ideal in Europe from the 16th to the 19th Century and the Rise of New Testament Churches in Britain and America with a Special Focus on Scotland*. Kirkcaldy, Scotland: Hayfield Publications, 2004.

Robinson, William Childs. *The Reformation: A Rediscovery of Grace*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1962.

Be aware of the Reform/Calvinism interpretation of grace.

Smith, Preseved. *The Reformation in Europe*. New York: Collier Books, 1962.

Stevenon, William. *The Story of the Reformation*. Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1959.

Walker, Williston. *A History of the Christian Church*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1952.

Walsh, Michael, ed. *Dictionary of Christian Biography*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2001.

Wand, J. W. C. *A History of the Modern Church: From 1500 to the Present Day*. 7th edition revised (corrected). London: Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1955.

Windle, Bertram C. A. *Who's Who of the Oxford Movement*. New York: The Century Co., 1926.

Woodbridge, John D. and Frank A. James III. *Church History, Volume Two: From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day: The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

Zweig, Stefan. *Erasmus of Rotterdam*. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. New York: Viking Press, 1956.

Preaching, Teaching Listener Setting and Speech Fundamentals

Anderson, Virgil A. *Training the Speaking Voice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1942.

Baxter, Batsell Barrett. *Speaking for the Master: A Study of Public Speaking for Christian Men*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1980.

Baxter, Batsell Barrett. *Speaking for the Master: A Study of Public Speaking for Christian Men*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1972 reprint. Pdf on Populi files.

Birston, Paul. "How to Listen to a Sermon." Available at <http://paulbirston.com/articles/HowtoListentoaSermon.html>.

———. "How Not to Listen to a Sermon." Available at <http://paulbirston.com/articles/HowNottoListentoaSermon.html>.

Bitzer, Lloyd F. "The Rhetorical Situation." *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 1 (1968): 1-14.

Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centred Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids, MI, 1994.

Craddock, Fred. *As One Without Authority*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 2001.

Elliott, Mark Barger. *Creative Styles of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000

Eslinger, Richard L. "'FWD., FWD., FWD.': Mega-Story in the Untaught Homiletic." *Journal of Theology* (2002): 3–22.

———. *The Web of Preaching: New Options in Homiletic Method*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

Greidanus, Sydney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.

———. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

Long, Thomas G. *Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible*. Second edition. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1989.

———. "Shaping Sermons by Plotting the Text's Claim Upon Us." In *Preaching Biblically*, ed. Don Wardlaw, 84–100. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.

———. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville. Second edition. KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Sermons*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1980.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *Broken Words: Reflections on the Craft of Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004.

———. *The Four Pages of the Sermon: a Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

———. *Setting Words on Fire: Putting God at the Center of the Sermon*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2008.

From Courses on Sermon / Teaching, Evaluation Form

Key: + good ✓ average — needs work

Content

Was the sermon focused _____

Was the text clarified _____

Was the subject significant _____

Organization and Structure

Introduction _____

Transitions _____

Conclusion _____

Movement _____

Language and Style

Interest _____

Clarity _____

Variety _____

Delivery

Familiarity with material _____

Natural _____

Conviction _____

Eye contact _____

Distractions _____

Time _____

Great Lakes Bible College