



THE CORNERSTONE

Bible College and Seminary

Course Catalog
2025–2026

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The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary operates as a religious exempt institution under the Private Post-secondary Education Act of 2009, as provided for in section 94874(e)(1). As pursuit of accreditation is a voluntary choice by academic institutions desirous of obtaining federal student aid and international student visas, TCBS has chosen that in today's regulative climate it would be best not to seek federal accreditation. TCBS does hold to the national and international norms of governance, standardization, and audit practices. Beyond its most important recognition by local churches, the TCBS degree is accepted for advanced study by other theological institutions (accredited and non-accredited). Pertinent documentation is available upon request by candidates for admission, students, and stakeholders.



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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome!

The Cornerstone Seminary extends a warm welcome to all applicants and prospective students who seek thorough training in the word of God for the sake of vocational ministry.

Why Choose The Cornerstone Seminary?

The Spirit-Empowered Exaltation of Christ and the Glory of God: The central thread of our curriculum and instruction is Christ's supremacy and sufficiency for his people. Further, Jesus Christ cannot be known apart from his trinitarian role and relations to the Father and Holy Spirit. Students will learn how to study Scripture, craft sermons, and conduct their shepherding ministry with the goal of making Christ and his gospel known. We desire to prepare men who will pursue the glory of the Triune God above all things and give their attention to careful Christ –centered exposition of Scripture.

Pastors Training Pastors: Our mission is to train competent pastors for a lifetime of faithful service to Christ and his church. In order to fulfill this mission, we believe that skilled pastor-theologians should be the ones providing such training. The majority of history's most enduring theologians were churchmen and because of this reality, all of our professors are theologically-equipped men with significant experience in church ministry. Therefore, each professor brings a valuable and unique blend of academic rigor and pastoral wisdom to the classroom, providing students with a well –rounded theological education.

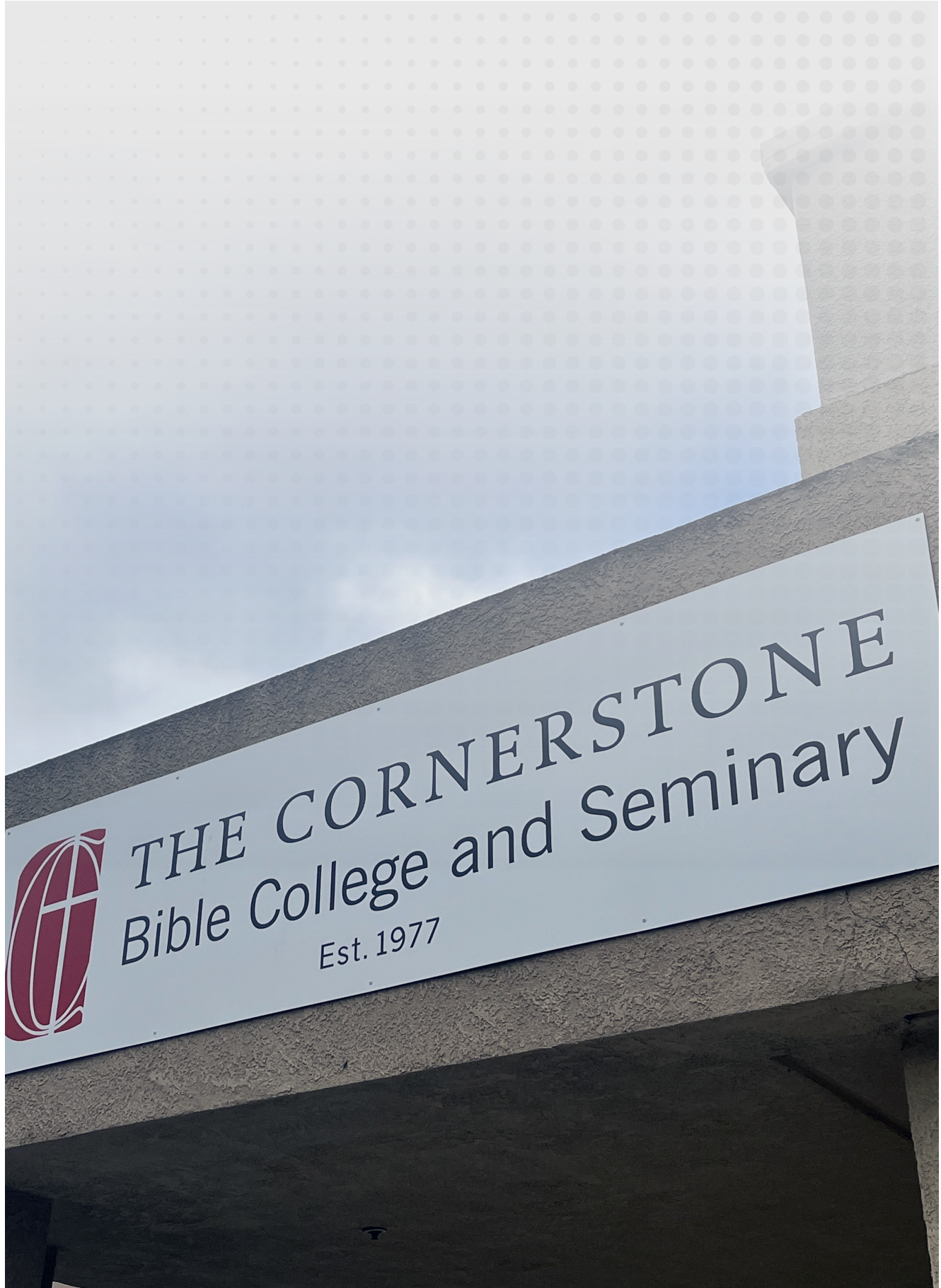
Commitment to Biblical Inerrancy: At a time when Christian institutions are either abandoning their past commitment to inerrancy or neglecting to make inerrancy a theological distinctive, we believe inerrancy should be cherished and emphasized. A robust commitment to the doctrine of inerrancy will empower a man to preach the Scripture with boldness, counsel the word of God with confidence, and withstand spiritual attack, personal temptation, and doctrinal compromise as he serves Christ in pastoral ministry. In all of our training, we seek to instill in our men a deep love for and unwavering trust in the word of God.

Grounding in the Original Languages: Our commitment to the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture naturally leads us to prize the study of Scripture in its original languages. Students will be thoroughly trained in Hebrew and Greek and therefore equipped to preach and teach the whole of Scripture with conviction, precision, and theological clarity.

A Global Impact: The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary is centrally located in the hub of the San Francisco Bay Area. We recognize that due to our location, much of the world is presently coming to us, and therefore see our location as a stewardship for worldwide gospel impact. We seek to train men to preach and pastor in the churches of the greater San Francisco Bay Area, Northern California, and beyond. Because Christ is the only hope for all humanity and the gospel of Christ is designed to reach all peoples irrespective of culture, we are convinced that our students need to cultivate a passion for local and global missions.

We welcome you in our pursuit of the glory of Christ,

Ryan L. Rippee
President of the Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary



ABOUT US

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary exists to serve the church by equipping students to exalt and proclaim Christ. By approaching theological education with a distinctly pastoral aim, we are teaching our students to use Christian doctrine as God intended. Men gripped by the knowledge of God will be men of worship, love, tenderness, and wisdom who know how to use the Scripture and biblical doctrine for the spiritual benefit of Christ's body.

VISION STATEMENT

Cornerstone Seminary fulfills its mission by working in conjunction with the Lord and His local church to equip each of His gifted, fruitful, and called men to become expositors who love and shepherd the flock.

HISTORY

Early Foundations in Church –Based Training

The origins of The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary trace back to the early 1970s with the establishment of Valley Bible Church in Pinole, California. In October 1971, Pastor Phil Howard founded this church, which would become the seedbed for theological education in the San Francisco Bay Area. Working alongside Pastor Frank Griffith, Howard initiated leadership training classes at Valley Bible Church that would ultimately evolve into formal theological education.

Among the early participants in these foundational leadership training classes was Steve Fernandez, who would later prove pivotal in establishing both educational institutions. Fernandez completed the first two years of Expository Greek classes taught by Griffith and Howard, then pursued his philosophy degree at Hayward State University before enrolling at Dallas Theological Seminary. In 1976, he returned to join Valley Bible Church's staff as associate pastor.

Establishment of Grace School of Theology and Ministry (1977)

Grace School of Theology was formally established in 1977 when Steve Fernandez, seeking to formalize the theological training occurring at Valley Bible Church, created a catalog and established a two-year program designed to meet the needs of men preparing for ministry as expositors and preachers of the Word of God. The school was initially located on the campus of Valley Bible Church in Hercules, California. While remaining steadfast to its original mission of preparing expository preachers, the school expanded its ministry over the decades to provide biblical, theological, and practical training to all Christians seeking preparation for various areas of service.

In 1987, Grace School of Theology relocated its administrative offices and classes to a new location — the educational facility of Grace Bible Church in Pleasant Hill, under the leadership of Pastor Tony Sanelli. During this transition, the word “Ministry” was added to the school's name, marking a deliberate emphasis on equipping students for effective ministry in God's church rather than merely pursuing academic achievement.

Founding of The Cornerstone Seminary (2004)

By 2004, Steve Fernandez had developed a burden to establish a seminary to meet the growing needs of like-minded churches throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. On September 27, 2004, The Cornerstone Seminary was officially inaugurated in Vallejo, California, on the campus of Community Bible Church, with Fernandez serving as its first president. At the inaugural service, Fernandez declared his vision: “We want Christ to come here! Not somebody that's known around the country, around the world. We want Christ to come here! Let him come through the doors! He's who we need! He's what our people need!”

The Cornerstone Seminary was established with a distinctive “pastor-professor” model, requiring faculty members to maintain active pastoral ministry while teaching. Brian Shealy served as Academic Dean from 2004 to 2011. During these formative years, Dr. Michael Canham joined the faculty as its first full-time professor in 2005. Todd Bolton, a graduate of the seminary, joined the staff in 2010 and has since served the school in various capacities. In 2011, Adrian Donato succeeded Brian Shealy as academic dean, serving in this role until 2015.

Institutional Merger and Transition (2013–2014)

On March 31, 2013, founding President Steve Fernandez passed away after a brief battle with brain cancer. His death marked the end of an era in the school's history. Yet, his vision for Christ-centered theological education continued through the merging of the two academic institutions he had faithfully served.

The formal merger between Grace School of Theology and Ministry and The Cornerstone Seminary was completed in 2014. This consolidation created a more comprehensive theological institution that combined the strengths of both schools under the unified name The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary.

Following Steve Fernandez's passing, the school faced significant challenges, but through the dedicated efforts of a devoted board of directors and the faithful service of Todd Bolton as dean of students, the institution continued to graduate students and serve local churches throughout Northern California.

Leadership Under Dr. Ryan Rippee (2019–Present)

Ryan Rippee was both a student at Grace School of Theology and Ministry in the 1990s and part of the first graduating class of The Cornerstone Seminary in 2007. He joined the faculty and board of Grace School of Theology and Ministry in 2005, then joined The Cornerstone Seminary faculty in fall 2007 following his graduation.

Under Rippee's leadership as the second president, the school has experienced steady growth and strategic advancement in student enrollment, academic offerings, and program innovation. In 2023, the institution launched a Spanish-language program to address the growing needs of Spanish-speaking ministries in the Bay Area. Rippee continues to expand the faculty and enhance the school's academic offerings.

ABOUT US: HISTORY

Also in 2019, Dr. Derek Brown joined Rippee as Academic Dean. Under Brown's leadership, the school began publishing *The Cornerstone Journal of Pastoral Theology and Ministry* in 2023. This publication continues the seminary's commitment to serving the broader church through scholarly pastoral resources.

Legacy and Continuing Mission

From its humble beginnings in the leadership training classes of Valley Bible Church in the 1970s to the present-day Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary, these institutions represent over 45 years of unwavering commitment to Christ-centered theological education in the San Francisco Bay Area. The 2014 merger of Grace School of Theology and Ministry and The Cornerstone Seminary created a strengthened institution that continues to train pastors and church leaders according to the founding vision established by its pioneers.

The legacy of leaders like Frank Griffith, Steve Fernandez, and the many faculty members who have served these institutions continues through current leadership under Ryan Rippee, Derek Brown, and others who maintain the founding vision of exalting Christ through faithful biblical exposition and pastoral training. Today, The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary stands as a testament to the power of local church commitment to theological education and the faithful preparation of Gospel ministers.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

TCBS is an evangelical school located within the Reformed Protestant tradition. Our statement of faith is rooted in Scripture, the ancient creeds, and the historic Reformed confessions of faith. The statement provides a clear articulation of our theological beliefs, serves as the basis of our institutional identity, and establishes the doctrinal framework in which we instruct all our students. This statement is made available to all prospective students, staff members, school administrators, and board members through our catalogs and handbooks. It is also available for public viewing on our website at <https://tcbs.org/about/statement-of-faith>

The Scriptures

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the objective, written revelation of God and thus constitute the Word of God (Hebrews 1:1–2); that men chosen by God wrote the Bible under the guidance and enabling of the Holy Spirit; that every word of the original autographs is God-breathed; and, therefore, that the whole of Scripture is both inerrant and authoritative for the faith and life of the believer (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21). We also believe that the Scriptures are sufficient and, in conjunction with the Holy Spirit and the caring body of Christ, are entirely adequate for every spiritual or emotional problem, and are in no need of any supplement from secular psychotherapies (2 Timothy 3:15–17; 2 Peter 1:3–4; Psalms 19:7–11). We further believe that Scripture is the fresh and present voice of Christ by which He communicates through the Holy Spirit to His people. Therefore, no current revelatory, prophetic word is necessary (Hebrews 3:7; 4:12). We believe that the Scriptures are to be interpreted in the literal/grammatical/historical sense.

The Godhead

We believe that God is infinite, self-existent Spirit, unchangeable in His nature, omnipotent, omniscient (Exodus 3:14; John 4:24; Hebrews 1:8–10), omnipresent, holy, righteous, good, love, and truth. We believe that God exists eternally as three distinct yet inseparable persons known as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (John 1:1; 10:30; Matthew 28:19). These three are one as to their nature, essence, and attributes (Hebrews 1:3–4; John 10:30; 14:9). The Godhead is the absolute and sole creator of the universe and its creation was by divine fiat, not through evolutionary process (Genesis 1:1; Psalms 33:6; Colossians 1:15–17). We believe that God created the universe in six literal 24-hour days. Each of the members of the Godhead are equally worthy of worship and obedience (Luke 2:14; Hebrews 1:6), each has a distinct function in the eternal purpose of the Godhead, and each is glorified by the work of redemption (Ephesians 1:3–14; John 17:1–5).

The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe that the second person of the Triune Godhead is the Son, whose name is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1; 14:9; Hebrews 1:3–4). In the incarnation, He became a man through the miracle of His divine conception and virgin birth without change in His deity (Philippians 2:5–11; Luke 1:34–35; Matthew 1:20–21). As the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), He lived a sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 2 Corinthians 5:21) and died a propitiatory, substitutionary death bearing the full penalty of God's wrath to save His people from their sins (1 Peter 3:18; Romans 3:25; 2 Corinthians 5:21). We believe Christ's death was designed to be efficacious for the elect alone (John 10:15; Ephesians 5:25–27; Revelation 5:9). We also believe that Christ's death demonstrated love for all men, is to be offered to all, and is sufficient to save all (Acts 17:30; Romans 10:10–13; Luke 24:46–47). He was buried, arose bodily, ascended into heaven, and is presently fulfilling His intercessory and mediatorial ministry at the right hand of the Majesty on High (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, co-eternal and co-equal with the Father and the Son (John 14:16; Acts 5:3–4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14). Although the Holy Spirit was actively present in the world in the Old Testament, He became resident in the world on the day of Pentecost having been sent by the Father and the Son (John 14:16–17, 26; 15:26). He convicts the unsaved of their need of Christ. He regenerates, baptizes, indwells, and seals all those whom He brings to faith. He teaches the believer, whom He leads into spiritual maturity through the knowledge of Christ and empowers through His filling ministry (John 16:7–11; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 3:16; 4:30; 5:18; 1 John 2:27). He effectually calls and regenerates the elect, enabling them to exercise the gift of saving faith and to receive Christ in all His offices as both Savior and Lord (Philippians 1:29; Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 10:9; 2 Corinthians 4:5; John 1:12; 3:3–5; Titus 3:5; 1 John 5:1).

ABOUT US: STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

We believe that the moment the believer rests his faith in Christ he is baptized with the Holy Spirit and becomes a functioning member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13,18; Acts 11:16; Romans 12:4–6). As a result of this baptism, the Holy Spirit imparts a spiritual gift; the Lord Jesus Christ assigns a ministry for which that gift is to be utilized; and God the Father guarantees supernatural effects as the believer fulfills that ministry (1 Corinthians 12:4–6; Ephesians 4:15–16). We believe some of the gifts given in the church during the ministry of the Apostles were directly related to the founding of the church and the completion of the New Testament and are thus no longer given, such as the gifts of prophecy, tongues, knowledge, and healing (Ephesians 2:20–3:4; Hebrews 2:3–4; 1 Corinthians 14:37–38; 2 Corinthians 12:12). We believe, however, that God continues to work supernaturally among His people. For example, those who have a debilitating sickness are to call for the elders who are to pray and expect supernatural healing as a part of their present-day ministry (James 5:16).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is by the grace of God, which is neither merited nor secured, in part or in whole, by any virtue or work of man (Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 11:6). The sole ground of salvation is the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:24–25; Hebrews 9:26; 10:10–14). We believe in justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and for the glory of God alone. Justification is the judicial act of God, whereby He declares righteous those who have placed their faith in Christ. It is a final act, so that the believer is forever and completely justified from the moment of saving faith (Romans 5:1, 9). Therefore, the believer awaits no final last day declarative justification. Justification is not based upon the believer's own righteousness, not even the imputation of faith itself as the believer's righteousness, but on a righteousness alien to him: the forensically imputed righteousness of Christ alone (Romans 4:3–6, 9–11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9). In salvation the believer is called, regenerated, forgiven all sin, justified, adopted, made eternally secure, and endowed with every spiritual blessing. Salvation is of the Lord (Romans 8:30; 1 Peter 1:3; Colossians 2:13; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 1:3–7; Romans 8:15).

Election

We believe that God, under no obligation whatsoever to provide salvation for anyone, unconditionally elected certain individuals for salvation before the foundation of the world (John 15:16; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 1:26–30; Acts 13:48). His election is not based on any foreseen act or response on the part of those chosen, but is based solely on His own good pleasure and sovereign will (Romans 3:11; 9:11–18). We do not believe that God elected others to hell, but passed them by, leaving them to their own sinful preference, which is self-glorification and a Christ-less life (Matthew 23:37; Romans 9:15–15; 10:21; John 3:19–20).

The New Birth

We believe the new birth is a gracious, supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given (2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3; Ephesians 2:4; 2 Peter 1:4). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23–25). The new birth (a promised blessing of the New Covenant) includes union with Christ, a new heart, new affections and deliverance from the dominating power of sin (Ezekiel 36:25–27; Romans 6:14; Ephesians 4:24; 1 John 3:9–10).

Sanctification

We believe that every believer is sanctified — that is, set apart unto God, declared to be holy, and identified as a saint (1 Corinthians 1:2). However, sanctification is both positional and progressive (Hebrews 10:14). Positional sanctification has to do with the believer's standing, not his present walk or experience. Progressive sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer is brought into an ever increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). We believe that sanctification is universal, mandatory evidence of a justification that is already final and complete, and not in any sense a means of attaining justification (Ephesians 2:10; James 2:14–15). We believe that every saved person is involved in a daily, lifelong conflict against the flesh (Romans 7:14–25; Galatians 5:16–17; 1 Peter 2:11). While eradication of sin is not possible, the Holy Spirit empowers both for victory over sin and impact and fruitfulness in ministry (Ephesians 3:16; 5:18; Acts 1:8; 4:31).

Perseverance (Security)

We believe the biblical doctrine of the perseverance of the saints. It has two parts: 1) No true child of God, born of the Holy Spirit, will ever be lost because he is kept by the power of God (Romans 8:31–39; John 10:28; Hebrews 13:5–6; 1 Peter 1:5); 2) It is equally true, however, that no person is saved without persevering to the end. Such perseverance may be marked by periods of discouragement, doubt, and even disobedience, but those genuinely saved will persevere to the end in faith and obedience (1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 8:10–11; 1 John 3:9–10; Hebrews 3:6, 14). Those who make a beginning in the Christian faith but do not continue give evidence that they never really had saving faith (1 John 2:19; Ephesians 5:5–6).

ABOUT US: STATEMENT OF FAITH

Man's Creation and Fall

We believe that Adam was created immediately in the image and likeness of God apart from any process of evolution (Genesis 1:26; 2:7). Adam became a sinner, depraved in nature and subject to Satan's power by personal disobedience to the will of God (Genesis 3:1–6; Romans 5:12–19; John 8:44; Ephesians 2:2–3). As our representative head, the guilt of Adam's act was imputed to the entire human race (Romans 5:12–14, 18–19). His sin and depravity was also transmitted to the entire human race; so that every man is a sinner by nature, choice, and practice; is guilty before God; and possesses within himself no means of recovery (Romans 3:9–18, 23; Ephesians 2:1–3). Man has both dignity (He is created in the image of God) and depravity (He is corrupted in every part of his nature through the Fall) (Ephesians 2:1; Jeremiah 17:9). We believe that man's depravity extends even to His will. While man is a free moral agent, choosing as he pleases, his will is in bondage to his sinful nature. Therefore, he always chooses darkness and is unable and unwilling to choose Christ (John 3:19–20; 5:40; 6:44, 65; Romans 8:6–8; Ephesians 2:1, 4).

The Church

We believe that in this age, commencing at Pentecost, Christ is building His church in partial fulfillment of the Old Testament Messianic promise, originally stated in the Abrahamic Covenant, to bless all the nations through Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:7–9; Isaiah 49:6; Acts 13:47). Christ builds His church by calling out His elect from every tribe, nation, people, and tongue (Romans 1:5; Revelation 5:9). The Holy Spirit forms and constitutes the church by baptizing true believers into the one universal, spiritual body, which is manifested in local churches (1 Corinthians 12:13). The local church has been commissioned to preach the Word faithfully, preserve the purity of the church through discipline, and practice the two ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper (2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Corinthians 5:11–13; Matthew 18:15–18; 28:18–19; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26). The officers of the local church are elders (also referred to as bishops, overseers, or pastors) — godly men who are entrusted with the oversight and care of the church — and deacons (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; 5:17; Titus 1:5).

Satan

We believe that God created a great host of varied spirit beings, and one called Satan (Lucifer) fell by sinning against God and took with him a large number of angels (Ezekiel 28:11–18; Matthew 25:41). He is the author of sin and the instigator in the fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:7–6). Satan is the enemy of God, the accuser of the people of God, and is constantly active in opposing the work and people of God (Ephesians 6:10–13; 1 Peter 5:8). Satan was judged at the cross, and his ultimate destiny is the lake of fire (John 12:31; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10). We also believe that the believer is removed from Satan's authority and dominion and that while a true believer may be an object of severe oppression and attack, he cannot be indwelt bodily by a demon (John 17:15; Colossians 1:13; 1 John 4:4; 5:18).

Future Events

We believe that at death the believer's spirit passes immediately into Christ's presence and remains there in conscious joy until the Rapture when he, along with those believers physically alive (1 Thessalonians 4:13–17), will receive a resurrection body (1 Corinthians 15:12–58; Philippians 3:20–21). We believe the promised Messianic Kingdom of the Old Testament comes to the world in two aspects. Christ instituted its spiritual aspect at His first coming (Acts 2:30–36; Hebrews 1:2), yet its final aspect will be fulfilled in an earthly kingdom over the entire earth in fulfillment of Old Testament promises of a restored Israel. We believe in the premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ personally and bodily as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Matthew 24:29–31; 2 Thessalonians 1:9–10; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11–21). His second coming is presented in the New Testament as being near or imminent, although its timing is unknown to men (1 Thessalonians 1:10; Titus 2:13). The two elements of His final coming, normally designated as Rapture and Revelation, are clear, although they are not often mentioned with distinction in the New Testament (1 Thessalonians 2:19; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13). The timing of the Rapture in relationship to the Tribulation is open to several different interpretations. The Tribulation will be followed by the return of Christ to the earth to reign for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1–7). Following the Millennium, the Great White Throne Judgment will occur. The spirits of the unregenerate at physical death also continue in conscious existence, but in torment, until the final resurrection that will be followed by the final Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:13–15). The unsaved will then be cast into the lake of fire and experience eternal separation and conscious, everlasting punishment (Daniel 12:2–3; Matthew 25:31–46; John 5:19–29; 2 Thessalonians 1:6–11).

This Statement of Faith is also available at our website (tcbs.org) under the “About TCBS” section at <https://tcbs.org/about/statement-of-faith>. This statement of faith is regularly reviewed and approved by the TCBS Board of Directors according to the processes outlined in the TCBS Assessment Plan.

ABOUT US: INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Institutional Objective #1

CHRIST-CENTERED BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FORMATION

TCBS will equip students with comprehensive biblical knowledge and sound theological understanding through Christ-centered expository preaching and Scripture-saturated instruction, enabling graduates to interpret Scripture accurately and communicate biblical truth effectively in diverse ministry contexts.

Institutional Objective #2

PASTORAL AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TCBS will prepare students for effective pastoral ministry and Christian leadership through mentorship-based discipleship that develops both theological competence and practical ministry skills under the guidance of pastor-professors.

Institutional Objective 3

LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

TCBS will maintain strategic partnerships with local churches to provide students with authentic ministry experiences while serving the broader church through collaborative training of fruitful leaders who meet real ministry needs.

Institutional Objective 4

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

TCBS will foster spiritual maturity and Christ-like character in students through comprehensive biblical spirituality programs that develop “God-glorifying, Christ-centered, Spirit-dependent” graduates who exemplify biblical values in ministry and life.

Institutional Objective 5

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND LIFELONG LEARNING

TCBS will provide academically rigorous education that meets national standards while preparing students for lifelong learning, advanced study, and continuous professional development in ministry and Christian service.

CORE VALUES (EDUCATIONAL DISTINCTIVES)

1. Christ-Centeredness

The person of Christ is the beginning, middle, and end of our curriculum.

2. Pastor-Professor Model of Instruction

Our pastor-professor model provides students with that rare combination of pastoral wisdom and theological rigor.

3. Mentorship

TCBS students are mentored by shepherds who are experienced and fruitful in ministry.

4. Local Church Engagement

Our professors exemplify a commitment to the local body.

The Primary Purpose

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary exists to raise up church leaders who have a passion for the glory of Christ and the spread of His glory to all peoples. In order to accomplish this purpose, the school seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To provide academically rigorous theological and ministerial education with a spiritual focus
2. To focus on the exegesis of Scripture from the original languages in order to prepare men to be expository preachers
3. To expose students to historical models of God-blessed ministry which were centered on preaching and missions (e.g., Jonathan Edwards, Charles H. Spurgeon, etc.)
4. To ground men in the great doctrines of Scripture including those commonly known as the doctrines of grace
5. To inculcate men with the importance of their call to lovingly shepherd God's people
6. To primarily staff the seminary with men who have demonstrated effectiveness in preaching and pastoral ministry, so that they may provide models of effective Christ-centered ministry

The above objectives are designed to provide students with training that balances the pursuit of theological depth together with a practical focus on a love for Christ and people. This balance fuels and permeates effective preaching and ministry. The preacher is taught to pursue theological and doctrinal integrity, because knowledge of Scripture and doctrine is necessary for a healthy church.

It is important, however, to view theological training, not as an end in itself, but rather as a means of advancing the kingdom of God and glorifying Christ in the world. Therefore, students are taught to pursue a spiritual ministry characterized by a love for Christ and a passion for spreading His glory. The school seeks to avoid the two extremes of a nonintellectual, theologically weak ministry that is all heart and no head, and a scholastic, over-intellectualized love of learning that is all head and no heart. In short, it seeks to produce men whose love for Christ is manifested in a commitment to the truth of Scripture, a love for people, and a passion to preach Christ in order to make disciples of all nations.

ABOUT US: INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Particular Emphases

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary training is permeated by eleven emphases:

1. THE SUPREMACY AND SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

The person of Christ is the beginning, middle, and end of the school's curriculum. The supreme glory and beauty of Christ is the focus of attention because it gives significance to His work and grips a man with a passion to serve and exalt Him, all the while humbling him with a sense of his unworthiness. The all-sufficiency of Christ for the salvation and sanctification of His people is accentuated. The incipient danger of adopting man-made techniques of ministry, psychological counseling, and other extra-biblical concepts for building the church become evident in the course of instruction.

2. THE SCRIPTURE'S NATURE AS THE SUFFICIENT, INERRANT REVELATION OF GOD'S MIND AND WILL

As the inerrant Word of God, the Scriptures are the supreme and sole source by which the authoritative voice of God is heard in the church and Christ's glory is manifested through the Spirit in the world. We stress that the Scriptures are entirely sufficient as Christ's means (through the Spirit of God and the people of God) by which He accomplishes both the salvation and the transformation of His people.

3. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE MINISTRIES OF PREACHING, EDIFICATION, AND EVANGELISM

The Holy Spirit's work is crucial for the efficacy of preaching, the dynamic operation of spiritual gifts in the church, and the spread of the Gospel. The reality of the presence of Christ through the Spirit and the Word is underscored, and models from church history that gave due focus to the role of the Spirit are highlighted.

4. THE WORK OF MISSIONS AS THE SPREAD OF GOD'S GLORY TO ALL PEOPLES

The biblical teaching of the supremacy of God's glory as the chief motive for missions and God's plan of reaching every people group for His glory are impressed upon the student.

5. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD AND MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY IN SALVATION

The need for God's sovereign initiative in mercifully saving, choosing, calling, justifying, and preserving sinners to promote His own glory is prominent. An equal emphasis is placed upon man's responsibility to repent and believe. Man's total depravity and inability raises the necessity of seeking and depending upon the Spirit's power and presence.

6. THE SUPREMACY OF PREACHING TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH AND THE ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Authoritative, Spirit-empowered, Christ-centered preaching as the chief means for the advancement of the Kingdom is a central emphasis. The central theme of Scripture is Christ and His redemptive work. Therefore prominence is given to Christ-centered preaching and the application of the gospel to every area of life. Prayer is seen as absolutely vital to effective preaching and ministry.

7. THE NECESSITIES OF CALLING, CHARACTER, AND GIFTING OF A MAN OF GOD FOR MINISTRY

Focused attention is placed on calling, character, family, fruitfulness, shepherding, servanthood, prayer, faith, and biblical counseling. Examples from church history are studied.

8. THE NEED FOR BROAD-BASED MINISTRY OF THE WORD BY OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH

The goal of church leadership is the mutual ministry of all the members of Christ's body (Ephesians 4:11–12). Therefore, the preacher's role as a pastor is stressed. Preaching and pastoral ministry are seen as catalysts for the comprehensive ministry of the entire body.

9. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIORITIES, BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP, AND LEADING THE LOCAL CHURCH

The importance of being a shepherd who loves the people under his care is impressed upon the student. The raising up of a leadership team of elders in a church is given prominence. The vital place of discipleship and a plan for implementing it in the church is taught, giving special attention to developing home fellowship groups and the vital role of spiritual gifts. The central place and proper observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper along with the biblical teaching of acceptable worship is accentuated.

10. THE NEED FOR SKILL IN BIBLICAL LANGUAGES FOR PREPARING TO BE EXPOSITORY PREACHERS

Believing that God has conveyed his truth in written form to be understood in its normal literal, grammatical sense, focused study is directed toward learning the lexicology, morphology, parts of speech, and syntax of the two main original biblical languages (Koine Greek and Classical Hebrew). Great weight is placed upon developing an expert handling of the text, applying an exegetical methodology, and preparing effective expository sermons.

ABOUT US: INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

11. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHURCH HISTORY FOR UNDERSTANDING THE NEED OF DOCTRINAL FIDELITY AND ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MODELS FOR MINISTRY

The study of godly men and great movements underscores the importance of understanding God's hand in the history of the church. Such concentration especially highlights proper evaluations of revivals, confessions of faith, the development of doctrine, and persecutions in order to bring greater discernment of truth and understanding of the cost of standing for it.

The Philosophy of Training

THE GENERAL CONVICTIONS THAT UNDERLIE OUR TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

1. The primary means that God uses for building His church, advancing the gospel, and glorifying Christ in the world is preaching in the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:4–5) undergirded by prevailing, persistent prayer (Ephesians 6:19, 21).
2. The effective preacher is first and foremost a man gripped by a love for Christ and His people. His ultimate priorities are communion with his Lord and, proclaiming and exalting Christ's glory. He is also a man gripped by God's mercy and grace as revealed in the great doctrinal themes and theological truths of Scripture. He is a student and lover of theology and the history of the church.
3. The effective pastor/teacher is a disciple-maker and reproducer of men, as well as a shepherd who loves and cares for God's sheep.
4. Effective training for a pastor must maintain a balance between academics and practical ministry. It is possible to be exposed to orthodox, theological training that emphasizes academics to the neglect of pastoral ministry. The reverse is also true. It is possible to focus on pastoral ministry and leadership to the neglect of theology and doctrine. A failure to achieve either dimension diminishes a man's usefulness in ministry.
5. There is a need for the training of preachers that combines sound theological education with spiritual fervor and godliness, taught and modeled by men who are active and effective in the ministry of the Word.
6. With the above in mind, the school seeks to primarily staff itself with men who are, or have been, fruitful in preaching and pastoral ministry. The school provides training in the context of the lives and instruction of godly pastors.

THE GENERAL CHARACTER THAT PERMEATES OUR TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

This training, first of all, entails a comprehensive, introductory knowledge of Scripture and church history. The Seminary seeks to ground its students in knowledge of the great doctrines of the faith—doctrines that have inflamed men in the past who were greatly used of God. It also seeks to expose men to the great men, epochs, and doctrinal controversies in Church History that help to give a right perspective on issues and controversies in today's church. In addition, recognizing that doctrinal knowledge alone is not the end and goal, our aim is to prepare men who are gripped with a love for Christ and who live in constant dependence on the power of the Spirit in their lives and ministries. In this vein, our school believes these things can best be fostered under the godly influence of men who have modeled and are modeling such lives and ministries before their students.

Second, the training is accomplished by pastors training pastors which is the model in Scripture and most of church history. In Scripture there is no example except that of ministers of the gospel training other gifted men for ministry (e.g., 2 Timothy 2:2; Acts 13:1–5; Jesus and His disciples; Paul and his missionary companions; etc.). In history until the 19th century, including such periods as the Reformation, the Great Awakening, and other great revivals in the church, this was the model of ministry.

The primary benefit to pastoral training done by those experienced and fruitful in ministry is that it helps to balance academic training with a knowledgeable, practical concern for fruitfulness and impact. Pastors, as the primary instructors of men, help offset the dangers inherent to an academic environment. These dangers include:

1. The promotion of a love of learning rather than a love for Christ
2. The substitution of scholastic education for spiritual ministry training
3. The creation of communicators to academia rather than the human heart
4. The promotion of a merely theoretical rather than practical ministry

In order to offset these dangers, our emphasis is on the quality of men to be trained, not the quantity. Often men in ministry are not useful and should not have been accepted into seminary or the ministry in the first place. A growing number of men aren't prepared for a preaching ministry that edifies the church. Neither are they, because of lack of calling, fruitful and effective in advancing the Kingdom.

Third, the school focuses on the qualifications of the man and his fruitfulness in exalting the glory of Christ and edifying the church prior to training. Men must show some evidence of the call to preaching and the pastorate by a fruitful ministry prior to entry into training. In addition, and this is fundamental, a man must first prove by his usefulness his qualification to train others. This is the clear biblical pattern (Acts 13; 1 Timothy 3).



PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors practices Carver's Policy Governance® Model for nonprofit organizations.

Tony Sanelli - Chairman
 Dr. Cliff McManis - Secretary
 Dr. Phil Foley - Treasurer
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 Ron Prorise
 Dr. Ryan Rippee

ADMINISTRATION

Ryan Rippee President

B.A., University of California at Davis

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ryan is the pastor of Trinity Church of Benicia in Benicia, CA and the current president of The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary (since 2019). Ryan grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and has a heart to minister to the people here, training up pastors to serve and teach in this unique region. He received a B.A. degree from the University of California at Davis in History (1999), a M.Div. from The Cornerstone Seminary (2007), and a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary with an emphasis in Biblical Spirituality and a minor in Church History (2016). Ryan is the author of *Preaching that Exalts Christ: The Pulpit Ministry of Steve Fernandez* and *That God May Be All in All*. After serving in pastoral ministry at Grace Church of Napa Valley in Napa, CA and Calvary Community Church in Brentwood, CA, Ryan planted Trinity Church of Benicia in his home community (in 2022). Ryan enjoys teaching annually at Munster Bible College in Cork, Ireland and is a Ph.D. advisor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri and Columbia Biblical Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He has taught bible conferences in Uganda, Honduras, the Philippines, and Spain. To unwind, Ryan loves training and teaching Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu! Ryan and his wife Jennafer have been married since 1995 and have five children.

Derek Brown

Academic Dean

B.A., The Master's University

M.Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Derek is associate pastor and elder at Creekside Bible Church in Cupertino, CA and General Editor of WithAllWisdom.org. He has made contributions to academic and popular books, published book reviews and articles for various print and online journals, and presented papers at the Evangelical Theological Society national meetings. He is also the author of *How to Pray for Your Pastor, Strong and Courageous: The Character and Calling of Mature Manhood, Fellowship with God: A Guide to Bible Reading, Meditation, and Prayer*, and *Solomon's Great Commission: A Theology of Earthly Life*. Derek lives with his wife and three children in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Eileen Lucas

Administrator

B.S., California State University, Sacramento

Eileen graduated from Sac State with a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. She worked administrative and financial positions during her employment in the corporate world, and has over 20 years experience in ministry administration. God saved Eileen through the youth ministry of Community Bible Church of Vallejo, where she's a member. Eileen has been married to Michael (CBC Associate Pastor, TCBS professor) since March 2000 and they have one son, MJ. By God's mercy, she is also a three-time cancer survivor, the most recent battle being November 2024.

Maui Cabrera

Administrative Assistant

A.S., Napa Valley College

Maui is a servant at Community Bible Church, where she came to saving faith in Jesus Christ through their summer volleyball outreach in July 2019. The Lord has now allowed her to serve in that same summer ministry, in addition to CBC's student, children's, and choir ministry. She is currently completing her degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Public Relations and Marketing. Lord-willing, she hopes to continue her education in Radiologic Technology. In her spare time, Maui enjoys playing volleyball, reading/learning, discovering new/going to cafes, traveling, listening to music, and admiring creation.

PERSONNEL: FACULTY

FACULTY

Dan Arcilla

Professor of Theology

M.Div., The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Dan Arcilla is the Pastor of Student Ministries and Communications Manager at Community Bible Church (CBC). Dan grew up in a religious household, but his life was irrevocably changed as a teenager when a friend shared the Gospel and showed him the grace of God in Christ. Daniel was so greatly impacted that he personally surrendered to Jesus Christ and experienced radical joy, peace, and purpose. After graduating from High School, Daniel committed his life to tell other young people about Christ, as he eagerly volunteered at the Youth Ministry of CBC. After studying English and Education at UC Berkeley, Daniel worked in various fields as an English Teacher, Web Developer, Tech Writer, and Marketing Manager. Finally, in 2011, Daniel was called into full-time ministry and completed a M.Div degree at The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary. He is passionate about preaching Christ and discipling young people in need of regeneration and restoration. Dan and his wife Joy live in Vallejo with his four sons. In his spare time, he enjoys hanging out with family, playing volleyball, music, comic book art, weight training, bike riding, and reading.

Jess Arnds

Professor of Theology

B.A., Biblical Counseling, The Master's University

M. Div., The Master's Seminary

Jess Arnds serves as Lead Pastor of Grace Church of Napa Valley in Napa, California, a role he assumed in 2024. Raised on the Crazy Mountain Ranch in Shields Valley, Montana, he witnessed the gospel's power firsthand when his parents, Tony and Tawny, were saved—instilling an enduring conviction in the sufficiency of God's Word for all matters of life and godliness.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Counseling from The Master's University and a Master of Divinity from The Master's Seminary. After graduation, Pastor Arnds served seven years as Resident Director at his alma mater, discipling students through Scripture. He began pastoral ministry in 2016 at Providence Church in Duluth, Georgia, before relocating to Napa in 2021 as Associate Pastor.

He coordinates the Coalition of Christ-Exalting Churches, a Northern California network connecting like-minded Reformed congregations around the Doctrines of Grace, the Five Solas, expository preaching, and Scripture's sufficiency — collaborating with pastors for church planting and revitalization. Pastor Arnds is married to Melissa, and they are blessed with three children: Felicity, John, and Addy.

Tony Arnds

Professor of Bible Exposition and Pastoral Training

B.S., Montana State University

M.Div., The Master's Seminary

Tony received a B.S. in Animal Science from Montana State University in 1988 and worked on different ranches throughout the state until his conversion to Christ in 1992. He studied at Montana Bible College from 1993 until 1997. He moved to Southern California where he studied and received his M.Div. from The Master's Seminary in 2001. He has served as Pastor-Teacher of Potter Valley Bible Church in Mendocino County 2002–2020. Tony is the founding pastor of Folsom Bible Church. When moving to the Folsom area a few years ago, Tony and his wife saw the regional need for more solid, Gospel-centered churches to proclaim the glory of Christ. Tony and his wife Tawny have three sons and six grandchildren.

Todd Bolton

Professor of Biblical Exposition and Biblical Languages

B.S., Emory University

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

Ph.D., Gateway Seminary (in process)

Todd graduated from Emory University with a B.S. in Anthropology. Todd received his Master of Divinity Magna Cum Laude from The Cornerstone Seminary in 2010. He served on staff at TCBS for 15 years in various capacities, including registrar, seminary administrator and most recently Dean of Students. While on staff at TCBS, he ministered at Community Bible Church in Vallejo. He currently serves as the Lead Pastor of Valley Bible Church in Hercules, CA. His passion is to see lives changed by Christ through clear applicational preaching and shepherding. Todd lives in Vallejo with his wife, Rhonda, and their four children.

Derek Brown

Professor of Theology

B.A., The Master's University

M.Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Derek is associate pastor and elder at Creekside Bible Church in Cupertino, CA and General Editor of WithAllWisdom.org. He has made contributions to academic and popular books, published book reviews and articles for various print and online journals, and presented papers at the Evangelical Theological Society national meetings. He is also the author of *How to Pray for Your Pastor, Strong and Courageous: The Character and Calling of Mature Manhood, Fellowship with God: A Guide to Bible Reading, Meditation, and Prayer*, and *Solomon's Great Commission: A Theology of Earthly Life*. Derek lives with his wife and three children in the San Francisco Bay Area.

PERSONNEL: FACULTY

Ray Estenoz

Professor of Bible Exposition, Spanish Program

Ph.D., South Africa Theological Seminary

Raymundo “Ray” Estenoz was born and raised in Cuba and came to Christ at 17 years old. From 1995 to 2017, he served as Pastor at the Western Baptist Convention of Cuba. In 1997, Ray married his wife Maria and began their family. Ray graduated from Havana Baptist Seminary with a Master’s Degree and a Ph.D. from South Africa Theological Seminary (SATS). He has served as a Hispanic Pastor at Grace Bible Church since 2018. Ray has a deep passion for reaching the Hispanic community around the Bay Area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching the Bible, and equipping the saints for ministry work.

John Fernandez

Professor of Theology

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

M.A., Talbot School of Theology

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

D.Min., The Master’s Seminary

John began his pastoral ministry at Dartmouth Baptist Church in Dartmouth, Massachusetts in 1981. He then founded and pastored Family Bible Church for 7 years in Pleasanton, California before serving four years as associate pastor at Community Bible Church in Vallejo, California. He was the senior pastor of Grace Church of Napa Valley since 1994. John taught theology at Grace School of Theology in Pleasant Hill, California from 1979–2004 and has been professor of theology at Cornerstone Seminary since 2004. He has trained pastors at the strategic Bible institutes in Russia as well as conferences in Uganda, Philippines, India, Nepal and Spain, and via zoom to Pakistan. He and his wife Pamela have been married since 1973 and have 4 children and 16 grandchildren.

Carl Fletcher

Professor of Systematic Theology

B.A., Rutgers University

Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary

D. Min., The Master’s Seminary

Carl Fletcher has the privilege of serving Christ by shepherding His people on a full-time basis at Grace Church of Santa Rosa. As an elder who is supported by this church he seeks to work hard at preaching and teaching that Christ would be proclaimed rightly from the Word to the glory of God and the blessing of His people. Carl and his wife Kerstin are excited to be new grandparents!

Phil Foley

Professor of Pastoral Training

B.A., Grace School of Theology and Ministry

M.A., Trinity Theological Seminary

D.Ed.Min., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Phillip Foley is the Lead Pastor at Community Bible Church, where he has served full-time since 1996. Phil came to know the Lord in 1984 through the discipleship ministry of CBC. Phil currently provides general oversight of the church, preaches weekly, and has a passion for training and shepherding men to be leaders in their home and in the church, for women to experience the joy and freedom of biblical womanhood as they carry out their role in the various spheres of their lives, and for the next generation to come to know the Lord. Phil is one of the board of directors and a professor at The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary. Phil holds a doctorate degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master’s degree from Trinity Theological Seminary, and a bachelors degree at Grace School of Theology and Ministry (now The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary). Phil and his wife Becky have been married since 1985 and have five children and eleven grandchildren.

Christopher Gee

Professor of Biblical Exposition

B.S., University of California at Los Angeles

M.Div., The Master’s Seminary

Th.M., The Master’s Seminary

D.Min., The Master’s Seminary

Chris is the Lead Pastor of City Light Bible Church, where he preaches on Sundays and leads the church’s vision. Originally from Castro Valley, he studied mass communication and English at UCLA, then earned his M.Div., Th.M., and D.Min. in Expository Preaching from The Master’s Seminary. He met his wife Linda in college, sparked a romance on a mission trip to Japan, and married her in 2011. They now have three lively sons — Nathaniel, Jordan, and Owen — who keep their home full of energy and broken furniture. Chris enjoys cheering for the Warriors, playfully rooting against LeBron, playing Super Smash Bros., and getting in some injury-free cardio through volleyball and basketball.

Denis Gerasimov

Professor of Biblical Languages

M.Div., The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary

Denis is an Associate Pastor at Gateway Bible Church in Castro Valley. He grew up in the Bay Area and attended all Hayward schools including Cal State East Bay where he graduated with B.S. in Marketing and Finance. He completed seminary at The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary in 2017 with a Master of Divinity. Denis has been in full-time ministry for the past seven years, including five years as pastor-teacher before joining Gateway in 2022.

PERSONNEL: FACULTY

Nick Haight **Professor of Theology**

B.S., University of Idaho

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

Nick was raised in Spokane, Washington, where he came to faith in high school. After graduation from the University of Idaho, he moved to California and worked for a software company for 15 years. He is the Founding Pastor of The Cornerstone Bible Church in Sacramento, California which began in 2006 when Nick and several other families were sent out by the elders of Community Bible Church in Vallejo, California. Nick received his M.Div. from The Cornerstone Seminary in Vallejo, California, in 2011. Nick and his wife Rosita have been married since 1994 and have six children and two grandchildren.

Jon Kile **Professor of Biblical Exposition**

B.A., Pacific Christian College

M.Div., Emmanuel School of Religion

D.Min., The Master's Seminary

Jon is the Pastor-Teacher of Faith Community Church in Vacaville, CA. Born in Portland and raised in Tigard, Oregon, he came to know Christ at a young age and felt called to full-time ministry early on. He attended Pacific Christian College in Fullerton, where he met his wife, Tiffany, and later earned his Master of Divinity from Emmanuel School of Religion. He began preaching in seminary and entered full-time ministry after graduating in 1995. In 2009, he completed his Doctor of Ministry at The Master's Seminary. Jon is passionate about preaching God's Word and evangelism, and he and Tiffany have three daughters — Katie, Emily, and Allison.

Kevin Kirby **Professor of Pastoral Theology**

B.A. California Baptist College, Riverside

M.Div., Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Certified Instructor, ACBC

Director, Biblical Counseling Center of Sonoma County

Pastor Kevin is the Senior Pastor of Sovereign Grace Community Church in Petaluma, where he has worked tirelessly to help the church plant thrive. He has been in active ministry for over 29 years, previously serving Petaluma Community Church from 1984 to 2010, and beginning his ministry at Schellville Baptist Church. He holds an M.Div. from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and an undergraduate degree from California Baptist College. Pastor Kevin and his wife, Linda, have been married for over 30 years and have four children — Kristopher, Scott, Matthew, and Kim. He is ACBC certified and has directed the Biblical Counseling Center of Sonoma County since 1999, following a 13-year chaplaincy with Hospice of Petaluma, driven by a passion to offer counseling grounded in biblical truth.

Michael Lucas **Professor of Biblical Exposition**

B.S., University of California at Davis

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

God saved Michael at Community Bible Church's youth summer camp shortly after high school graduation. Michael Lucas has been a member and servant at Community Bible Church (CBC) in Vallejo, CA since 1997. He has served in and led various ministries, including youth ministry, college ministry, and worship ministry. He earned his Masters of Divinity at The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary in 2016 and is now a professor of Bible Exposition. Michael leads a midweek Home Fellowship Group, regularly teaches CBC's Adult Training Seminars, and oversees the pre-marital counseling ministry. Michael was ordained as an elder in November 2019, and then ordained into full-time ministry as CBC's Associate Pastor in October 2022. Michael and his wife Eileen have been married since 2000 and have a son, MJ.

Rich Manrique **Professor of Pastoral Theology**

B.Th., The Cornerstone Seminary

Rich felt the Lord calling him to ministry when he was in high school. He began in ministry as a youth pastor and has also served as a worship and associate pastor. He is currently the Senior Pastor of Family Bible Church in Fairfield, CA. Rich graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Theology from The Cornerstone Seminary and Bible College in Vallejo, CA. In addition to his work at Family Bible Church, Rich speaks at men's groups, school chapels, and school camp retreats. He also teaches at The Cornerstone Seminary and Bible College. Rich and his wife Emily have been married for over 25 years and they have three children. He enjoys camping with his family, studying history, singing and playing guitar.

Cliff McManis **Professor of Theology and Bible Exposition**

B.A., The Master's College

M.Div., The Master's Seminary

Th.M., The Bible Seminary, Independence, MO

Ph.D., The Bible Seminary, Independence, MO

Ph.D., Whitefield Theological Seminary

Cliff is the Pastor-Teacher of Creekside Bible Church in Cupertino, CA. He has been in pastoral ministry since 1989, serving in churches in southern and northern California, northern Utah, and southern Texas. He has also taught in six different Christian schools over the years. Cliff is the General Editor of With All Wisdom Publications and has authored several books including *Biblical Apologetics*, *The Biblically-Driven Church* and *Rescued by Grace*. His teaching and preaching ministry to pastors extends internationally to Irpin Seminary in Kiev; Biblical Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia; Tenali, India; Ghana, Africa; the UK and Honduras. He is a member of the Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals (FIRE) and the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS). Cliff has been teaching Apologetics and Bible Exposition at The Cornerstone Seminary since 2007. He and his wife Debbie have four children and reside in the Silicon Valley area.

PERSONNEL: FACULTY

Charlie Nason

Professor of Biblical Exposition and Systematic Theology

B.A., The Master's College

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

Charlie is a teaching pastor and elder at FocalPoint Bible Church in El Sobrante, CA. He also teaches Bible at a local Christian high school. He enjoys teaching in the area of Christian Worldview and Apologetics. He has self-published the book *Gospel Powered: Anticipating God's Power in Christ-Centered Apologetics*. Charlie lives with his wife Anna and their four children in Rodeo.

Chris Oliveri

Professor of Theology

B.M., California State University – Los Angeles

M. Div., The Master's Seminary

D.Min., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Chris graduated from Cal State LA in 1991 with a degree in Guitar Performance (Jazz Studies) and taught guitar at The Master's University before earning his M.Div. from The Master's Seminary in 1998. He served as Associate and then Senior Pastor at Hope Bible Church in Los Angeles until 2008, when he became Senior Pastor of Clayton Valley Church. He completed his Doctor of Ministry at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 2021 and serves on the Board of Directors at Berean Christian High School. Married to Janet for 29 years, Chris enjoys mountain biking, hiking, talking with family, playing guitar, reading biographies, watching sci-fi, and savoring coffee — especially at Peet's with a good book. His favorite verse is Psalm 27:4.

Rod Phillips

Professor of Biblical Exposition

Ph.D., Trinity Theological Seminary

Rod Phillips is the Pastor-Teacher of Gateway Bible Church in Castro Valley and has over 35 years of pastoral ministry experience, serving as a senior pastor in both Michigan and California. Born in Tel Aviv and raised across Germany, England, and the U.S., Rod brings a global perspective to ministry, with a strong focus on missions and training national pastors. He is also passionate about biblical counseling in the local church. Rod holds a Ph.D. from Trinity Theological Seminary, has taught at The Master's University, and now serves on the faculty at Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary in Vallejo. He and his wife Elia have four adult children and two grandchildren. In his free time, Rod enjoys reading, mountain biking, golf, following West Ham United, and sipping coffee — especially from Philz.

Ron Prorise

Professor of Pastoral Training

B.A., The University of the State of New York

M.Div., Western Seminary

D.Min., The Master's Seminary

Ron is the Executive Director of the Sacramento Region Baptist Network and the Command Chaplain for the California State Guard. A veteran of the Iraq War, he was the senior military advisor for the Iraqi Ministry of Education, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He has been in pastoral ministry since 1990 and also served as a visiting professor for Grenada Institute of Theological Education, Instituto Biblico de Expositores Internacional in Honduras, and Kansas State University. He is the author of *When Your World Shatters*, and *Preaching Illustrations from Church History*. He and his wife Donna have two children.

Greg Reed

Professor of World Missions and Biblical Languages

B.A., Toccoa Falls College

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

Th.M., Bible Baptist Seminary

Greg serves as an elder over World Missions as well as a co-leader of the Adult Training Ministry at Community Bible Church of Vallejo, CA. In the last twenty years, he has partnered in the training and equipping of pastors and leaders of Mexico, Uganda, Sudan, India and the Philippines. He holds a B.A. in Missions from Toccoa Falls College (1986), a Master of Divinity from The Cornerstone Seminary (2009), and a Master of Theology from Baptist Bible Seminary (2020). Greg and his wife DJ have three children.

PERSONNEL: FACULTY

Ryan Rippee

Professor of Church History and Theology

B.A., University of California at Davis

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ryan is the pastor of Trinity Church of Benicia in Benicia, CA and the current president of The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary (since 2019). Ryan grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and has a heart to minister to the people here, training up pastors to serve and teach in this unique region. He received a B.A. degree from the University of California at Davis in History (1999), a M.Div. from The Cornerstone Seminary (2007), and a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary with an emphasis in Biblical Spirituality and a minor in Church History (2016). Ryan is the author of *Preaching that Exalts Christ: The Pulpit Ministry of Steve Fernandez* and *That God May Be All in All*. After serving in pastoral ministry at Grace Church of Napa Valley in Napa, CA and Calvary Community Church in Brentwood, CA, Ryan planted Trinity Church of Benicia in his home community (in 2022). Ryan enjoys teaching annually at Munster Bible College in Cork, Ireland and is a Ph.D. advisor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri and Columbia Biblical Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He has taught bible conferences in Uganda, Honduras, the Philippines, and Spain. To unwind, Ryan loves training and teaching Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu! Ryan and his wife Jennafer have been married since 1995 and have five children.

Michael Sanelli

Professor of Biblical Languages

B.S., California State University – Sacramento

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

After completing a business degree in college Michael felt the call to full-time ministry. He enrolled at Grace School of Theology and Ministry and then transferred to The Cornerstone Seminary from which he graduated in 2015. He now serves as the Minister of Worship at Grace Bible Church of Pleasant Hill. He met his wife Jody through the GBC-PH youth group; they have two children.

Tony Sanelli

Professor of Theology

B.Th., The Master's Seminary

M.A., Theological Studies, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Tony Sanelli is the founding pastor-teacher of Grace Bible Church in Pleasant Hill, CA, where he has served since 1995. Born in Central America and saved in 1979, he first sensed a call to ministry while leading a Bible study in the Bay Area. Since his ordination in 1990, Tony has planted two churches and served in various pastoral roles. He holds degrees from The Master's Seminary (B.Th.) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.A.T.S.), and is passionate about Christ-centered, biblically accurate preaching. He has authored discipleship materials and the book *Recovering the Biblical Gospel*, teaches theology at Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary, and speaks at conferences locally and abroad. Tony and his wife Sheri have three children and six grandchildren.

Greg Stoeber

Professor of Theology

B.A., University of Oklahoma

M.Div., The Master's Seminary

D.Min., The Master's Seminary

Greg has been serving as Pastor-Teacher at River City Grace Community Church in Sacramento since the beginning of 2000. Prior to that he served as an intern at Grace Community Church in Los Angeles while he was at The Master's Seminary. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from TMS, he served for almost 10 years as a Youth Pastor and Associate Pastor at a church in Simi Valley, CA. Greg is also involved with preaching and teaching ministries in Haiti as well as the European Bible Training Centers in Berlin, Germany and Zurich, Switzerland. He and his wife Laurie have four adult children.

Wes Wade

Professor of Bible Exposition and Theology

B.A., Grace School of Theology

M.Div., The Cornerstone Seminary

Wes has been with Grace Bible Fellowship since 1995. He moved west from Alabama as a child and has grown up with saints here ever since. He married his wife Jennelle in 2010 and God has blessed them with four children. Wes graduated Grace School of Theology and Ministry in 2012 with a B.A. in Biblical Studies, and The Cornerstone Seminary in 2015 with a M.Div. Wes was ordained by the leadership in July of 2016.



ADMINISTRATIVE LIFE INFORMATION

ADMISSIONS

Character Requirements

TCBS seeks to train and prepare godly, tested, and impassioned individuals. Therefore, 1) admission to the Bible College is predicated upon a measure of effectiveness and fruitfulness through service within a local church context, living under Christ's Lordship in submission to the will of God and obedience to the Word of God; being a person of proven character, recognized by others as faithful in one's responsibilities; having a servant's heart demonstrated by personal commitment to one's family (if married) and to one's local church; being in essential agreement with the TCBS doctrinal position; 2) admission to the Seminary is predicated upon being a male (as defined in scripture) who gives evidence of the gifts and call to ministry demonstrated by a measure of effectiveness and fruitfulness within a local church context prior to acceptance; being a man who lives under Christ's Lordship in submission to the will of God and obedience to the Word of God; Having a proven character, recognized by others as faithful in his responsibilities; having a servant's heart demonstrated by his commitment to his family (if married) and his local church; being in essential agreement with the seminary's doctrinal position. These characteristics will be evaluated through the application and reference forms.

Academic Requirements

BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAM

Applicants must have a high school diploma or its equivalent (G.E.D. Certificate of Eligibility), or must have completed a minimum of 45 quarter (30 semester) units of work at a recognized college, with an earned grade point average of 2.0 ("C") or better. All students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 system) throughout their entire program in order to graduate. Students in this program must complete the equivalent of two full academic years (90 quarter units or 60 semester units each) and 90 quarter units (60 semester units) of General Education.

High school credentials are not required for students who have completed a minimum of 45 quarter (30 semester) units of work at a recognized college. For all postsecondary work completed, transcripts are to be sent directly to the Office of the Registrar. Unofficial copies may be submitted with the application for a preliminary evaluation of transfer eligibility. Transfer credit will not be granted for work unsupported by an official transcript. Bible, Ministry, and Theology courses from other institutions will be evaluated on the basis of similarity of course content (as to material, hours, degree of difficulty) and grade earned (no course is transferable if the grade earned is less than a "C"). Transcripts for all required general education classes must be received before the student will be eligible for graduation. Students not meeting minimum GPA requirements may be admitted on probationary basis and evaluated by the Dean at the end of the first quarter of attendance.

MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

Students entering into the Master of Divinity, or the Global Master of Divinity programs are required to hold a bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, with a grade point average of 2.75 or above on a 4.0 scale. Students not meeting grade point requirements may be admitted on a provisional basis and evaluated by the Dean at the end of the first quarter of attendance.

ASSOCIATE OF THEOLOGY OR BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAMS

A select number of applicants, who do not hold a bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, may enter the Seminary to obtain an Associate of Theology or a Bachelor of Theology depending upon number of undergraduate college credits. In these cases, the Seminary will evaluate the student's academic and life experiences to ensure adequate preparation for graduate study. If admitted, these students' academic progress will be monitored and evaluated by the Dean after the first quarter of study. The requirements for receiving a diploma or bachelor degree are the same as the requirements for receiving a Master degree in this program.

CREDIT STUDENTS

Applicants seeking to take courses offered for credit, but not complete the Master of Divinity program, will be designated as Credit Students. Admission procedures for Credit Students are the same as regular students.

NON-CREDIT STUDENTS (AUDIT STUDENTS)

Applicants seeking to take courses as non-credit students will be allowed to sit in classes providing they have the approval of the professor and seats are available. Audit applicants must complete a registration form, have the instructor sign the form, return that form to the Registrar's office, pay the appropriate fees, and then attend class. It is understood that the audit student is only an observer, and may not take the instructor's time from regular students. Questions must be relegated to breaks and after class moments. Exceptions to these rules may only be made by approval of the Dean.

GREEK PREREQUISITE

In order to complete the Master of Divinity, or Global Master of Divinity language requirements it will be necessary for students to first complete an undergraduate Greek course. If this course is taken at another institution the student will need to take a proficiency exam at the seminary prior to beginning classes. However, a beginning Greek class can be taken at the seminary the summer before the first year of the three-year program or in conjunction with the first year of the four-year program. In any case the beginning Greek courses do not count toward the 150 credits required for graduation and are not factored into the student's grade point average.

ADMINISTRATIVE LIFE INFORMATION: ADMISSIONS

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Anyone considering admission to TCBS should formally apply as early as possible, but at least two months prior to the desired date of enrollment. Applications received within two months prior to intended enrollment will be assessed a late fee and are not guaranteed to be considered in time for desired enrollment.

TO APPLY FOR TCBS ADMISSION APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Obtain an application packet from the TCBS Registrar, or from the web page (www.tcbs.org).
2. Distribute reference forms to be completed and mailed directly to the Registrar's Office.
3. Arrange for official transcripts from undergraduate and/or previous graduate school (even if no program was completed) to be sent directly from the institution to the Registrar's Office.
4. Return the completed application to the Registrar's Office along with the application fee, a recent passport type photograph, a personal testimony, and statement of career goals.
5. If married, have spouse return information documents and testimony.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

Applications with all components are due no later than the second Wednesday of July for the next academic year. Applications received after that date will be assessed a late fee. Applicants who enroll without all application components must communicate directly with the TCBS Registrar. In these cases, all remaining components must be received by the last day of registration for the following term or the applicant is assessed an Incomplete Application Fee. If the application remains incomplete after two terms, the applicant will not be permitted to enroll in any subsequent term until the application is completed.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM ANOTHER GRADUATE INSTITUTION

Students who wish to transfer previously earned credits from another graduate institution must submit an official transcript and a catalog from the previous institution, preferably with their application, to the Registrar's Office. In cases where the course work is partially parallel, the Dean may allow partial class attendance and/or assign research projects or reading to fulfill the TCBS course requirements. The Dean will make final determination regarding acceptance of transfer credits. All courses for which credit or partial credit is granted will be shown on TCBS official transcript with no record of grades. Determination of transfer credit should be completed by the end of the first quarter after initial enrollment.

Students transferring into the B.A. program must complete the final 24 quarter units at TCBS. Students transferring credit into the Master of Divinity program must complete the final 32 quarter units at TCBS.

PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT

Portfolio Assessment is a rare process whereby an exceptional enrolled student may petition to receive credit for their mastery of a particular subject area in lieu of taking the required course listed in the catalog. The specific requirements and procedures for Portfolio Assessment are delineated in the Student Handbook, which may be obtained from the office of the Dean.

POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and physical handicap to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students. TCBS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or physical handicap in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, or other seminary-administered programs.

Though admission to the Bible College is open to men and women, admission to all seminary degree programs is limited to men (males as defined by Scripture). This admission policy derives from TCBS' commitment to operate according to the Holy Scriptures and the seminary's stated purpose: "to prepare men (males only)" for pastoral ministry.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Students requiring special attention, including seating arrangements, alternative forms of testing, or other educational or personal needs, must provide to the Registrar documentation of professional evaluation of the disability, date of said evaluation, and specifications of assistance required. Such documentation must be provided upon application for admission unless the need for special attention is discovered thereafter. In the latter case, written notification to the Registrar must occur no later than 15 days after the date of evaluation.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

TCBS is not currently accepting international students at this time.

STUDENT LIFE

Student Code of Conduct

In understanding the deep responsibility TCBS has to the Kingdom of God in training men for its leadership, we expect that students model Christ-centered conduct and biblical conviction. Although the TCBS will not directly monitor the private actions of its students, it is expected that each student understand his deep accountability before God, the Word of God, the faculty, and other students. We desire to have an atmosphere wherein Christ is exalted in public and private activities of all faculty members, administrators, employees, and students. Here are some examples of what the TCBS community considers important for appropriate conduct:

ADMINISTRATIVE LIFE INFORMATION: STUDENT LIFE

- A concern for the conscience of others in things pertaining to liberty
- A willingness to humbly submit to faculty and one another in love
- A faithful commitment to ministry in a local church
- An above reproach character with one's family
- An avoidance of all forms of dishonesty, lying, plagiarism, cheating, failure to meet financial obligations, irresponsibility with employment, and all manner of immoral (illicit and illegal) behavior

STUDENT SERVICES

Academic Advising

Our administration is available to provide guidance for academic planning.

Library

Our library provides our students with a well-curated and growing collection of excellent exegetical and theological resources. The library is open during class times, and is closed during holidays and academic breaks. You can search our library catalog through the Library tab in your Populi account.

Digital Resources

1) All credit students will receive an email invitation to create a free Perlego account. Perlego is sometimes referred to as the "Netflix or Spotify of textbooks." Many of your required TCBS books should be in Perlego, which will reduce your need to purchase physical books and reduce your need to photocopy chapters from books. 2) Our seminary students will receive a subscription to Logos Bible Software and access to the Remote Research Library.

Student Breakroom

We've stocked our break room with a refrigerator, microwave, toaster oven, purified drinking water, coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and a variety of snacks — all available free of charge to our students.

Student Lunches

We are pleased to provide quarterly student lunches in conjunction with our Alumni Enrichment Classes. This provides an opportunity to fellowship with the current student body, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Copier/Printer

Available to all students for needs related to TCBS coursework.

WiFi

Wifi is available for all students.

Chapel Services

Chapel service is held once a quarter to provide a worship opportunity and exposure to various pastors and missionaries. These services provide teaching particularly directed to challenging and encouraging students in their pastoral calling. Full-time students, and students meeting for class immediately preceding or following the chapel hour are required to attend chapels.

Priscilla Fellowship

The Priscilla Fellowship provides opportunities for the wives of seminary students to fellowship with one another and the wives of the faculty. Faculty wives provide teaching and interaction over various issues related to the pastoral ministry. The program provides encouragement in devotion to Christ, personal growth, responsibilities in the home, and church ministry. Seminary wives will be contacted for these engagements.

Facilities

TCBS shares a campus with Community Bible Church. Offices, Library, and classrooms are located in the south building (aka Building B) on the CBC campus.

REGISTRATION

Registration Deadlines

Students currently enrolled are required to register during the designated times as stated in the Populi platform. The Academic Dean is available to assist students in planning their academic program. Students should meet with the Academic Dean prior to registering.

Course Load

Students who enroll in 12 or more credit hours are defined as full-time students.

Adding, Dropping, and Withdrawing or Changing Credit Status

Students may petition to withdraw from a course, or change their status in a course within the first week of the quarter (or within the first two meetings of a Summerim or Winterim) by completing a Withdrawl form, have the professor initial it and submit it to the Registrar for approval.

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty in the 1st through the 4th weeks of a full quarter course (or three-fifths of the meetings, excluding final exams, of a Winterim). Such students will receive a W (Withdrawal). Students who withdraw in the 5th to the 9th week, will receive a WF (Withdrew Failing).

Cancellation of Courses

TCBS reserves the right to cancel any course during a given quarter due to insufficient enrollment.

Withdrawal from the TCBS

To withdraw from the school, a student must meet with the President or Academic Dean for an exit interview, and fulfill all financial obligations with the Administrator.

ADMINISTRATIVE LIFE INFORMATION: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Visit www.tcbs.org/financial-information for up to date financial information.

Computer

All regular students are required to own a personal computer with approved word processing software. Information and recommendations on approved systems and software programs are available from the staff.

Housing

Students are responsible for securing their own housing. Living expenses are comparable to the national average with the exception of housing and automobile insurance, which are higher.

Payment of Accounts

FOR FALL, WINTER, AND SPRING QUARTERS

To provide flexibility regarding possible class changes, full tuition is not due until the 2nd week of class. At the start of the 2nd week of classes, students' tuition invoices are finalized on Populi and full payment is due.

FOR SUMMERIM AND WINTERIM CLASSES

Full payment is due on the first day of a Summerim or Winterim class.

THREE -PAYMENT PLAN

Students who are unable to pay their ENTIRE Quarter tuition charges may elect to use the Three-Payment Plan where quarterly tuition and fees may be paid in three equal installments. A one-time \$35 fee is assessed for this service. Exact payment due dates are listed on the student's Populi account, under the Financial tab.

Students are responsible for paying their own tuition and fees. If students receive financial aid from their churches, or other individuals or organizations, students must make appropriate arrangements with them to insure payments are made on time. The Administration will notify students when payments are due or late. Students with an outstanding balance must have authorization from the Academic Dean to begin new classes.

LATE PAYMENTS:

A \$50 Late Fee will be assessed on unpaid balances that are more than 10 days late. Students whose payments are more than 10 days late may be immediately suspended from classes, receive an "F" for those classes, and forfeit the opportunity to enroll in courses for the subsequent term or participate in graduation unless payment is made in full. Transcripts and diplomas may also be withheld. If financial difficulties arise, and a student foresees a problem paying tuition on time, he should immediately discuss the matter with the Administrator so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Tuition Refund policy

A student who chooses to withdraw from one or more classes, for which they have registered, whether or not they have attended, must officially withdraw by completing the proper Withdrawl Form. Failure to officially withdraw will result in a W, or WF, on the student's transcripts, as appropriate. If a student does not officially withdraw, he is not entitled to any refund.

Refunds of tuition are based upon the week the official withdrawal form is signed by the Administration Office, not on the time the student ceases to attend the class(es). Summer Greek course is under this refund plan.

Week of Withdrawal	Percentage of Refund
1	100
2	80
3-4	50
5-6	25
Beyond 6 weeks	none

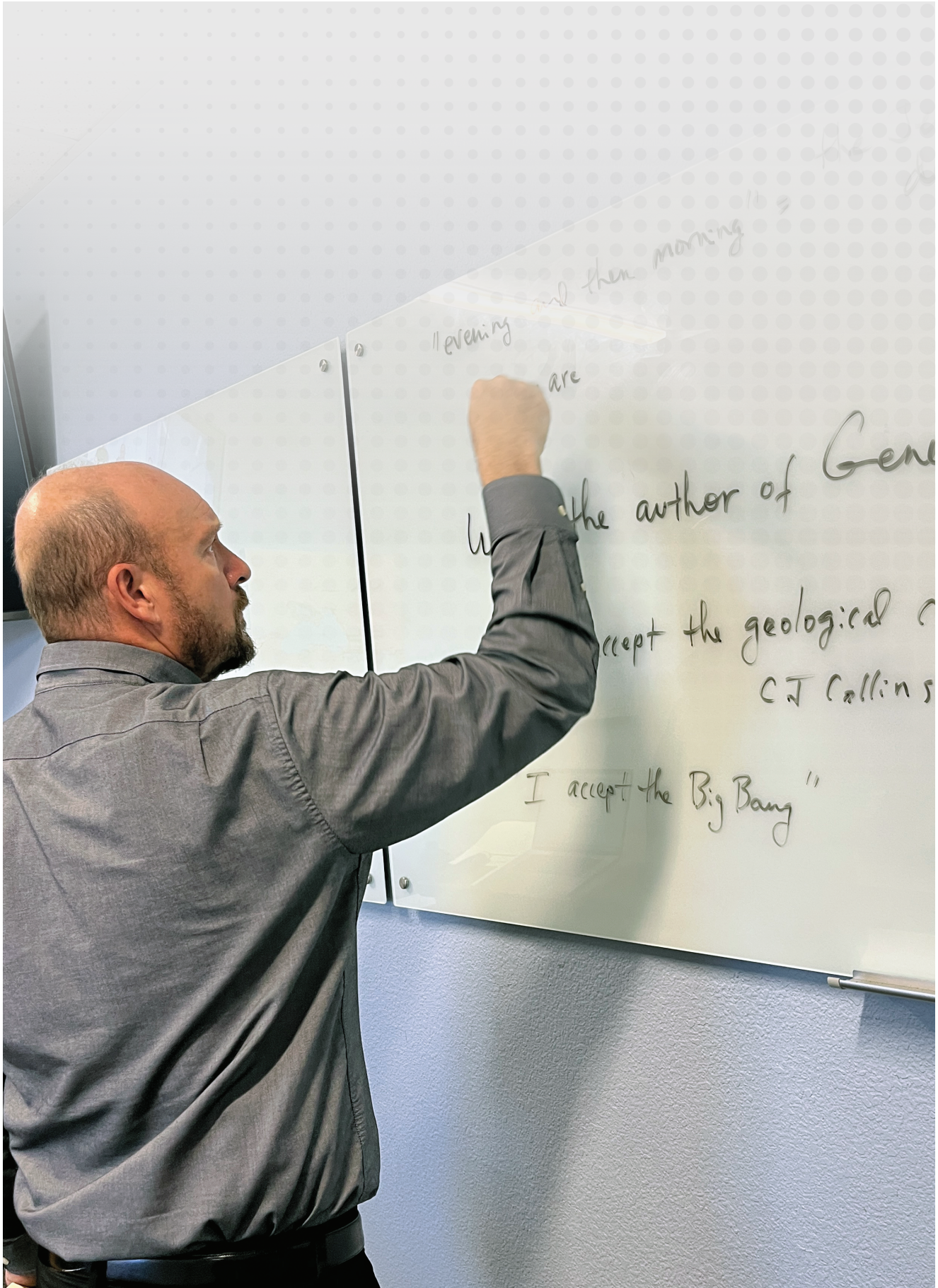
Summer course refunds: 100% refund if dropped prior to or during the first two days of class. There is no refund if dropped or changed to audit after the second day of class. The date used to establish the amount of refund will be the date the withdrawal form was signed by the office of the Registrar.

Financial Assistance

TCBS seeks to keep the cost of tuition as low as possible. Occasionally, financial assistance may become available. After speaking to one's local church leadership for tuition assistance, students who still need financial assistance are encouraged to discuss their needs with the Academic Dean or the Administrator.

Scholarships

TCBS is pleased to offer scholarship funds to students who may need assistance with their tuition. Students can obtain the Scholarship Request Form from the Administrator.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION: ACADEMIC CALENDAR

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Visit www.tcbs.org/college-schedule/ for accurate information and updates to Academic Calendar.

Academic Year 2025 –26

Fall Quarter: September 9, 2025 – November 19, 2025

Winter Quarter: January 6, 2026 – March 18, 2026

Spring Break: March 23, 2026 – March 27, 2026

Spring Quarter: March 31, 2026 – June 10, 2026

Graduation: June 14, 2026

Academic Year 2026 –27

Fall Quarter: September 8, 2026 – November 20, 2026

Winter Quarter: January 5, 2027 – March 19, 2027

Spring Break: March 22, 2027 – March 26, 2027

Spring Quarter: March 30, 2027 – June 11, 2027

Graduation: June 13, 2027

Academic Year 2027 –28

Fall Quarter: September 7, 2027 – November 19, 2027

Winter Quarter: January 4, 2028 – March 17, 2028

Spring Break: March 20, 2028 – March 24, 2028

Spring Quarter: March 28, 2028 – June 9, 2028

Graduation: June 11, 2028

ACADEMIC POLICIES

The TCBS Academic On-line Catalog is the primary means employed to communicate policies, procedures, and regulations affecting tuition, admission, registration, graduation, or withdrawal. A second source is the student handbook, which students should receive at initial orientation. All students have both the right and the responsibility to know these policies and procedures. TCBS does not initiate and implement academic policies, procedures, standards, and regulations without approval of the Board of Directors.

Course Requirements

Instructors will outline course requirements, including special assignments and examinations, at the beginning of each course. Students are expected to complete assignments on the days assigned. The instructor must approve any change.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken, and students are required to be prompt and attend all classes. Absences do occur, however, and are handled as follows:

Students who anticipate being absent from class must email the professor and Cc the Registrar with the date(s) and reason for the absence stating in the Subject line: Request for Excused Absence. Student is responsible for contacting the instructor to arrange for all make-up work. Professors, however, are not under obligation to review missed assignments or provide supplementary instruction. Whenever possible the student should consult with the professor for any instructions or assignments in advance of a foreseeable absence.

Excused absences are those resulting from extenuating circumstances such as personal illness, jury duty, active military services, death in the immediate family, or previously scheduled ministry activity. In no case may the total number of absences (excused and unexcused) for any course exceed the equivalent of three weeks of class time. When absences exceed this limit, a grade of W, or F is required as appropriate. Individual faculty may have additional penalties or policies that are course specific due to the nature of the class requirements.

Academic Honors

Any student who completes at least the last fifty quarter hours of the degree program at TCBS is eligible to graduate with honors. Academic honors are as follows:

3.7–3.799 Cum Laude

3.800–3.899 Magna Cum Laude

3.9–4.300 Summa Cum Laude

ACADEMIC INFORMATION: ACADEMIC POLICIES

Grading System

To distinguish various levels of achievement in the mastery of subject material, in effectiveness of research, in fulfillment of assignments and responsibilities, or in improvement in personal and ministry skills, as appropriate for each course, the TCBS employs the following grading symbols:

A+, A and A –	= Exceptional achievement
B+, B, and B –	= Above average achievement
C+, C, and C –	= Fair or average achievement
D+, D, and D –	= Below average, minimally acceptable achievement
F	= Unacceptable achievement, failure
I	= Incomplete work
W	= Withdrawal during the first through the fourth weeks of regular quarters

Grade points are awarded according to the following scale:

100–99	A+ = 4.3 points for each semester hour
98–96	A = 4 points for each semester hour
95–93	A – = 3.7 points
92–91	B+ = 3.3 points
90–88	B = 3 points
87–86	B – = 2.7 points
85–83	C+ = 2.3 points
82–80	C = 2 points
79–77	C – = 1.7 points
76–75	D+ = 1.3 points
74–72	D = 1 point
71–70	D – = .07 points
69–00	F = 0 points
	I = Not counted until changed

Required courses in which a student receives an F must be retaken in order to fulfill graduation requirements (Review additional Academic Requirements for Completion in each program of study.), courses in which a student receives a C or D may be retaken, but not courses in which the student receives a B– or higher.

Incomplete Course Work

TCBS recognizes that a student may be providentially hindered (by extended illness, death in the family, etc.) from completing a course on time. In such cases, an incomplete (I) grade may be given. To receive an incomplete grade, the student must secure the instructor's approval before the last day of the class. If approval is granted, the student will be required to submit the late work to the instructor within 10 weeks from the last day of final exams. The instructor will use a grade sheet to provide written notice of this approval to the Registrar.

To have an incomplete grade removed from his or her record, the student is responsible to submit the late work to the instructor on time as required. The instructor will notify the Registrar in writing of the grade change. If the deadline passes without the work being completed, the grade will automatically be changed from the incomplete (I) grade to an F, and written notification of the grade change will be sent to the student and the instructor.

AI ETHICS GUIDELINES AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE CORNERSTONE BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY (TCBS)

Introduction: Loving God with All Our Mind

We stand at the brink of an unprecedented technological revolution. The question before us is not whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) will shape our world. It already has. The question is whether we, as those called to think God's thoughts after him, will engage this technology with the wisdom that comes from above or surrender our stewardship to the gods of this age.

At The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary, we refuse to approach AI with either naive enthusiasm or fearful withdrawal. Instead, we choose the path of biblical discernment. We recognize that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (Jam 1:17). We simultaneously acknowledge that human rebellion corrupts even the most promising innovations.

This document serves as our institutional guideline. It provides a framework rooted in Scripture, informed by our theology, and applied with pastoral wisdom and discernment. Our goal extends beyond regulating the use of AI. We seek to cultivate a community that thinks Christianly about technology, stewarding these powerful tools for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

Theological Foundations: The Bedrock of Our Approach

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER ALL CREATION

The Divine Context of Technology. Before we speak of Large Language Models (LLMs) and AI Agents, we must first speak of him who "works all things according to the counsel of his will" (Ephesians 1:11). Artificial intelligence does not exist in a theological vacuum. It operates under the sovereign authority of God, who created the human minds that designed it.

Jason Thacker reminds us that "Technology is never neutral — it always reflects the values and beliefs of its creators." This truth demands that we examine what AI can do and what worldview assumptions are embedded in its very architecture. The machine learning models that power today's AI systems are trained on data that reflects a fallen world. They carry within them the biases, assumptions, and spiritual blindness of their creators.

The Stewardship Mandate. The creation mandate of Genesis 1:28 extends to every sphere of human activity, including AI and technology. We are called to "subdue" and "have dominion." This calling does not make us tyrants who exploit creation. We are faithful stewards who cultivate God's world for his glory and the flourishing of humanity. Thacker notes: "We are called to cultivate and create, not to dominate or be dominated by our tools."

This stewardship perspective fundamentally reframes our relationship with AI. We reject the role of passive consumers. We equally reject the position that dismisses all technological advances. Instead, we are active stewards, called to evaluate, direct, and deploy these tools in ways that honor our Creator and serve our neighbors.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION: AI ETHICS

Reformed Understanding of Common Grace. AI developments manifest God's common grace working through human creativity, yet we maintain a distinction between technological innovation and true wisdom. The ultimate source of wisdom, particularly the discernment necessary to utilize these technologies ethically, comes from above (James 1:5).

THE IMAGO DEI

Human Dignity. The image of God in man is an ontological reality bestowed by God alone (Genesis 1:27). This means that, no matter how sophisticated, AI can never replicate the unique dignity that belongs to human beings as God's image-bearers. The basic question about AI here is: "How does this technology honor or diminish the image of God in humanity?"

The Creativity Distinction. AI systems can generate impressive outputs, including poetry, paintings, and theological essays. We must resist the temptation to equate computational generation with genuine creativity. We must guard against technological idolatry that attributes to machines what belongs uniquely to God and His image-bearers. When we blur the distinction between human creativity and algorithmic generation, we diminish both the glory of God and the dignity of humanity.

Relational Priority. Humans are created for communion with God and fellowship with one another. AI cannot replicate this relational dimension, no matter how sophisticated its conversational abilities may become. The church's ministry of biblical spirituality, pastoral care, and discipleship requires the presence of real people in genuine relationships. As Thacker observes, "Relationships require embodied presence. This is something algorithms can simulate but never fulfill." And again, "Technology should serve neighbor-love, not self-salvation."

Ethical Principles for AI Use

THE PRIMACY OF SCRIPTURE AND SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Biblical Authority in Technological Decisions. Our commitment to Sola Scriptura extends to every area of life, including our engagement with artificial intelligence. The Bible does not directly address AI technology, but it does provide the theological framework and ethical principles necessary for wise decision-making in this area.

All AI –generated content must be evaluated against the standard of biblical truth. We cannot assume that sophisticated-sounding theological statements from machines are accurate or helpful. The Berean spirit of Acts 17:11 demands that we are "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so."

The Prohibition Against Moral Delegation. One of the greatest dangers of AI is the temptation to outsource our moral reasoning to search results. Scripture makes clear that ethical judgment is a uniquely human responsibility that cannot be delegated to machines.

Thacker emphasizes that we must "never outsource ethical judgment to algorithms." This applies whether we're discussing seminary assignments, sermon preparation, or pastoral counseling.

Vigilance Against Algorithmic Bias. AI systems are trained on data from a fallen world. They inevitably reflect and amplify human prejudices and sinful patterns. This challenge goes beyond technical issues. It is fundamentally spiritual. Thacker writes, "AI often amplifies societal prejudices under the guise of objectivity."

INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY: THE CALL TO TRUTHFULNESS

Disclosure Requirement. Christian integrity demands radical honesty about our use of AI tools (Ephesians 4:25). This transparency serves multiple purposes. It maintains academic honesty. It helps others understand the role of AI in our work. It demonstrates our commitment to truth over convenience or efficiency. This means all AI-assisted and AI-generated work must be explicitly documented and footnoted.

Academic Honesty as a Mark of Maturity. The temptation to use AI to complete assignments without disclosure represents more than an academic violation. It reveals a heart condition that undermines spiritual growth and is contrary to the calling of a pastor. When students circumvent the learning process through undisclosed AI assistance, they rob themselves of the very formation that education is designed to provide. Academic integrity encompasses more than simply following rules. It concerns cultivating the character of Christ, who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Student Code of Conduct

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Permitted Uses with Proper Disclosure. Students may use AI tools in ways that enhance their learning while maintaining academic honesty:

Brainstorming Enhancement: Students may utilize AI to generate initial ideas for their open-ended assignments and projects. AI suggestions may be treated as starting points for creative thinking and research.

Grammar and Editing Assistance: Students may utilize AI to aid with grammar and syntax in their assignments. Students must ensure the ideas and arguments are entirely their own unless they have obtained prior approval from the professor.

Research Organization and Preliminary Analysis: Students can use AI to conduct initial research, organize the findings, and analyze their usefulness. For example, a student might evaluate scholarly articles and ask the AI to identify common themes. The student is responsible for verifying these themes through careful reading and adding their analysis.

All such uses must be fully documented, including:

- Specific tools employed
- Extent of AI contribution to the work
- Affirmation of the honor code

ACADEMIC INFORMATION: AI ETHICS

The Learning Objective Principle. The determining factor in whether AI use is appropriate should always be whether it serves or undermines the learning objectives of the assignment. If an assignment is designed to develop critical thinking skills, using AI to do that thinking violates the educational purpose, regardless of disclosure.

PROHIBITED USES

Unauthorized Substitution of Work. These practices rob students of the formative experiences essential for developing theological understanding and pastoral wisdom.

- Using AI for exams or core assignments
- Generating reflection papers or spiritual journals, i.e., personal and devotional assignments
- Producing “original” creative work

Deceptive Practices. Such dishonesty violates the biblical call to truthfulness and damages the trust necessary for Christian leadership and community.

- Paraphrasing AI without citation
- Using undisclosed AI collaboration
- Circumventing learning objectives and the educational endeavor

BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY: GROWING IN WISDOM AND STATURE

Relational Priority in Christian Growth. Mature Christianity is manifested in local church engagement. AI tools are no substitute for personal devotional practices, participation in small groups and discipleship, and life on mission through the local church context. Thacker says, “Loneliness is the epidemic no algorithm can cure.”

Developing Discernment for Ministry. Future pastors and Christian leaders must develop the spiritual discernment necessary to evaluate theological content generated by AI. This requires:

- Deep grounding in Scripture and sound doctrine
- Understanding of how AI systems work and their limitations
- Practice in identifying theological errors and cultural biases
- Commitment to testing all things against the Word of God

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY: GRACE AND TRUTH

Restorative Approach to Violations: When students violate the AI ethics policies, our response should reflect the gospel values of grace, truth, and hope. Rather than purely punitive measures, we will emphasize:

- Understanding the heart issues behind the violation
- Providing education about proper AI use
- Creating accountability structures for future growth

Conclusion: A Call to Faithful Stewardship

As we navigate the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence, we do so as those who have been given “a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control” (2 Timothy 1:7).

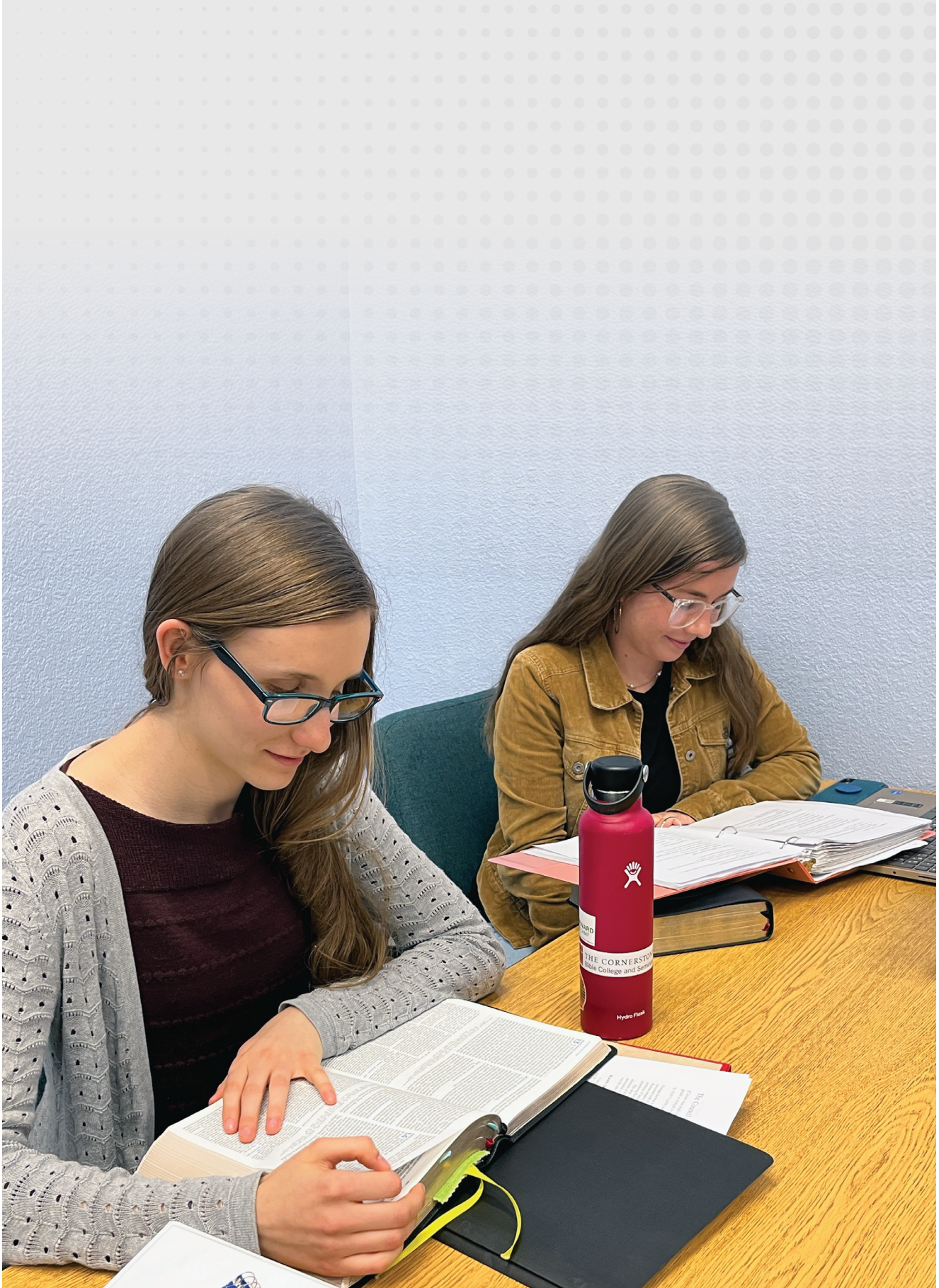
Our approach to AI reflects our deepest convictions about God, humanity, and the nature of reality itself. We believe that the God who created the universe continues to work through human creativity and innovation. We recognize that all human endeavors are tainted by sin and in need of redemption.

May our engagement with artificial intelligence demonstrate to a watching world what it looks like to think Christianly about technology. We approach it with the wisdom that comes from above, grounded in Scripture, shaped by the gospel, and motivated by love for God and neighbor.

In this digital age, as in every age, our calling remains the same: “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

Sources

1. Jason Thacker, *The Age of AI* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020). Available on Perlego.
2. Gretchen Huizinga, *Righteous AI: The Christian Voice in the Ethical AI Conversation* (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, 2022).
3. “Artificial Intelligence: An Evangelical Statement of Principles,” developed by the Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 2019. Available from <https://erlc.com/policy-content/artificial-intelligence-an-evangelical-statement-of-principles/>
4. “Biblical Principles for Understanding and Using Artificial Intelligence.” Artificial Intelligence Lab at Biola University, 2024. Available from <https://www.biola.edu/ai-lab>
5. “AI Explainer,” Artificial Intelligence Lab at Biola University, 2024. Available from <https://www.biola.edu/ai-lab>
6. “Christian AI Manifesto,” Artificial Intelligence Lab at Biola University, n.d. Available from www.biola.edu/ai-lab



TRAINING PROGRAMS: UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The TCBS programs are designed to provide students with training that balances the pursuit of theological depth together with a practical focus on a love for Christ and people. This balance fuels and permeates effective preaching and ministry. Individuals are taught to pursue theological and doctrinal integrity, because knowledge of Scripture and doctrine is necessary for a healthy church. It is important, however, to view theological training, not as an end in itself, but rather as a means of advancing the kingdom of God and glorifying Christ in the world. Therefore, students are taught to pursue a spiritual ministry characterized by a love for Christ and a passion for spreading His glory. The school seeks to avoid the two extremes, a nonintellectual, theologically weak ministry that is all heart and no head, and a scholastic, over-intellectualized love of learning that is all head and no heart. In short, TCBS seeks to produce individuals whose love for Christ is manifested in a commitment to the truth of Scripture, a love for people, and a passion to preach Him in order to make disciples of all nations.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The Product Envisioned

The Cornerstone Bible College collaborates with granting organizations, local churches, and generous individuals, in the work of preparing, training, and launching into the world individuals who are God-glorifying, Christ-centered, Scripture-saturated, and Spirit-dependent. While recognizing that God fits an individual for ministry and Christian service, The Cornerstone Bible College seeks to be used by Him to shape saints who are:

- Awed by Christ's glorious supremacy and all-sufficiency
- Impassioned to spread the glory of Christ to all peoples
- Constrained by Christ's love
- God-centered in ministry and counseling
- Devoted to God's design for the family
- Committed to the doctrines of grace
- Committed to reproducing oneself in leaders at home who will strengthen the body of Christ locally and globally
- Characterized by faith, vision, and prayer.

Course Of Study— Program Descriptions

The undergraduate program offers a B.A. in Biblical Studies. This course of study requires a total of 80 quarter units from TCBS for completion: 50 core units and 30 elective units. Students who desire to complete a B. A. must also complete 48 units of general education from a junior college, four-year college, or university. If students only desire to complete the TCBS requirements, they will graduate with an associate degree (A.A.) in Biblical Studies.

CORE COURSES: 50 CREDITS

Biblical Counseling (10 Units)

PT502 Marriage and Family (3)

PT601 Biblical Counseling I (4)

PT602 Biblical Counseling II (3)

Biblical Exposition (9 Units)

Course in Biblical Exposition (3)

Course in Biblical Exposition (3)

Course in Biblical Exposition (3)

Biblical Greek (9 Units)

BL401 Elementary Greek I (3)

BL402 Elementary Greek II (3)

BL403 Elementary Greek III (3)

Biblical Survey (12 Units)

BT502 Old Testament Survey I (4)

BT503 Old Testament Survey II (4)

BT504 New Testament Survey (4)

Hermeneutics (3 Units)

BE501 Hermeneutics (3)

Theology (10 Units)

Course in Theology (3 or 4)

Course in Theology (3 or 4)

Course in Theology (3 or 4)

ELECTIVE COURSES: 30 UNITS

Emphases Courses: 27 credits

The emphases courses comprise 27 units of study in one of three areas:

- Pre-Seminary (PS)
- Biblical Counseling (BC)
- Women's Ministries (WM).

Bible College Certificate Program

Our certificate program allows you to continue your theological education while earning certificates of completion in the areas of your choice.

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING

PT502 Marriage and Family (3)

PT601 Biblical Counseling I (4)

PT602 Biblical Counseling II (3)

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL EXPOSITION

Elective in Biblical Exposition (3)

Elective in Biblical Exposition (3)

Elective in Biblical Exposition (3)

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL GREEK

BL401 Elementary Greek I (2)

BL402 Elementary Greek II (2)

BL403 Elementary Greek III (2)

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL SURVEY

BT502 Old Testament Survey I (4)

BT503 Old Testament Survey II (4)

BT504 New Testament Survey (4)

TRAINING PROGRAMS: UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

CERTIFICATE IN CHURCH HISTORY

CH601 Church History I (3)

CH602 Church History II (3)

CH603 Church History III (3)

CERTIFICATE IN HERMENEUTICS

BE311 Hermeneutics I (2)

BE321 Hermeneutics II (2)

BE331 Hermeneutics III (2)

CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

Elective in Theology (4)

Elective in Theology (4)

Elective in Theology (4)

CERTIFICATE IN PREACHING & TEACHING

The “How to Teach the Bible” certificate is a one-year program designed to follow the “Biblical Interpretation” course of study. It is designed for students who have formal theological training, and do not meet the requirements to enter The Cornerstone Seminary M.Div. program, and who want to improve their teaching and preaching skills for ministry in the corporate gatherings of the church. As a strategic part of the curriculum, this course, in conjunction with the “Biblical Interpretation” course will be translated into Spanish to minister to the needs of students in the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will understand the basic skills needed to teach in a Christ-centered manner from the biblical text.
- Students will understand and apply basic elements of instruction and public speaking to develop and deliver biblical messages.
- Students will understand and apply the redemptive and Gospel-centered approach to various genres of the Bible as a part of their message preparation.

COURSE OF STUDY

- **Foundations of Teaching the Bible:** This class will cover the overall story of the Bible and develop a Christ-centered biblical theology of preaching and teaching. It will also argue that preaching and teaching is the best form of public instruction in the church gathering.
- **Preparation of Teaching the Bible:** This class will cover the basic elements of preaching and teaching, including structure, reasoning, the big idea, outlining and arranging, the proposition and main points, division and development. It will also develop the redemptive and Gospel-centered approach, applying it to various genres of the Bible.
- **Practice of Teaching the Bible:** This class will give students practice in the preparation and delivery of their messages, also discussing, methods of sermon preparation, public speaking skills, and evaluation of teaching in class.

Spanish Certificate Program

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary está comenzando su primer programa de la Biblia en español. Esta clase tiene el objetivo de preparar a pastores y líderes de las iglesias hispanas en el Norte de California en la enseñanza expositiva de la Biblia. A través de un programa bien fundamentado en la teología bíblica, en la hermenéutica bíblica y centrado en el evangelio de Jesucristo el estudiante será entrenado en la teoría y la práctica de la enseñanza expositiva de las Escrituras. Todo aquel cristiano comprometido con la sana enseñanza de la palabra de Dios está invitado a participar en nuestro programa.

BE341 ENSEÑANDO LA BIBLIA EXPOSITIVAMENTE

Esta clase investiga los aspectos teológicos e históricos esenciales de la enseñanza bíblica expositiva centrada en Cristo, empoderada por el Espíritu Santo y dada de Dios. (3 créditos)

BE342 ENSEÑANDO LA BIBLIA EXPOSITIVAMENTE 2

Esta clase investiga los aspectos metodológicos y prácticos esenciales para la enseñanza bíblica expositiva centrada en Cristo, empoderada por el Espíritu Santo y dada de Dios. (3 créditos)

BE343 ENSEÑANDO LA BIBLIA EXPOSITIVAMENTE 3

Esta clase investiga los aspectos metodológicos y prácticos esenciales para la enseñanza bíblica expositiva de los diferentes géneros literarios de la Biblia. Esta enseñanza debe ser centrada en la historia de la redención de Dios, que apunta a Cristo y debe ser empoderada por el Espíritu Santo. (3 créditos)

BE344 DESCUBRIENDO LA BIBLIA 1

En el primer módulo cubriremos la introducción a los aspectos generales de la Biblia, su composición y su transmisión. Además, prestaremos atención al Pentateuco y a los Profetas Anteriores. (3 créditos)

BE345 DESCUBRIENDO LA BIBLIA 2

En el segundo módulo cubriremos la introducción a los aspectos generales de la literatura profética y de los libros reconocidos como proféticos del Antiguo Testamento. Además, prestaremos atención a Los Escritos. (3 créditos)

BE346 DESCUBRIENDO LA BIBLIA 3

En el tercer módulo cubriremos la introducción a los aspectos generales de los libros del Nuevo Testamento. (3 créditos)

BE347 FUNDAMENTOS DE LA TEOLOGÍA CRISTIANA 1

El propósito de este programa es presentar los fundamentos teológicos que sostienen la fe cristiana, que tienen como base la Palabra de Dios revelada, como centro a Jesucristo, como maestro al Espíritu Santo y como propósito supremo darle la gloria a Dios. (3 créditos)

TRAINING PROGRAMS: UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Pre-Seminary (27 Credit Hours)

BE331 HERMENEUTICS III (3)

This course will bring the prior two courses together for synthesis and application of prior principles learned. Students will further develop their skills in the use of the literal-grammatical-historical method of interpretation. This course will introduce the third step of biblical interpretation, application, as well as introduce students to review the steps of how to transition from exegesis to expository teaching/preaching of the Old and New Testaments. Students will review the principles of general hermeneutics and learn principles of special hermeneutics such as the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, the interpretation of prophecy, and genres of the Bible with a view to proper and consistent interpretation, theological corroboration and application of Scripture in preparation for speaking truth into the lives of Christ's people.

NT401 ELEMENTARY GREEK I, II, III (6)

(see seminary course description)

NT404 GREEK EXEGESIS (4)

This course provides instruction for students in the basic exegetical principles of the Greek New Testament with particular emphases upon translation, the exegetical process, and the transition from exegesis to exposition.

THEOLOGY OF PREACHING (3)

(see seminary course description)

MESSAGE PREPARATION (3)

(see seminary course description: prep for preaching)

Biblical Counseling (27 Credit Hours)

BE331 HERMENEUTICS III (3)

This course will bring the prior two courses together for synthesis and application of prior principles learned. Students will further develop their skills in the use of the literal -grammatical -historical method of interpretation. This course will introduce the third step of biblical interpretation, application, as well as introduce students to review the steps of how to transition from exegesis to expository teaching/preaching of the Old and New Testaments. Students will review the principles of general hermeneutics and learn principles of special hermeneutics such as the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, the interpretation of prophecy, and genres of the Bible with a view to proper and consistent interpretation, theological corroboration and application of Scripture in preparation for speaking truth into the lives of Christ's people.

BC410 THE EXEGETICAL PROCESS (3)

Students will be able to employ the steps of the exegesis to exposition process to the English Bible. This course is the practical application of Hermeneutics I, II, and III with a view to proper and consistent interpretation, theological corroboration and application of Scripture to the lives of Christ's people.

BC320 THEOLOGY OF BIBLICAL CHANGE (4)

(PREREQUISITE: CHRIST IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING)

This course will build upon prior course work's focus upon the all-sufficiency and supremacy of Christ and His powerful working to

change the inner man. The course will seek to expound the process of Christ-centered, Spirit-dependent change. The doctrines of sufficiency of Scripture and illumination will be contemplated with relation to a theology of walking by the Spirit in the transformation process of the believer.

BC330 METHODOLOGY OF BIBLICAL CHANGE (4)

(PREREQUISITE: THEOLOGY OF BIBLICAL CHANGE)

This course will draw upon the knowledge gleaned in the Theology of Biblical Change. It seeks to practically apply the theology of walking by the Spirit in the believer's process of change. Biblical discipleship and the role of the leader as instrument of change in the counseling process will be extrapolated from Scripture. Scriptural stress will be placed upon the biblical emphases of leadership character and listening well to lead well. The biblical distinctions between true medical issues and true spiritual issues in the process of change will be defined, developed, and discussed.

BC410 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (4)

This course will emphasize the LORD's design for marriage and family. In particular, students will be able to extrapolate from Scripture: the biblical basis, distinctives, and functions for marriage and family, the husband/wife roles and relationship within the family, parenting and child training, and the centrality and power of Christ for Spirit-dependent confession, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restitution for the resolution of all problems within marriage and family relationships.

BC420 CONFLICT RESOLUTION (4)

This course will provide the student with a biblical theology for resolving conflict. Students will learn to discern sinful heart attitudes behind conflicts while leading individuals toward spiritual change and the development of right heart attitudes. Procedures in counseling through particular sins stemming from the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the boastful pride of life which form triggers to conflict within the body of Christ will be taught. Emphasis will be placed upon the centrality and power of Christ for Spirit-dependent confession, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restitution.

BC421 COUNSELING OBSERVATION (2)

This course will provide the practical application of the principles learned in prior course work. The student will hone the practical skills in counseling by observation, evaluation, critique, and discussion. All counseling courses must be completed prior to enrollment.

BC430 COUNSELING INTERNSHIP (3)

This course will provide the student opportunities for the application of the principles of biblical counseling and the coordinate methodological aspects of the counseling process as learned in prior coursework. The student will participate in counseling sessions under the guidance of local church leadership.

Women's Ministries (27 Credit Hours)

BE331 BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION III (3)

This course will bring the prior two courses together for synthesis and application of prior principles learned. Students will further

TRAINING PROGRAMS: UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

develop their skills in the use of the literal-grammatical-historical method of interpretation. This course will introduce the third step of biblical interpretation, application, as well as introduce students to review the steps of how to transition from exegesis to expository teaching/preaching of the Old and New Testaments. Students will review the principles of general hermeneutics and learn principles of special hermeneutics such as the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, the interpretation of prophecy, and genres of the Bible with a view to proper and consistent interpretation, theological corroboration and application of Scripture in preparation for speaking truth into the lives of Christ's people.

WM410 THE EXEGETICAL PROCESS (3)

Students will be able to employ the steps of the exegetical process to the English Bible. This course is the practical application of Hermeneutics I, II, and III with a view to proper and consistent interpretation, theological corroboration and application of Scripture to the lives of Christ's people.

WM320 WOMEN'S MINISTRY, MARRIAGE AND MOTHERHOOD (3)

This course will provide the biblical foundations of the place of personal women's ministry in light of two major life responsibilities, marriage and motherhood. This course will provide a scriptural development of the dynamics and priorities of marriage and motherhood while preparing to lead, or actually being in process of leading, a woman's ministry. Scriptural emphasis will be placed upon the development of her own personal character, her own self-watch, her home-life as a qualification for her ministry, the character and affirmation of her husband, her commitment to loving her husband and meeting his emotional/physical needs even in the midst of a busy ministry life, and successfully raising godly children. Students will receive instruction in the context of the scriptural teaching regarding the empowerment and presence of Christ unto ministry faithfulness in the life of his servants.

WM330 THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY (4)

This course will provide students with the biblical principles that drive women's ministry. It will consider the relationship of personal character, spiritual giftedness, and Christian service in accordance with regulative principles of Scripture within the local body. The course will include a survey of the significant contribution of women to the life of the local body within the New Testament with appropriate exegetical deductions that should issue out of the proper understanding of those contributions. The historical and cultural gap will be bridged with guidance for the student in regard to relevant ways that scriptural principle should play out in the life of each one in addition to how these should impact each one's development and leadership of a biblical philosophy of women's ministry en route to the expression of the glory of Christ in His Church.

WM420 MESSAGE PREPARATION FOR TEACHING WOMEN (3)

This course will guide the student in the transition from exegesis to exposition. The student will be taught to transition from interpreting and explaining the Word of the LORD from the English text to actually applying and teaching the English text to any given target audience with an ultimate end of the explanation and exaltation of

the glorious and all sufficient LORD Jesus Christ. Opportunity will be given for each student to teach, and to receive peer and professor feedback, and to conduct a self-evaluation for personal growth.

WM421 WOMEN COUNSELING WOMEN (4)

This course will guide students in the application of properly interpreted texts of Scripture to the counseling process in the resolution of struggles related to the different life-stages of womanhood, the marriage relationship, the child-rearing process, and interpersonal relationships with a view to equipping women to fulfill their scriptural mandate to disciple other women and bring ultimate glory to the LORD Jesus Christ. The student will assess cultural influences versus biblical principles and the consequent impact on growth and discipleship in women. Biblical patterns of discipleship and mentoring will be explored, with special emphasis on the task of mentoring women. Practical suggestions will be given concerning the counseling process, which brings broken and hurting people to the love of Christ and His all-sufficient Person. Case studies will be utilized to enhance learning. Students will meet in peer groups to practice mentoring and discipleship.

WM430 CONTEMPORARY STRATEGIES FOR MINISTRY TO WOMEN (3)

This course will provide practical guidance in the application of an already developed Christo-centric philosophy of women's ministry. The student will be exposed to, synthesize, and evaluate, a variety of contemporary models and current programs of ministry. Students will study biblical principles of team building, ministry management and how to practically implement a ministry to women within the local church while serving and following the guidance of each one's local church leadership.

WM410 EVENT PLANNING (2)

This course will provide guidance in the practical expression of a Christo-centric and biblical philosophy of women's ministry in the organization and strategic planning of fellowship times that facilitate spiritual learning and growth, as well as meet the practical needs of the local body in general. Practical instruction will be provided in organizing fellowship opportunities and events such as, general fellowships, weddings, birthdays, funerals, baby showers, community outreach events, Bible studies, conferences and retreats. Some topics that will be covered are: worship, motive, character qualities of a leader/organizer, pro-activity, attention to details, organizational methods, common sense, humility, communication, delegation, overseeing volunteers and paid staff, facilities knowledge and problem solving.

WM431 WOMEN'S MINISTRY INTERNSHIP (2)

This course is designed to provide the student with a practical opportunity to work with local church leadership in the application of a clear Christ-centered, Spirit dependent philosophy of ministry. The student will integrate and apply previous coursework through analyzing various issues and problems and responding to them in accordance with a coherent philosophy and strategy for women's ministry. The professor will work with the point person of each local church leadership in the internship development, accountability, and final evaluation of each student.

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

GRADUATE STUDIES

The Product Envisioned

The Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary collaborates with granting organizations, local churches, and generous individuals, in the work of preparing, training, and launching into the world individuals who are God-glorifying, Christ-centered, Scripture-saturated, and Spirit-dependent. While recognizing that God fits a man for ministry and Christian service, TCBS seeks to be used by Him to shape men of character who are:

- Impassioned to spread the glory of Christ to all peoples
- Constrained by Christ's love
- God-centered in ministry and counseling
- Devoted to God's priorities in the home
- Committed to the doctrines of grace
- Characterized by faith, vision, and prayer
- Compelled to plant churches, or to train and send other men who will plant churches, both at home and abroad
- Equipped with a loving shepherd's heart for the people under his care

Program Outcomes

Students will demonstrate a commitment to:

- The supremacy and sufficiency of Christ
- The scriptures' nature as the sufficient, inerrant revelation of God's mind and will
- The spirit's work in the ministries of preaching, edification, and evangelism
- The work of missions as the spread of God's glory to all peoples
- The sovereignty of God and man's responsibility in salvation
- The supremacy of preaching for the life of the church and the advance of the gospel
- The necessity of calling, character, and gifting of a man of God for ministry
- Broad-based ministry of the word by others throughout the church
- The priorities of Biblical eldership, and leading the local church
- The Biblical languages for preparing to be expository preachers
- Students will demonstrate a commitment to learning from church history the need of doctrinal fidelity and effective models for ministry

Future Ministry Possibilities

This degree prepares graduates with foundational skills necessary for an effective Christ-centered, Spirit dependent preaching and teaching ministry within the local church, or within para-church organizations. Positions of service would include, any pastoral role within the local body, elder, author, professor, scholar, missionary, conference speaker, seminary administrator, community leader, any other roles in which a Master of Divinity in the field of humanities might serve.

Course of Study

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY AND ASSOCIATE OF THEOLOGY PROGRAMS

Since the nomenclature "Master of Divinity" is reserved for those with a baccalaureate degree, a select number of applicants will be selected for programs with the nomenclatures of "Bachelor of Theology" or "Associate of Theology." Both programs will usually be for applicants over the age of 30. The Bachelor of Theology will be obtained by those who have earned at least 90 quarter units of college credit. The Associate of Theology will be awarded to graduates who have completed less than 90 units. Associate and Bachelor degree students will complete the same course of study as the Master of Divinity program.

MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

The Master of Divinity curriculum presents a three-year program in graduate level theological education to provide one with the necessary theological, practical, and exegetical skills to effectively serve as a pastor, elder, and/or missionary at home or abroad. It requires the satisfactory completion of 151 quarter credit hours.

Biblical Languages (33 Hours)

BL501 Greek Grammar & Exegesis I* (4)

BL502 Greek Grammar & Exegesis II (4)

BL503 Greek Grammar & Exegesis III (4)

BL601 Hebrew I: Phonology/Morphology (4)

BL602 Hebrew II: Morphology (4)

BL603 4 Hebrew III: Syntax (4)

BL703 Hebrew IV: Exegesis (3)

BL659 Exegesis of Galatians (3)

BL765 Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles (3)

*Elementary Greek (BL 401) must be taken or language proficiency test must be passed before taking Greek Exegesis I.

Biblical Exposition and Hermeneutics (21 Hours)

BE502 Survey & Biblical Theology of the Old Testament I (4)

BE503 Survey & Biblical Theology of the Old Testament II (4)

BE504 Survey & Biblical Theology of the New Testament (4)

BE505 Exposition of Genesis (3)

BE501 Hermeneutics & Interpretation (3)

BE701 The Christ –Centeredness of Scripture (3)

Church History (11 Hours)

CH601 Church History I (3)

CH602 Church History II (3)

CH603 Church History III (3)

CH799 Research in Church History (2)

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

Systematic Theology (38 Hours)

ST501 Bibliology (4)
 ST502 The Triune God and Theology Proper (4)
 ST504 Christology (4)
 ST601 Pneumatology (3)
 ST701 Anthropology & Angelology (3)
 ST602 Hamartiology & Soteriology (4)
 ST603 Sanctification: The Christian Life (3)
 ST604 Ecclesiology (3)
 ST702 Eschatology (3)
 ST703 Theology of Worship (3)
 ST704 Christian Apologetics (2)
 ST799 Research in Theology (2)

Pastoral Training (24 Hours)

PT502 Marriage and Family (3)
 PT501 Leadership (3)
 PT601 Biblical Counseling I (4)
 PT602 Biblical Counseling II (3)
 PT701 The Theology of Preaching (3)
 PT705 Discipleship (3)
 PT702 The Preparation for Preaching (3)
 PT703 The Practice of Preaching (2)

Missions (6 Hours)

WM501 Missions & The Glory of God (3)
 WM502 Missions: Spread of God's Glory (3)

ELECTIVES (18 HOURS)

Suggested 4-Year Seminary Plan

	Year	Fall Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
Core Classes	1	BE502 Old Testament Survey I ST501 Bibliology BE501 Hermeneutics Elective	BE503 Old Testament Survey II ST502 Theology Proper WM501 Missions & The Glory of God Elective	BE504 New Testament Survey ST504 Christology WM502 Missions: Spreading God's Glory Elective
	2	BL501 Greek Grammar & Exegesis I PT501 Leadership ST601 Pneumatology CH601 Church History I Elective	BL502 Greek Grammar & Exegesis II ST602 Hamartiology/Soteriology CH602 Church History II PT502 Marriage & Family Elective	BL503 Greek Grammar & Exegesis III BE505 Exposition of Genesis ST603 The Christian Life ST604 Ecclesiology Elective
	3	BL601 Hebrew I: Phonology PT601 Biblical Counseling I Elective	BL602 Hebrew II: Morphology BL659 Exegesis of Galatians CH799 Research in Church History Elective	BL603 Hebrew III: Syntax CH603 Church History III PT602 Biblical Counseling II PT705 Discipleship Elective
	4	ST701 Anthropology/Angelology BL701 Theology of Preaching BL703 Hebrew IV: Exegesis ST799 Research in Theology Elective	ST702 Eschatology PT702 Preparation for Preaching BE701 The Christ –Centeredness of Scripture ST703 Theology of Worship Elective	BL765 Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles PT703 The Practice of Preaching ST704 Christian Apologetics Elective
Electives		BE389 Exposition of Philippians BE646 Exposition of 1 & 2 Thessalonians BE662 Exposition of John 13 –17 PT672 Text –to –Sermon Workshop PT711 Church Planting	BE523 Exposition of Psalms BE630 Christ in the Minor Prophets CH635 History of American Preaching PT731 Relational Ministry PT732 The Pastor's Home	BE384 Exposition of Acts PT630 Intro to Preaching Biblical Genres ST606 Theology of Work and Vocation ST715 Paterology: Doctrine of God the Father ST755 Goodness Everywhere: The Doctrine of Common Grace

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

Course Identification

The first of the three numbers designating courses indicates the curriculum year the course is normally offered, not necessarily the content level of the course.

- 400 – prerequisite, non-credit courses
- 500 – first year
- 600 – second year
- 700 – third year

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Courses In Biblical Exposition

BE501 HERMENEUTICS I

This is an introduction to the science and art of interpreting the Bible. It surveys the history of interpretation and defines the grammatical, historical approach by establishing the general and special principles of interpretation. Care will also be given to developing a practical process of interpretation. (3 credit hours)

BE502 SURVEY AND BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT I

This course provides a broad survey of Genesis through Esther with an emphasis on the biblical theology of each book. Overall themes, divisions, main problems, and spiritual lessons will be examined in relation to their historical background and Christian ministry today. The Christ-centeredness of scripture will be highlighted as each book is considered in its contribution to the history of redemption. (4 credit hours)

BE503 SURVEY AND BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT II

This course provides a broad survey of Job through Malachi with an emphasis on the biblical theology of each book. Overall themes, divisions, main problems, and spiritual lessons will be examined in relation to their historical background and Christian ministry today. The Christ-centeredness of scripture will be highlighted as each book is considered in its contribution to the history of redemption. (4 credit hours)

BE504 SURVEY AND BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

This is a foundational study to give the student a broad survey of the New Testament with an emphasis on the biblical theology of each book. Overall themes, divisions, main problems, and spiritual lessons will be examined in relation to their historical background and Christian ministry today. The person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ will be highlighted along with an understanding of each book in its relation to God's overall plan of redemption. (4 credit hours)

BE505 EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

This is an exposition of the book of Genesis. Particular stress is given to the developing themes of Christ in redemption and the covenants, which will be studied in relation to later Old Testament and New Testament revelation. It examines interpretive challenges in light of modern evolutionary theories and current higher criticism. (3 credit hours)

BE523 EXPOSITION OF THE PSALMS

This class will study the Book of Psalms. Beginning with an introduction discussing the origin, function and shape of the Psalms, this class will then focus on the various types of Psalms, giving case studies for each. After tackling the problem of vengeance and imprecation in the Psalms, this class will conclude with review of Christ in the Psalms and the use of the Psalms in the New Testament. (3 credit hours)

BE646 EXPOSITION OF I & II THESSALONIANS

This course will cover an exposition of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, including the verse-by-verse development of the Apostle Paul's thought, the historical background, purpose, major themes, literary structure, interpretive issues, and relevant application. In addition, this course will offer practical help for teaching and preaching 1 and 2 Thessalonians. (3 credit hours)

BE649 EXPOSITION OF EPHESIANS

This study of the book of Ephesians will focus on authorship, background, purpose, intended readers, methodology and theology of the book of Ephesians. (2 credit hours)

BE624 EXPOSITION OF PROVERBS

An expositional study of the Book of Proverbs, with attention to the nature of Hebrew wisdom literature, the genre of proverbs, and the various hermeneutical approaches to this literature. Also emphasizes personal and homiletical applications to contemporary issues and relationships. (2 credit hours)

BE645 EXPOSITION OF ROMANS

This course is a detailed analysis of the book of Romans. It examines the great doctrines of Christ, justification, and the hope of the believer with attention to the background, theme, and logical development of thought and doctrine. Interpretive problems and relevant practical applications in teaching and preaching will be explored. (3 credit hours)

BE653 EXPOSITION OF THE THESSALONIAN EPISTLES

This course is an expositional approach to these early epistles with careful attention to their context in culture and history. Special emphases focus on the personal, pastoral, and prophetic elements that combine for a unique study. Appropriate applications for the contemporary church will be drawn. (2 credit hours)

BE661 EXPOSITION OF THE JOHANNINE EPISTLES

Authorship, background, purpose, intended readers, methodology and theology will be the focus of this analysis of the Johannine letters. Special attention will be given to the relationship of the letters' style and vocabulary to that of the Gospel, the situation presupposed in the letters, particularly 2nd and 3rd John, and the eschatology of the letters. (2 credit hours)

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

BE701 THE CHRIST-CENTEREDNESS OF SCRIPTURE

The goal of this course is to have students recognize the Christ-centeredness of Scripture and to see preaching Christ as the heart of their ministries. The class provides an exegetical look at passages that yield the teaching that the person and work of Jesus Christ are the central focus of the entire Bible and surveys the prophecies and types of Christ and His work of redemption from the OT. It builds a theology & practice of Christ-centeredness with a view to Christ-centered preaching. (3 credit hours)

BE702 BIBLICAL INTRODUCTION

This course is an introduction to historical backgrounds, literary genres, canonical development, and major interpretive challenges of Old and New Testament books. (4 credit hours)

BE703 TEXTUAL & HIGHER CRITICISM

This course addresses Old & New Testament Textual Criticism along with an examination of modern critical approaches to Higher Criticism including the JEDP theories & criticism of the synoptic gospels. (2 credit hours)

BE710 HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL

This course is a careful study of the geographical layout of ancient Israel with a view to understanding the changes that occurred throughout Israel's history. The topographical and geological features of Israel will also receive treatment. (2 credit hours)

BE799 RESEARCH IN BIBLE EXPOSITION

This course is a guided independent study in an area of Biblical Exposition. This course allows the student to accomplish deeper investigation into a special problem, area of doctrine, or interpretation of a passage. The course must be designed by and pursued under the supervision of a faculty member and must be approved in writing by the Academic Dean. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Academic Dean's office. (2 credit hours)

Courses in Biblical Languages

BL401 ELEMENTARY GREEK

Offered each summer, this course is designed to provide a foundation in New Testament Greek. The course emphasizes elementary vocabulary, grammar, syntax, translation, and the effective use of lexical, grammatical, and syntactical tools. (6 credit hours) When offered during the school year it is divided into three 2 credit hour courses BL 401a, 401b, & 401c.

BL501 GREEK GRAMMAR & EXEGESIS I

Greek Grammar & Exegesis I is designed to make Greek a useful tool for interpreting the New Testament. It builds Greek vocabulary, increases confidence in translation, highlights the significance of important grammatical features and syntactical structures, and introduces the practice of exegetical procedures. (4 credit hours)

Prerequisite: BL401 or its equivalent

BL502 GREEK GRAMMAR & EXEGESIS II

Greek Grammar & Exegesis II continues from BL 501 in making Greek a useful tool for interpreting the New Testament. It continues to build Greek vocabulary, increases confidence in translation, highlights the significance of important grammatical features and syntactical structures, and introduces the practice of exegetical procedures including diagramming, outlining, lexical studies, syntactical studies & problem solutions. (4 credit hours)

Prerequisite: BL501

BL503 GREEK GRAMMAR & EXEGESIS III

Greek Grammar & Exegesis III continues from BL 502 in making Greek a useful tool for interpreting the New Testament. It continues to build Greek vocabulary and increase confidence in translation and reading the GNT. It highlights the significance of important grammatical features and syntactical structures, and introduces the practice of exegetical procedures, culminating in a presentation of the product of exegesis in an expository sermon. (4 credit hours)

Prerequisite: BL502

BL601 HEBREW I: PHONOLOGY/MORPHOLOGY

Hebrew I is designed to provide a foundation in Old Testament Hebrew so that the man of God might be equipped to present a clear, exact, and persuasive exposition of God's saving work in Christ. This course provides a foundation in Old Testament Hebrew. It equips the student with basic vocabulary and understanding of the essential principles of phonology & morphology. The progression of Hebrew courses will build vocabulary, understanding of grammar and syntax, and expose the student to the wide range of OT literary styles. (4 credit hours)

BL602 HEBREW II: MORPHOLOGY

Hebrew II continues to build vocabulary and understanding of the essential principles of morphology, with an introduction to Hebrew syntax. The progression of courses will build vocabulary, understanding of grammar and syntax, and expose the student to the wide range of OT literary styles. (4 credit hours) *Prerequisite: BL601*

BL603 HEBREW III: SYNTAX

Hebrew III is designed to provide a further foundation in Old Testament Hebrew so that the man of God might be equipped to present a clear, exact, and persuasive exposition of God's saving work in Christ. Hebrew III introduces the student to the Hebrew accents, masora, apparatus, but places its major focus on syntax. The progression of the three courses will build vocabulary, understanding of grammar and syntax, and expose the student to the wide range of OT literary styles. (4 credit hours each) *Prerequisite: BL602*

BL604 HEBREW READINGS

Geared for students having completed first year of Hebrew, this course emphasizes reading, translation and parsing, with attention given to exegetical observations. (2 to 4 credit hours) *Prerequisites: BL601, 602, 603*

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

BL659 EXEGESIS OF GALATIANS

This is an application of the principles of Greek Exegesis to the text of the Epistle to the Galatians. The course will provide a detailed examination of historical background, grammatical, lexical, and theological issues. Special attention will be given to passages dealing with justification, the Law, and life with the Spirit (3 Credit hours).

Prerequisites: BL503, BE501 & BE504

BL703 HEBREW IV: EXEGESIS

This course is a study designed to prepare the student for independent exegesis of the Hebrew text. It emphasizes translation of selected OT books, as well as grammatical, syntactical, and lexical studies, in order to develop an exegetical methodology with a goal toward exposition. Introductions to ancient near east background, textual criticism, and literary genres will be explored. (3 credit hours).

Prerequisites: BL603, BE502, & 503

BL704 BIBLICAL ARAMAIC

This course prepares the exegete to handle all of the Aramaic portions of the Old Testament. The course emphasizes Aramaic grammar, verb paradigms and distinctions with biblical Hebrew. The exegete will translate Daniel 2:4b–7:28; Ezra 4:1–7:28 and Genesis 31:47.

Prerequisite: BL703.

BL765 EXEGESIS OF THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

This course is an exegetical analysis of portions of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus with emphasis on the practical application of the instruction of these epistles for contemporary Christian living and pastoral responsibilities. Special attention will be given to the complementary roles of men and women and problem solutions to exegetical difficulties. (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: BL503, BE501 & BE504

BL770 ELEMENTARY LATIN

This class covers the basics of Latin vocabulary and grammar in order to help students read the Vulgate and other Christian texts. (3 credit hours)

BL799 RESEARCH IN BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

The student is given opportunity to complete a guided independent study in an area of Greek or Hebrew. This course allows the student to accomplish deeper investigation into a special problem, area of doctrine, or interpretation of a passage. The course must be designed by and pursued under the supervision of a faculty member and must be approved in writing by the Academic Dean. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Academic Dean's office. (2 credit hours)

Prerequisites: Must have completed two years of seminary (at least 70 credit hours) and must have taken BL503 & BL603.

Courses In Church History

CH601 602, 603 CHURCH HISTORY: MEN AND MOVEMENTS I, II, III

These courses are designed to study godly men and great movements. The importance of understanding God's hand in the history of the church is a central focus and concern. The study of revival will be an area of focus as well. The historical context as well as the content of the great confessions of faith will be stressed in order to show the need for, and cost of, standing for the truth (the Nicene, Chalcedon, Heidelberg, Canons of Dort, the Westminster Confession, and the Baptist Confession of 1689). (3 credit hours each)

CH604 THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF JONATHAN EDWARDS

This course centers on the life and thought of Jonathan Edwards. The main areas of study include a biographical survey of Edwards, the theological and philosophical background of Edwards, his contribution to the Great Awakening, an analysis of his sermonic material, and his theological, philosophical, and ethical writing. (2 credit hours)

CH799 RESEARCH IN CHURCH HISTORY

In this course students will study key men in church history (Athanasius, Augustine, Tyndale, Luther, Calvin, Owen, Edwards, Whitefield, Spurgeon, the Puritans, the Anabaptists, and others) under the direction of the faculty. (2 credit hours)

CH702 STUDY OF REVIVAL

In this course students will evaluate the theology of revival. The explosion of the first century church across Africa, Europe, and Asia; revivals under Edwards, Whitefield, and Spurgeon; and true modern revivals are examined in light of modern "methods." (2 credit hours)

CH721 JOHN OWEN ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

This class will consist of a careful yet devotional study of Christian spirituality with a focus on some of John Owen's most well-known writings: The Mortification of Sin, Communion with God, The Glory of Christ. (3 credit hours)

Courses in Pastoral Training

PT501 LEADERSHIP

This course is an examination of the calling, character, spiritual disciplines, purposes, goals, and priorities of the pastor in the local church. The personal life of the pastor, his relationship to God, and his relationships with the flock and other leaders are investigated in light of Scripture. (3 credit hours)

PT502 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

This course is a study of the Bible's teaching regarding the marriage and family relationships. This course provides the student with teaching on the purpose, plan, and permanence of marriage, the roles of husbands and wives; and the biblical principles governing communication, sexuality, intimacy, stewardship, parenting, and the relationship between the church and the home. (3 credit hours)

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

PT601 THE THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF COUNSELING

The goal of this course is to prepare students to equip the saints for their ministries by laying a foundation for counseling from the scriptures. The term counsel will be defined from the scriptures. Second, a theological counseling foundation will be built squarely on the sufficiency of Scripture and the person and work of Christ. Third, students are alerted to the dangers of secular and humanistic psychology and its inability to solve the problems of the soul. Fourth, the counseling methods of Jesus and Paul are studied. Last, the student is provided with an environment to discuss biblical counseling and the presuppositions that are distinct to biblical counseling (4 credit hours each)

PT602 PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING

The goal of this course is to prepare the student for real life counseling situations. The following topics will be covered from a biblical reference: Idols of the heart, ADHD, Marriage, Re-Marriage and Divorce, Anger, Rebellion, Fear, Worry, Spiritual Depression, Suffering, and Crisis Counseling. A portion of this course will be used to expose the student to the misuse and abuse of drugs to treat the following problems in children and adults: spiritual depression, anger, fear, and ADHD. (3 credit hours)

PT672 TEXT-TO-SERMON WORKSHOP

This course is designed to equip students to move faithfully from the Greek New Testament to the proclamation of compelling sermons. Building off the Greek exegesis courses, students will get further practice engaging with the Greek text and develop the art of crafting that foundational work into a clear, engaging, and relevant exposition. This course bridges the critical gap between the academic study of Greek and the pastoral ministry of preaching. (2 credit hours)

PT701 THE THEOLOGY OF CHRIST-CENTERED EXPOSITORY PREACHING IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

This class will investigate the biblical case for Christ-centered Spirit-empowered expository preaching. (3 credit hours)

PT702 PREPARATION FOR PREACHING: PREPARING AND DELIVERING AN EXPOSITORY SERMON

This is a practical study of the issues involved in the preparation for the delivery of an expository sermon. This class applies information acquired in PT701 to the development of sermon outlines and manuscripts from which the student begins to develop a personal preaching style. (3 credit hours)

PT703 THE PRACTICE OF PREACHING

In this course, faculty members work interactively with students in the development of their preaching competency. Special attention is given to sermon form, transitions, and application as well as the student's presentation and articulation of the Biblical message. (2 credit hours)

Prerequisite: PT702

PT705 DISCIPLESHIP

This course examines the Lord's method of building His church through "making disciples." Studies the biblical basis for ministries of discipleship, leadership training, and home fellowship groups. Each student will develop a biblical philosophy of discipleship with special application to his own local church context. (2 credit hours)

PT706 HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUP INTERNSHIP

This course provides hands on experience in discipleship, teaching and pastoral care in the local church. The student will minister under the supervision of a leader in his home church if possible (2 credit hours)

PT707 COUNSELING PRACTICUM

In this course the student will participate in counseling sessions under the direction of faculty. Students will apply biblical counseling principles and specific texts to specific counseling situations. (2 credit hours)

PT708 WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

In this class students will participate in the planning, preparation, and administration (when able) of weddings and funerals. (2 credit hours)

PT709 ORDINATION PRACTICUM

This class is designed to facilitate proper evaluation and preparation of a candidate for ordination into the pastoral ministry of a local church. Focus will be placed upon spiritual disciplines, moral qualifications, Bible knowledge, wisdom, theological understanding, and practical ministry. (2 credit hours)

PT710 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This course is an introduction to various ways to carry out the task of teaching the flock. A biblical basis for Christian education will be presented. Various ministries, such as Sunday School, small groups, Bible studies, children's programs, discipleship, leadership development, Bible Institutes, family ministries, etc., will be discussed. (2 credit hours)

PT711 CHURCH PLANTING

Evaluates church planting methodologies of various organizations and individuals. It provides a biblical model for proceeding and years of wisdom drawn from guest church planters. (2 credit hours)

PT712 THE CHURCH, THE LAW, AND GOVERNMENT

A course designed to lay the foundation for making moral and legal decisions regarding the relationship of the church to the state. The responsibilities of the local church and individual Christians to government will be biblically defined. Various legal issues facing church leadership will be addressed. (2 credit hours)

PT732 THE PASTOR'S HOME

The biblical qualifications for pastoral ministry are not merely evaluated by a man's gifting. The overwhelming emphasis of Scripture calls for an examination of his character. One key area of character evaluation is the quality of a pastor's home life. (Titus 1:6) The logic is clear, if he cannot care for his own family how can he care for God's church? (1Timothy 3:4-5) In this course we will examine facets of the pastor's home from marriage to parenting to the unique pressures that come with living in the "parsonage." (2 credit hours)

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

PT733 BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP

This course will consider in depth the biblical qualifications for eldership and elder responsibilities in the local church, while building a case for a plurality of male elders as the biblical model of church leadership. Students will also engage questions related to the process of recognizing emerging elders in their congregation, the ordination of qualified elders, the difference between elder-led and elder-rule churches, and practical questions about conducting elder meetings and an elder team's decision-making process. (2 credit hours)

Courses in Systematic Theology

ST501 BIBLIOLOGY

This course is a study of the doctrine of the Scriptures, which highlights verbal/plenary inspiration, divine revelation, supernatural illumination, as well as the supreme authority of the Scripture. The sufficiency of Scripture will be underscored as Christ's all-sufficient means, in conjunction with the Holy Spirit, for the salvation and sanctification of His people. (4 credit hours)

ST502 THE TRIUNE GOD AND THEOLOGY PROPER

This course is an examination of the doctrine of God with a special focus on His essence, attributes, and nature. The Scriptural evidence and proof of the Trinity will be considered in detail, including the economic relationship to creation. (4 credit hours)

ST504 CHRISTOLOGY: THE SUPREMACY AND SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

This course is a detailed investigation into the doctrine of Christ. Emphasis is placed upon His preexistence, incarnation, hypostatic union, earthly life, and present work. His atonement and cross work is given special consideration. This course also gives attention to the reality of Christ's all-sufficiency as a central feature of the glory of His Person. (4 credit hours)

ST601 PNEUMATOLOGY: THE SPIRIT'S PERSON, POWER, PRESENCE, AND PROVISION

This course is a thorough study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments. Special emphasis will be given to the issues of the Spirit's personality and deity, position in the Trinity, Spirit baptism and fullness, and His Christ exalting work in revelation, evangelism, regeneration, preaching, and sanctification. The issue of cessationism vs. continuationism will be examined in light of current trends along with an exposition of relevant Scripture passages. (4 credit hours)

ST602 HARMARTIOLOGY AND SOTERIOLOGY

This course is a biblical analysis of sin and salvation. It deals with the fall of man and its consequences, especially total depravity. It also deals with election, calling, regeneration, conversion, and the nature of saving faith, free justification, assurance, and adoption. (4 credit hours)

ST603 THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: SANCTIFICATION AND PERSONAL HOLINESS

This course involves a careful textual study of the biblical concept of growing in the grace and knowledge of the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Students will learn to identify and evaluate the different views of sanctification prominent in various communities. The emphasis presented in this course for the Christian life and growth is how God motivates and enables us to pursue holiness by His grace. Specific lectures articulate how the Gospel of Christ applies to all areas of life and ministry. (3 credit hours)

ST604 ECCLESIOLOGY

This course is a study in the origin, nature, organization, and function of the church. Special prominence is given to its government, its officers, its discipline, and its ordinances. (4 credit hours)

ST605 SEMINAR IN APPLIED ECCLESIOLOGY

This course is a study of key issues related to the doctrine of the church with special attention given to developing a biblical philosophy of ministry and critiquing the American Church Growth movement. (2 credit hours)

ST701 ANTHROPOLOGY & ANGELOLOGY

This course is a careful look at the doctrines of man, angels, demons, and Satan. It also looks at satanic activity in light of biblical spiritual warfare. (4 credit hours)

ST702 ESCHATOLOGY

This course is a careful presentation of future events as they are unveiled in the Bible. The relationship of Israel, the Gentiles, and the Church as their roles in these future events are examined. Specific issues such as the Rapture of the church and the Millennium are examined in depth. (4 credit hours)

ST703 THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

This course is a study of the Bible's teaching concerning worship. Beginning with an overview of how the current Christian worship community sees itself, a theological survey is conducted leading the student to a biblical view and definition of this subject, resulting in a proper application of it in the pastor's personal life and ministry. (3 credit hours)

ST704 APOLOGETICS

This course is a biblical and theological presentation of apologetics from a systematic exegetical approach to develop a practical apologetic methodology. Various dominant apologetic viewpoints will be evaluated with emphasis given to the presuppositional approach. (2 credit hours)

ST705 ETHICS

This course is a treatment of the theory and practice of biblical ethics with a view to moral decision-making methodologies. Key ethical passages of the Bible will be examined and primary ethical issues in society will be evaluated. (2 credit hours)

TRAINING PROGRAMS: GRADUATE STUDIES

ST706 BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD

This course is an examination of the biblical roles of men and women. It will have specific instruction in the areas of relationships, authority, purity, discernment, provision for family, and leadership in the home and church. (2 credit hours)

ST707 THE NEW PERSPECTIVE AND PAULINE JUSTIFICATION

This course is a fresh look at the biblical doctrine of justification in order to provide a defense against recent attacks prevalent in modern evangelical writings. The history of such departures from truth will be surveyed and present-day “new perspective” theologians will be evaluated. A strengthened restatement of the doctrine of justification will be provided. (2 credit hours)

ST708 THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

This course is a study of the Old Testament Law, its New Testament modification, fulfillment in Christ, relationship to the gospel, and proper use in the life and ministry of the New Testament believer. Key texts bearing on the issue will be examined. (2 credit hours)

ST709 THE THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF PRAYER

This course is an analysis of the biblical teaching concerning prayer designed to impact the student regarding the pastoral responsibility to stay devoted to and dependent upon God, as well as to intercede on behalf of the flock. Issues related to the sovereignty of God, human responsibility, and the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer will be examined. (2 credit hours)

ST710 THE MIRACULOUS SIGN GIFTS

This course is a study of the biblical teaching of the purpose and function of the miraculous sign gifts. The cessation of the sign gifts in relation to the uniqueness of Apostolic ministry is studied, as well as the gifts of prophesy and tongues. The need to seek a biblical balance that recognizes both the centrality of the Word of God and the role of the Spirit in effecting the affections and emotions is emphasized. (2 credit hours)

ST715 PATEROLOGY: DOCTRINE OF GOD THE FATHER

Through a biblical and exegetical study of the Father’s roles and works from eternity past to eternity future, this class will develop a doctrine of God the Father: a Paterology. This class will begin with (1) the Father’s existence and (2) work of planning all things from eternity past, moving on to his work of (3) creating and preserving the heavens and earth, continuing through (4) the Father’s providing of salvation in redemptive history through the sending of his Son and (5) his producing of salvation in his elect and the conviction of the world through the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, concluding with (6) the Father’s work of perfecting creation and salvation through judgment and the restoration of all things. Finally, this class will reflect on (7) worship as the proper response to the Father’s work through the Son and Spirit. (3 credit hours)

ST799 RESEARCH IN THEOLOGY

Each student is required to complete a guided independent study in an area of theology. This course allows the student to accomplish deeper investigation into a special problem or area of doctrine. The course must be designed by and pursued under the supervision of a faculty member and must be approved in writing by the Academic Dean. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Academic Dean’s office. (2 credit hours)

Prerequisites: Must have completed two years of seminary (at least 70 credit hours) and must have taken the theology course that would serve as the foundation to the area he desires to study.

ST850 DIRECTED STUDY IN CHRISTIAN ETHICS

This directed study is designed for students to develop their own research project in the area of Christian ethics. (1 credit hour)

Courses in World Missions

WM501 MISSIONS AND THE GLORY OF GOD

This course demonstrates the God-centered basis for missions and the advancement of the gospel to all peoples. Missions is essentially the spread of the glory of God to all peoples. It seeks to focus upon God’s passion for His own glory and how it is the basis of missions. In addition, it defends the biblical case for the reality of hell and that Christ is the sole Savior of all people. (3 credit hours)

WM502 MISSIONS AND THE SPREAD OF GOD’S GLORY TO ALL PEOPLES

This study presents the biblical basis for the spread of God’s glory to all peoples as prophesied in Genesis 12:13 and Isaiah 49:8, mandated in Matthew 28:18–20, and consummated in Revelation 5:8–14. It will also examine the role of preaching and prayer in missions. In addition, missions as envisioned by Christ and the apostles will also be given special emphasis. Finally, the biblical priority and the principles for church planting will be considered. (3 credit hours)

WM701 MISSIONS: INTERNATIONAL TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Students will participate in overseas missions trips to teach, preach, and train local pastors and leaders. Stress is placed on supporting local church pastors in training and equipping leaders. (4 credit hours)

