

The BBI BULLETIN

Volume 26

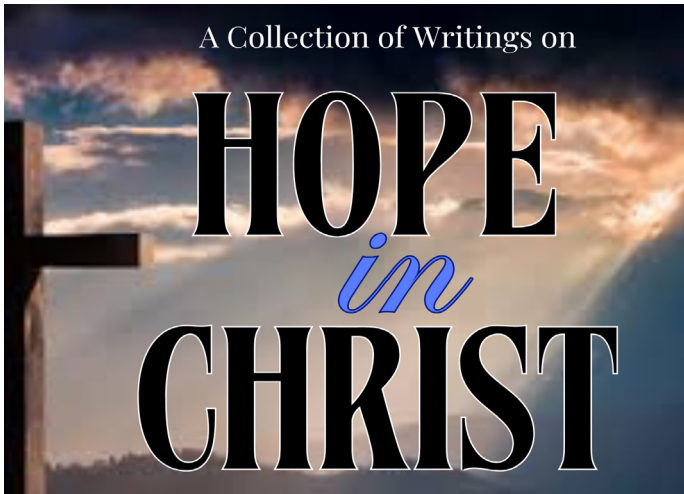
SUMMER 2024

Issue 2

Training for Ministry

June, July, August

Rightly Dividing God's Word



Dr. W. Edward Bedore, First BBI Executive Director

WHAT IF YOU DIED TODAY?

(Bible Answers To Bible Questions, February 2013)

An often used and generally effective lead-in to sharing the Gospel with an unbeliever is to ask, "If you died today, do you know that you would go to Heaven?" Such a question is meant to spur the unbeliever to give some serious thought about their future and where they will spend eternity. Hopefully, this will initiate discussion and provide an opportunity to open the Bible with them and to show them what the Scriptures say about their lost condition and God's provision of a Savior that they might receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. But, what about those who have already trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and know for sure that Heaven is their eternal home where they will reside forever in God's presence? Is becoming saved all there is to being a Christian, or are there some "what if..?" questions for the members of the Body of Christ as well?

Everyone who has truly trusted in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior can have complete assurance of their salvation. However, the question remains, "What if you died today dear brother or sister in Christ?" You certainly would go to Heaven (II Cor. 5:8), but what legacy would you leave behind? Would you be remembered as one whose life reflected Christ, or just another person who lived their life according to the world's standards? Would there be those who would say that you had a positive impact on them because of your attitude toward life and your conduct in life? Would they say your mindset was Bible-based and Christ-centered, or would they say that your mindset and lifestyle were worldly and self-centered? In other words, would you be remembered as a Bible-believing Christian who was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, or would those you interacted with in your daily life have no idea that you were a believer in Jesus Christ? Is your worldview essentially the same as that of your unsaved neighbors, coworkers, family members, acquaintances, etc., or do you stand out as being different from the world because your worldview is heavenly instead of worldly? If we are going to leave anything of lasting value to show for our lives on this earth, it must be spiritually based, dispensationally accurate, Biblically founded, and accomplished through faith. The Church is not called to blend in with the world, but to stand out as different from the world.

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THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

Dr. Ed Bedore: a man of God and a man of the Word

In 2005, I received a call from Dr. Bedore while pastoring Hilltop Bible Church in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. He wanted to know if I would be willing to drive up to Wisconsin to teach a couple of courses at *Berean Bible Institute*. I was honored and jumped at the chance to teach at *BBI*. Little did I know that this decision would change the direction of my life and ministry. After about a year of teaching part-time, Ed asked if I would consider teaching full-time at the institute.

Working for Ed Bedore was truly a blessing to me. Over the years, my respect for him and his approach to the Scriptures grew exponentially. He was truly a man of God not swayed by opinion or status but by what the Word taught. His love for the Lord and His Word was a testimony to all who knew him. Ed was a "straight shooter," and if he thought you were in error according to the Scriptures, he would let you know and show you why the Scriptures taught otherwise.

Ed was also highly organized and used this giftedness to create the structure for *Berean Bible Institute*. Ed was a prolific writer who had a passion to make the Word come alive on the printed page, evidenced in several books and booklets and countless articles he has written. Both Ed and Linda Bedore are perfect examples of God gifting individuals to carry out His will so that others may grow in their walk with Him. It was truly an honor to work for and work with Dr. Ed Bedore. It is our desire that his legacy and vision for *BBI* continue until the Lord returns.

Legacy Giving Booklet

You have, no doubt, received our latest booklet concerning legacy giving. Our goal in creating this booklet was threefold. First, we want our partners to see the "big picture." We hope you see the significance of our institute remaining strong for years to come. Second, we desire to educate our partners on how they can give to *BBI*. There are various ways you can support *BBI*, two of which are creating a legacy plan through estate giving or by giving through charitable annuities. This will allow you to continue to channel your support well into the future. By vis-

iting our website at bereanbibleinstitute.org, you can utilize various tools that will help you continue to make an impact in training pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders through *BBI*. Finally, our booklet lets you know that we need your help. We desire to see *BBI* continue well into the future, and we cannot do that without partners like you.

BBI Brazil Director visits Mozambique

Please pray for *BBI Brazil* Director Paul Craesmeier, his wife Mariana, and their son Mathias as they travel to Mozambique. Mozambique is a Portuguese-speaking country, and there is a real possibility of *BBI Brazil* offering training for those in that country.

Paying Tribute to a Man of God

I praise the Lord for the opportunity to have been one of the speakers at Dr. Ed Bedore's memorial service in Nokomis, Florida. Pastor Don Hosfeld, Pastor Kevin Sadler, and I were blessed and honored to participate in sharing the Word of God and the impact that Dr. Bedore made on all of our lives. Please pray for Linda Bedore as she continues to serve the Lord and adjusts to life without Ed.

In Christ,

Dr. Robert E. Nix, President of *Berean Bible Institute*

Please pray:

for more partners who believe in the mission of *BBI* and are willing to stand with us through prayer and regular financial support.

BereanBibleInstitute.org/Donate



Dr. Ed Bedore: God's Man for God's Time

By Pastor Jeff Seekins, Chairman of the BBI board of directors

Dr. Ed Bedore and I became acquainted through *Berean Bible Fellowship* and *Midwest Grace Fellowship* conferences and as he and Linda prepared to serve the Lord in a Bible institute in Kenya. So, by the time I joined the *Berean Bible Society* board of directors in 1995, where talk of a new Bible institute was on the table, I had known Ed for some time and could recommend him as a friend and faithful man of God.

Ed was brought in as the director of the new *Berean Bible Institute* near the end of March 1996. He hit the ground running, and it was soon obvious that he was the man for the job. None of us will ever know the countless hours it took to leap the hurdles necessary to organize the school from scratch, get teachers in place, and enroll students to start the first class in six short months!

Ed, with Linda at his side, worked tirelessly to make *BBI* a reality! Course descriptions and schedules, student admissions and records, financial bookkeeping, promotion, as well as teaching classes, had to have been exhausting! And, because of Dr. Bedore's guidance, *BBI* coursework began with and has continued to uphold high academic standards.

The BBS board watched over this ministry in its infancy, but when it was time to push the fledgling out of the BBS nest, *BBI* became its own ministry in 1999. A new board was formed with several of us from the BBS board. Again, Ed courageously lead *BBI* through uncharted territory as a new ministry with new challenges.

One of those challenges was our own building space. Always looking to better the ministry of *BBI*, Ed led us to purchase the building in Slinger, Wisconsin, in the spring of 2003. He also led the staff, hammer in hand, to make renovations suitable for classes, graduations, missions conferences, leadership meetings, and more.

Dr. Ed Bedore would be the first to acknowledge and credit our wonderful Lord for the *Berean Bible Institute*, but he was God's man in God's time to launch it on the right course.

Though he wasn't as flashy as some of the ties he wore, this man of God was solid, intelligent, confident, worthy, committed, dedicated, hard-working, faithful, wise, steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, and in Whose presence he now resides!

(taken from the first "Institute Update", BBI Bulletin: Summer 1999)

The over-riding burden that prompted the establishment of *BBI* is the very real need for godly and committed individuals to be properly equipped for the work of ministry. Every generation of believers has a God-given responsibility to pass the message of "*Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery*" (Rom. 16:25) on to those who follow them. By God's grace, we are endeavoring to do this by being faithful in following the admonition of Scripture to "*be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*" (II Tim. 2:1-2). Being involved in the Lord's work is exciting and challenging. It is also the most meaningful, fruitful, and fulfilling work that

anyone could ever be involved in. In fact, the message of "*Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*" (I Cor. 2:1-2) is the only message of substance to be found in the world. Therefore, it is the only message worth committing one's life to.

Please pray for the staff, faculty, and students of BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE as we look forward to the beginning of a new school year in a few weeks.

And, if you have not already done so, I would like to ask that you consider financially supporting the ministry of *BBI*. It is the gifts of those who believe that what we are doing is important that make *BBI* possible.

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

Read more tributes at facebook.com/BereanBibleInstitute.org

HOPE IN CHRIST continued from page 1

As members of the Body of Christ, we “should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to licentiousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Eph. 4:17-19). Walking according to the world is something we certainly have not learned from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who only teaches us truth (Eph. 4:20-21). What we do learn from Him through His Word is that we are to “put off, concerning your (our) former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your (our) mind, and that you (we) put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:22-24).

Yes, the believer has forgiveness of sins and has the righteousness of Christ imputed to him or her and will never be subject to God’s wrath. But, at the same time, each member of the Body of Christ will be required to give an account to the Lord for how they conducted themselves in this life (Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10). Our motivation to serve Him should not be out of fear of retribution since there will not be any because Christ’s blood cleanses us from sin. And, although rewards will be given at the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Cor. 3:14), our motivation to strive for them should not be to simply earn them. Our motivation to walk pleasing to the Lord should be born out of a deep desire to honor and glorify Him because of the great love He has loved us with and demonstrated to us by giving Himself on the Cross for our sins (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; II Cor. 5:14-15).

After all, He purchased us out of the slave market of sin with His own precious blood to make us His own special people (I Cor. 6:19- 20; Titus 2:14). Should we not then do all that we do to His glory (I Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17)? Beloved believer, what if...?

WHAT IS THE BELIEVER’S HOPE?

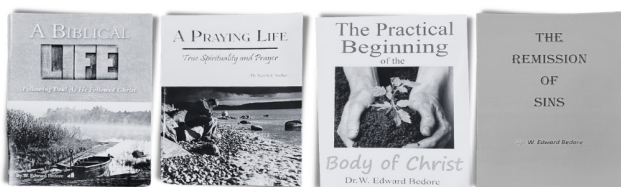
(Bible Answers To Bible Questions, February 2017)

Most people look forward to something. They have a hope for what the future will bring. One’s hope can change with time and circumstances. If one is seriously ill or has been injured, they will hope to get better or be healed. Someone who is having financial problems might hope for a better paying job or increased profits in their business. Many people hope to find someone to love them and share their life with, while others hope to get out of a relationship that has not turned out as they had hoped. Others hope and plan to meet certain goals in education or life achievement. Some actively pursue their hope of fame and riches. The list could go on and on.

While planning, goals, and achievements are important, all of man’s hopes that are built on self and worldly things are uncertain at best. The rich can become paupers overnight, disease or injury can strike down the strongest at any time, the most trusted friend or family member can turn hostile, and the list can go on and on.

The Bible tells us that, for the believer, the Lord Jesus Christ is “our hope.”

The Bible tells us that, for the believer, the Lord Jesus Christ is “our hope” (I Tim. 1:1). We are also told that our hope in Christ will never cause us shame or disappointment (Rom. 5:5). The only sure hope that is available is God’s promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus. He is faithful and true, and He loves you! Are you a believer, or are you without God and without hope in the world (Eph. 2:12)? Trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and a sure hope of eternal life and an assured destiny of Heaven.



Booklets

Order Today!
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 262-644-5504



Books

SOMETHING "FAR BETTER"

(This is an excerpt from Dr. Bedore's book "The State and Place of the Dead: What Happens After We Die".)

The Apostle Paul states that for the believer "to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21-23), indicating that this is, in fact, the case. That he had "a desire to depart" (this life), to be with the Lord tells us that he expected to consciously experience something "far better" than can be found in this life. This means that at the time of physical death believers will "gain" something.

As precious as the believer's life "in Christ" is, in the here and now, it will be greatly enhanced when he leaves it to enter into the presence of the Lord.

Paul's statement that "to live is Christ" speaks of a purposeful life lived in service to and for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The only way to add to this is to gain that which is better, to enter into the very presence of CHRIST in Heaven, to consciously enjoy perfect fellowship with Him in a way we cannot in this life. It is only by faith that the believer can find the confidence to face death "willing rather to be absent from the Body and to be present with the Lord" (II Cor. 5:7-8).

That the death of a believer brings him or her into a situation considered to be "gain," or the increased experience of spiritual blessing, refutes all erroneous ideas such as the soul ceases to exist at death or that the soul sleeps until awakened or recreated at the time of resurrection. To enjoy the life of CHRIST in this life only – only to be experientially separated from Him by becoming unconscious or ceasing to exist – would be loss not gain. This would be true even if it were only for a short time.

But the fact that we have been given eternal life guarantees that we have everlasting fellowship with God. Our life in Christ will never be diminished, only enlarged. That "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5) mandates the continued conscious existence of the believer after physical death because nothing – not even death – "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39).

Only one life; 'twill soon be past.

Only what's done
in Christ will last.

(Editor's Note: As all of his students can attest, whenever Dr. Bedore had an opportunity to fill a speaking spot in chapel, we knew we were turning to Romans 5.)

ROMANS 5

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.



Bible Answers to Bible Questions

& Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

(Editor's Note: *Bible Answers To Bible Questions* originated from Ed Bedore's passion to discuss the Scriptures. The next two pages present material originally appearing in issues Dr. Bedore compiled, answered, and edited.)

QUESTION: Romans 4:25 states that Jesus Christ "was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification." This suggests that Christ's sacrifice of Himself for our redemption was not completed at the crucifixion, but something was added by His rising from the dead. What more is imputed to the believer through His resurrection?

ANSWER: In one word, LIFE! What the Apostle Paul refers to as "the preaching of the cross" (I Cor. 1:18) includes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:3-4). The resurrection is so important to the Gospel of the Grace of God that the longest chapter in any of Paul's epistles (I Cor. 15) is dedicated to it. In His death, the Lord Jesus paid the complete price of our redemption on the cross (Jn. 19:30) so that through faith in Him we might receive the forgiveness of sins. But, if He had not been raised from the dead and remained in the clutches of death, He could not impart the gift of eternal life to anyone. The complete victory over sin and death was won through His death and resurrection. As a Living Savior, He sits at the right hand of God to make intercession for us (Rom. 8:33-34). His resurrection proves Him to be the "Son of God with power" (Rom. 1:4). Every believer, having been united together with Him in His death, is also united with Him in His resurrection (Rom. 6:5-10). He died on the cross in order to take away our sins and was raised from the dead in order to make us righteous in the eyes of God (Rom. 4:25). His resurrection demonstrated the Father's acceptance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on behalf of sinners. Because He lives, the Father is free to impute His righteousness to all who believe. "If Christ be not raised.... Ye are yet in your sins...but now is Christ risen from the dead..." (I Cor. 15:12-22). (BABQ, March 2010)



QUESTION: I understand that Paul wasn't given the Mystery all at once, but it was given progressively and that the Bible was not put together chronologically. In what order was it given?

ANSWER: There are two basic ways to survey Paul's epistles. One is the chronological order in which they were written in. The other way is the logical order, the order that they are found in our Bibles. In the latter approach, the content of the individual Pauline letters are studied according to the order they are found in the Bible.

In studying Paul's epistles in chronological order, the focus is on determining the when, why, where, and circumstances surrounding the writing of each book. However, misunderstandings can result when too much emphasis is given to the chronological order and circumstances in which they were written. This is because the dates assigned to Paul's epistles (and other Bible books as well) are not actually given in Scripture, but are tradition. There is evidence found in Scripture that point to certain dates for the writing of particular Bible books, and for some this evidence is strong. However, the dates for other books are hotly debated among scholars. While the dates of some books are almost unanimously accepted, none have gone unchallenged, and for others there is no consensus of opinion. The truth is that there is no actual evidence by which to give an absolute date for the writing of any Bible book.

The chronological order of Paul's letters should not be ignored as the time, the place, and circumstances of the writing of his epistles most certainly should be considered as insight into what he has said may be gained. But we want to be extremely cautious in developing doctrine on things that are determined by deduction rather than what the Bible has to say. We can only speculate about what and when Paul knew about the Mystery based on the chronology of his letters. But we can be certain about what is revealed in each one by reading them to see what is revealed to us in them. Some have gone to such extremes as to claim that Paul's early letters have nothing in them for us today. This is serious error. (BABQ, March 2011)

*** INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS ***

Even though most people do not realize it, we use a lot of sayings in our day-to-day communications that come from the Bible. They are found in our conversations, the written word, and on radio, TV, and movies. The following are a few of the more common ones:

“A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”

This saying comes from the Lord Jesus’ warning about false teachers. *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves”* (Mat. 7:15; cf. Acts 20:29). This is a reference to those who pretend to be believers, but instead of edifying the saints from the Word, they twist it to fit the false and harmful doctrines they teach.

“By the Skin of My Teeth”

This phrase comes from the lips of Job who said, *“My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth”* (Job 19:20). Job was saying that he had escaped death and was barely clinging to life. We use it to refer to escaping something by the very narrowest of margins.

“A Drop in the Bucket”

One of the most commonly used sayings comes from Isaiah who wrote, *“The nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the dust on the scales”* (Isa. 40:15). He was saying that even the mightiest of nations are insignificant in God’s sight. We use the phrase in reference to anything that we feel is of minor importance. *(taken from the first BABQ, December 2009)*

*** COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE ***

“Sabbatical”

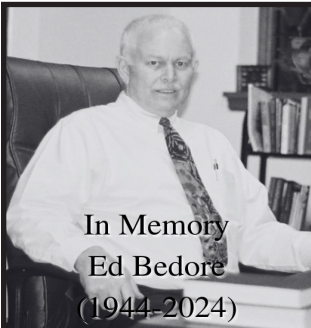
This word is used to describe a leave of absence from regular work. It is often associated with taking

a break from one’s normal duties to work on a special project, such as a college professor taking a sabbatical from his teaching responsibilities to write a book, or it can just mean to take time away from the regular work schedule to relax the mind and become refreshed. The word is taken from the Biblical Sabbath, which was a day of rest on the seventh day of each week to commemorate the creation week (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11). In addition to the weekly Sabbath and the various feast-day Sabbaths during each year, Israel was to observe every seventh year as a Sabbath or Sabbatical year. Their land was to lie fallow and not farmed for the entire year and all Hebrew slaves were to be set free. It was because of their idolatry and the fact that the nation had failed to observe the Sabbath year since at least the time of Solomon that God sent Judah into captivity in Babylon (Jer. 25:4-11; 34:8-22). *(BABQ, March 2021)*

(Editor’s Note: Jess Sadler, Dr. Bedore’s long-time secretary and formatter, explains, “Pastor B found this quote and used it in the 2007 Bulletin.” With it, he implored his readers to remember the most important thing in this life is to live for the next. Something Dr. W. Edward Bedore strived to evidence in his life and ministry.)

Author Elbert Huddard said, “God will not look you over for medals, degrees, or diplomas, but for scars.”

How many of us can say with the Apostle Paul, “I bear in my body the marks (scars of service) of the Lord Jesus” (Gal. 6:17b)?



In Memory
Ed Bedore
(1944-2024)

“If you have not already done so, I would like to ask that you consider financially supporting the ministry of BBI. It is the gifts of those who believe that what we are doing is important that make BBI possible.”
Dr. W. Edward Bedore

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**BEREAN
BIBLE INSTITUTE**

The BBI Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Berean Bible Institute Inc., and is sent free of charge to any that request it.

The mission of Berean Bible Institute is to train Pastors, Missionaries, and Christian Leaders for the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of the gospel of the grace of God

given to and through the Apostle Paul. **Berean Bible Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.**

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Fall 2024 Course Schedule

Virtual, Instructor-Led Courses

All courses listed are conveniently offered during evening hours via Zoom

Full Semester | 16 week courses beginning the week of August 19th

- Bible Exposition 5: The Kingdom Epistles (Hebrews - Jude)
- Biblical Principles of Family Life

Term 1 | 8 week courses beginning the week of August 19th

- Dispensational Survey
- Basic Bible Doctrines 1
- Personal Evangelism & Follow Up
- Pastoral Ministry 2
- Practical Dispensational Theology 3 (Soteriology & Zoeology)
- Missions & Church Planting
- Women in Ministry 2

Term 2 | 8 week courses beginning the week of October 21st

- Apologetics
- Basic Bible Doctrines 2
- Dispensational Hermeneutics
- Christian Writing
- Youth Ministry
- Cross-Cultural Studies



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