

Bible Training Institute

Grace Bible Church of Bakersfield

(Revised Sept 2023)

...to proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world...

Contact Info:

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GENERAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM:

The Bible Training Institute of Grace Bible Church of Bakersfield (BTI) endeavors to disciple men and women at an accelerated rate compared to how they might grow spiritually if only attending church and a traditional Bible study. BTI covers three broad areas: Systematic Theology, Bible Survey, and Applied Theology.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Introduction to Theology, Bibliology, Theology Proper, Theology of Worship, Christology, Pneumatology, Anthropology, Angelology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, Major Biblical Covenants, Kingdom of God, "Israelology"

BIBLE SURVEY

A survey of all 66 books of the Bible

APPLIED THEOLOGY

Spiritual Maturity, Personal Evangelism, Titus 2 Womanhood (Women), Leadership and Ministry (Men), Applied Ecclesiology, Hermeneutics (Bible Study Methods)

BTI takes two to two and a half years to complete and meets in the Activity Center on the church campus during the Sunday School hour (9:30am).

- ✓ There are seven modules in the program.
- ✓ BTI may be joined in any semester and may be taken until all modules are complete.

STUDENT STATUS

You can enroll as a “**for-credit student**” or “**auditor.**”

A for-credit student commits to doing all the reading, assignments, and attending every (or close to every) session. The for-credit student will be considered as having completed BTI after all semesters are finished.

An auditor attends and does all that he or she can but without the intent of being held accountable for completed reading and assignments and will not receive a completion certificate, but will grow in the faith based on whatever effort is put forth.

For the encouragement of those committed as either for-credit students or auditors, we are asking that “walk-ins” be limited to those who are considering doing BTI but have not yet decided. This is not a Sunday School class to “pop in and out” of as the mood strikes.

Although we allow for auditors, you will get **so much** more out of this experience as a for-credit student. It is always our hope to have more for-credit students than auditors so that BTI does not turn into a spectator program.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Attendance will be taken every Sunday morning to track your progress. Getting behind on the reading is not recommended since it will be very hard to catch up.

As a for-credit student, successful completion of the semester includes the following:

ATTENDANCE

Attending at least 80% of the Sunday morning sessions throughout the duration of all seven modules (If work or illness or an advance-planned family time away is an issue, that is fine. Just be faithful the rest of the time). Please note that except in special cases at the leadership's discretion, listening to a lecture recording does NOT count for attendance. It is only to help you stay current.

READING

Completion of 100% of the reading.

WRITING

Satisfactory completion of all written assignments to the highest level you are capable. Also, the completion of any activities required in the modules (e.g., prayer, etc.).

ASSIGNMENTS

BOOK READING ASSIGNMENTS

- ✓ These are assignments for each session. It is recommended that the reading be completed by the day it is listed in the syllabus. However, no due date is hard and fast. Nevertheless, arguably, the more on-time you are with your reading, the more you will get out of BTI.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to mark up the book you are reading. We suggest reading with a red pen and highlighter to get the very most out of your reading. Interact with the book as you read it rather than just skimming.
- ✓ The reading for Systematic Theology **will not always coincide exactly** with the topic we are discussing that particular day. It is to double your exposure to important concepts, not necessarily simultaneously though.
- ✓ **You may not agree with everything you read** – use your critical thinking skills and prayer to formulate your position on controversial topics, keeping the love of the body of Christ as a priority as opposed to cultivating an ambition to be right on a gray area of belief.

BIBLE READING ASSIGNMENTS

- ✓ Whatever Bible books are being covered should be read before the BTI lecture on that book.
- ✓ You may also scan the Bible book instead of reading it, if you are short on time (although this is not the recommended method). Scanning means “speed reading” or reading the first verse of every paragraph, with the goal of covering a Bible chapter in 30-60 seconds.
- ✓ The goal is not to remember lots of detail but to get a macroscopic view of the book in the canon of Scripture.

BIBLE BOOK REVIEW (BBR)

- ✓ A Bible Book Review should include the following information:
 - ❑ **WHO:** Discuss the author and audience of the book.
 - ❑ **WHEN:** Discuss the date of authorship of the book.
 - ❑ **WHERE:** Discuss the location of the book's author and location of the audience at the time of writing, as well as the historical setting.
 - ❑ **WHY:** Discuss the purpose of the book as written to the original audience.
 - ❑ **HOW:** Provide a basic outline of the book and a few major themes.
 - ❑ Optional: Any other interesting features in the book that you learned in the lectures or your own reading or study of the book.
- ✓ NOTE: Some books will be combined BBR's (such as 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings or Nahum, Zephaniah, & Habakkuk)
- ✓ Possible sources to help you with Bible Book Reviews:
 - ❑ Introductions of each book in your study Bible (this is a major hint)
 - ❑ BTI lecture notes (primary source)
 - ❑ *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (see recommended books)

THEOLOGY ESSAYS

See the syllabi for specific details regarding each paper.

Books can be ordered through GraceEquip bookstore or Amazon. Required books are listed in each module's syllabus.

ENCOURAGEMENT

- ✓ As you put forth time and effort, the fruit in your life will be inestimable.
- ✓ Do not be afraid! Ask the Lord to help you with this – great effort will give great payoff
- ✓ Make BTI a priority by
 - ❑ Scheduling time several times per week to work on this
 - ❑ Making BTI homework a major part of your personal time with the Lord – you will be blessed!
 - ❑ Not waiting until the night before to try to do everything – you will lose out on the life-changing power of this discipleship opportunity.
 - ❑ (if you are married) scheduleing time to work on BTI at the same time – it will generate wonderful conversations between you as well!