



SYLLABUS

T104: Basic Theology: *Understanding the Big Ideas of the Christian Faith*

Dates: Classes meet on Monday evenings, January 28 - April 22nd, 6:30-8:00pm

Location: Randall University - The Barber Center, 2nd floor

Course Description:

Late in his life, the Apostle Paul wrote to his good friend and protege Timothy and gave him a final charge, "Keep a close watch on yourself, AND YOUR DOCTRINE (1 Timothy 4:16)." Paul knew that it was of utmost importance for a Christian to understand the big truths of the Christian faith so they could know God, trust God, and follow God in this life. In this 12 week course, we will keep a close watch on our doctrine, the "big ideas" of the Christian Scripture. We will search the 66 books of the Old and New Testament to see what God has to say about the Bible, the Trinity, the character of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Mankind, Sin, Angels and Demons, Salvation, the End Times, the Church, and Sanctification.

Course Policies:

It is encouraged that each student stay current on their reading for the class and come prepared to dialogue on the doctrine discussed each week. Additionally, the instructors will provide feedback on the written assignments submitted by students. Please make every effort to attend all 12 sessions of this class.

Required Textbook: *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith*, by Wayne Grudem. The textbook is recommended to be purchased prior to the first class session.

Course Assignments:

Class participants are encouraged to complete three primary assignments. The first assignment is to read the book "Bible Doctrine," by Wayne Grudem. Reading assignments will be encouraged in coordination with the class schedule. Each member of the class is encouraged to write a three page paper reflecting on one of the biblical doctrines discussed in class. The paper is due April 15. Additionally, there will be one take home exam that will be due April 22.

*See back for Course Policies, Course Schedule, and Instructor bios.

Course Schedule:

- January 28: - The Bible - Inspiration, Inerrancy & Authority (Mike Strauss)
- February 4: - The Bible - The Canon & Inerrancy, *Grudem chapters 1-3* (Mark Robinson)
- February 11: - The Trinity, *Grudem chapter 6* (Mark Robinson)
- February 18: - The Character of God, *Grudem chapters 4-5* (Mike Strauss)
- February 25: - Christology, *Grudem chapters 14-16* (Mark Robinson)
- March 4: - The Holy Spirit (Mark Robinson)
- March 11: - Mankind/Sin, *Grudem chapters 11-13* (Mike Strauss)
- March 25: - Salvation, *Grudem chapters 17-22* (Mike Strauss)
- April 1: - The Church, *Grudem chapters 26-30* (Mark Robinson)
- April 8: - Sanctification, *Grudem chapters 23-25* (Mike Strauss)
- April 15: - Satan, Angels, and Demons, *Grudem chapter 10* (Mike Strauss)
- April 22: - Eschatology, *Grudem chapters 31-34* (Mark Robinson)

Instructors:

Mike Strauss:

Mike is a physics professor at the University of Oklahoma. He conducts research in experimental particle physics using the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland, and was part of a team that discovered the Higgs Boson in 2012. Mike graduated with his B.S. from Biola University and his Ph.D. from UCLA. He has been at OU for 23 years and won a number of teaching awards, including being awarded a David Ross Boyd Professorship. Mike has taught many Bible classes to adults and has also served as an elder at Wildwood Community Church in Norman. He has given lectures at universities and churches throughout the world on the relationship between science and Christianity. Mike is one of the general editors of the Dictionary of Christianity and Science published by Zondervan, has recently written *The Creator Revealed: A Physicist Examines the Big Bang and the Bible*, and maintains a blog discussing science and Christianity at www.michaelgstrauss.com. Mike has been married to Julie for over 29 years and has two adult children, Zach and Christy.

Mark Robinson:

Mark is an Oklahoma native, who has been a part of the Norman community for most of the past 25 years. An OU grad, Mark had the privilege of coming back to Norman to join the staff of Wildwood Community Church 18 years ago. Mark has served the flock at Wildwood in a variety of roles over the years, and became the Senior Pastor in 2016. He has a Doctor of Ministry and Master of Theology degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary. Mark regularly posts to his blog (pastormarkrobinson.com) where he also shares a number of free Bible study books he has authored. Mark and his wife Kimberly have one son, Joshua.

Basic Theology - Class Paper

Due Date: April 15

Length: 3 pages, double spaced

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to help you articulate (in your own words) the key concepts related to one of the main Bible doctrines we covered in class. Here is a proposed checklist for writing this paper:

1. Pick a topic: Write about...

- The Bible
- God
- Jesus
- Holy Spirit
- Mankind/Sin
- Salvation
- Sanctification
- The Church
- Eschatology
- Angels & Demons

2. Do Research: A few things to do -

- Make sure you have read the relevant section of Grudem concerning the topic you have selected
- Make sure you read the sections of Scripture referenced in Grudem concerning the topic you have selected.
- You may consult any other resources you want for your paper, including commentaries, other books, internet articles, class notes, or other Scripture. This research is for your benefit. Do as much or as little additional research as you are able/desire.

3. Write Paper: Each paper should include the following -

- **Introduction** (include the topic you are writing about and why you think this topic is important for Christians today to think about/study.
- **Body of the paper** - Based on your research, summarize 3 or more main points you see about the topic. Support those points with the most important Scripture passages you saw and what those passages contribute to your understanding of the concept.
- **Conclusion:** At the end of the paper, conclude by writing about two or more key applications you have drawn from the topic (i.e. based on what you have learned about the topic, how will you respond? Are there wrong beliefs that you had that were corrected or clarified in this study? Is there a particular action you feel led to do or not do as a result of your study.

Turn in the paper: You can do this electronically (email it to markrobinson@wildwoodchurch.org and straussou@gmail.com) or turn it in in class on or before April 15.

Basic Theology Test Prep

Key verse Outline

Test: You will be asked to produce two key bible references from each topic below (references only . . . not entire passages.) It will be an online test, and you can use your Bibles for the test. Goal is to memorize some of these key references.

Test will be distributed electronically and is due back by April 22.

Key verses:

Week 1/2: The Bible

- 2 Peter 1:21
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 2 Peter 3:15

Week 3/4: Doctrine of God

- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Exodus 34:6-7
- Isaiah 46:9-10
- Jeremiah 32:17

Week 5: Christology

- John 8:58-59
- John 10:30-31
- Philippians 2:5-8

Week 6: Pneumatology (Holy Spirit)

- Mark 1:9-11
- John 14:12
- Galatians 5:16-25

Week 7: Humanity

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- 1 John 1:9

Week 8: Salvation

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8
- Ephesians 2:8-9

Week 9: Sanctification

- Colossians 2:6
- Philippians 2:12-13
- Galatians 5:19-25
- John 15:9-10

Week 10: Ecclesiology (The Church)

- Matthew 16:13-19
- Acts 1:8
- 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Week 11: Eschatology (End Times)

- Daniel 9:24-27
- Mark 13:28-32
- Book of Revelation

Week 12: Angelology (Angels and Demons)

- John 8:44
- 1 John 4:4
- Ephesians 6:12
- James 4:7