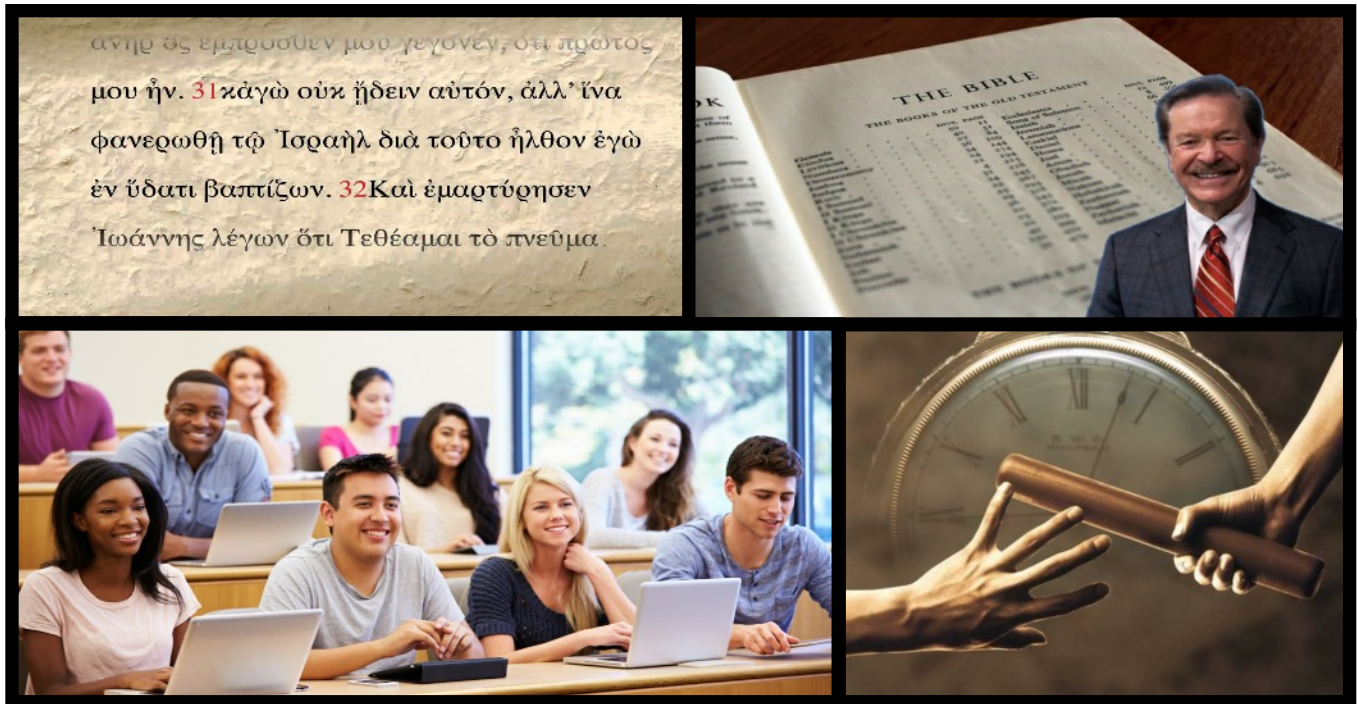


EMBASSY COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

Introduction to Theology

BT108

Dr. Mike Chapman

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Your Teacher:

The teacher for *Biblical Anthropology* is Dr. Mike Chapman. Dr. Chapman received his B.A. (*summa cum laude*) in Biblical Education from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee and his Th.M. in Pastoral Studies from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia. His doctoral studies were at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma, Washington and North American Biblical Seminary in Buffalo, New York where he earned the Doctor of Ministry degree.

Dr. Chapman is an ordained minister with the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) and has pastored the Lee Highway Church of God in Chattanooga, Tennessee since 1976. Prior to this, he served pastorates in Hawaii and California. He is a frequent speaker at church conferences, seminars, and convocations and serves on the part-time faculty of Lee University. Articles by Dr. Chapman have appeared in a variety of Christian and professional periodicals. He is also the author of **Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts** and co-author of **Discipleship: Discovering the Christ-Life** and **The Jesus Walk**.

Dr. Chapman and his wife, Trudy, have one son, Shannon, who is a student at Lee.

INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY: THE NATURE, ESSENCE AND CHARACTER OF GOD

Course Description

Theology: The Nature, Essence, and Character of God will explore the Christian doctrine of God. Emphasis will be placed on an apology for God's existence, the biblical description of his nature and divine essence. The Divine Trinity will be discussed as well as the Biblical names of God and the unique works of God as outlined for us in Holy Scripture.

Textbook:

The textbook for this course is **Knowledge of the Holy** by A. W. Tozer

Course Objectives:

1. To lead students to understand the importance of the pursuit of the knowledge of God.
2. To bring students to a biblical understanding of the nature, essence, and character of God.
3. To inspire awe and worship of God in the hearts of the students.

Course Delivery and Grading:

1. Students should attend all of the lectures and take careful notes.
2. The entire textbook must be read and thoroughly studied.
3. There will be a final exam which will consist of 100 questions. At least 30 of these questions will be from the textbook.

SESSION ONE

THE IDEA OF THEOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Theology is the science of God and of the relationship between God and the universe. Most often, this term is used in a comprehensive sense embracing various disciplines of study. These disciplines are usually divided into four categories:

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY: The discipline gives special attention to the teachings of individual authors and sections of the Scriptures and to the place that each of these teachings has in the historical development of Scripture and in progressive revelation (example: “What was the Old Testament concept of the Kingdom of God?”... “How did Jesus interpret the Kingdom of God to his disciples?”... “What was the Pauline doctrine of the Kingdom of God?”...etc.). It may be called a “verse-by-verse” theology.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: This discipline takes the material from biblical theology and seeks to construct an organic and consistent whole teaching of our knowledge of God and of the relationship between God and the universe. It is the more modern designation of what was once called “dogmatic theology.” It consists of the collection and the summary of the teachings of all biblical passages on a particular subject. (example: “The Theology of the Kingdom of God”). It may be called a “verse-to-verse” theology. Typically, systematic theology covers the major doctrines of the Christian Faith such as: The Doctrine of God (theology), The Doctrine of Revelation (bibliology), The Doctrine of Man (anthropology), The Doctrine of Christ (christology), The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (pneumatology), The Doctrine of Salvation (soteriology), The Doctrine of the Church (ecclesiology), and The Doctrine of Last Things (eschatology).

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY: This discipline traces the development of Christian doctrine from the time of the Apostles to the modern era and gives account of the results of this development in the life of the church. It demonstrates how Christians in different periods have understood various theological topics. (example: “The Kingdom Theology in the

Development of the Holy Roman Empire"...“The Kingdom Theology of the Puritan Christians”...etc.)

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY: This discipline considers doctrine as a means of renewing and sanctifying men. It is the practical application of Christian doctrine to the soul. In regard to the ministry of the church, practical theology is often called “pastoral theology” (example: “Living a Kingdom Lifestyle in the World”...“Preaching as a Means of Proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom”...etc.).

In this course, however, we are going to take the narrow definition of the term to mean the specific study of God: his existence, nature, essence, character and works. The possibility of this study is based on three fundamental truths:

1. The existence of a God who has relations with the universe.
2. The capacity of the human mind for knowing God and certain of these relations.
3. The provision of a revelation by which God is brought into actual contact with the mind.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD

A. Man was created to know God and only through knowing him does he have eternal life (John 17:3).

1. Sin cut man off from God’s presence.
2. Only through Jesus Christ can God’s knowledge and presence be restored to man (John 14:6).

B. Only through a knowledge of God can man gain the key that unlocks the mysteries of life and discover the purpose for his existence.

- C. The practical benefit of knowing God
 - 1. Contentment (Jeremiah 9:23, 24)
 - 2. Courage and confidence (Daniel 3:16-18; 11:32)
 - 3. God is pleased. (Hosea 6:6)

II. THE SOURCE OF THEOLOGY

- A. God himself is the only source of knowledge about himself (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:9)
 - 1. God has satisfied man's quest for intelligibility by revealing himself, his divine power and his will so that we may come to know him.
 - 2. Theology is a summary and explanation of the content of God's self-revelation.
 - 3. God has chosen to bring this revelation to man in two ways: general revelation and special revelation.
- B. General Revelation
 - 1. This revelation is called "general" because it is generally known and it is wider and more general in scope.
 - 2. The universe is a source of theology.
 - 3. It comes to all men through creation and the human conscience.