

XII. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: Each of the following descriptions provides a brief synopsis of the subject of each course offered at Berean Bible Institute.

** Indicates courses currently available as self-directed distance studies courses.*

A. GENERAL COURSES:



101 - DISPENSATIONAL SURVEY*: (*Two credit hours*) The Bible must be rightly divided (II Tim. 2:15), therefore, we are committed to studying it dispensationally. Although God's essential nature does not change, His dispensations toward man do change. This course gives an overview of the Bible from a dispensational point of view. It lays the groundwork for a lifetime of effective personal Bible study.

102 - APOLOGETICS*: (*Two credit hours*) Apologetics is a defense of the origin and absolute reliability of the Bible as a Book uniquely inspired by God. This course offers a comprehensive and systematic survey of the evidences of the truth and authority of the Scriptures. It will help to confirm the students faith and equip him or her to stand against the attacks of humanistic unbelief, to be knowledgeable in order to effectively witness in our high-tech and evolutionary thinking culture, and to maintain a strong and uncompromising stand for the infallibility of God and His Word in every situation. This course is especially recommended for those attending or planning to attend a secular college or university.

103, 104, 203, 204, 303, 304 - BIBLE EXPOSITION I, II, III, IV, V, VI: (*Twenty-four total credit hours*) This systematic expositional survey is divided into six courses that take the student through the Bible in three years (the books of Daniel, Acts, Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Revelation, the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets are also offered in separate study courses). Each book will be studied in its dispensational setting as part of all Scripture, (II Tim. 3:16). The primary textbook for these courses will be the Bible.

103* - (*Four credit hours*) This course begins with an in-depth study of the foundational book of Genesis and then moves on for a book by book study of Exodus through Deuteronomy. It provides the student with an understanding of the outworking of God's plan in reference to the creation, the flood, the nations, the special purpose of His chosen people, Israel, the Exodus from Egypt, the Tabernacle, the Priesthood, and their dispensational importance.

104* - (*Four credit hours*) This course begins with Joshua and moves through II Chronicles giving the student a working knowledge of the history of Israel as a nation in the Promised Land. The special purpose of God's chosen people, the establishment of the kingdom under David, the apostasy of Israel, the prophets God sent to Israel, the Babylonian Captivity, and how these things relate to the Millennial Kingdom and the present Dispensation of Grace is emphasized.

203* - (*Four credit hours*) This course looks at the history of Israel during the captivity and return from Babylon to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem, the intertestimonial years, and the time of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. Emphasis is given to the centrality of the Person and ministry of Jesus Christ to Israel's Messianic hope of a restored kingdom on earth. Covers Ezra through Esther and Matthew through John.

204* - (*Four credit hours*) This course is a survey of all of the Pauline epistles with special attention given to the purpose and doctrine of each in the context of Paul's ministry as the Apostle of the Gentiles who was especially commissioned to make known the Dispensation of the Grace of God (also offered is a more in-depth study of Romans and a systematic comprehensive review of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians as separate courses).

303 – *(Four credit hours)* A general introduction and survey of the Kingdom epistles of Hebrews through Jude. Emphasis is given to their message, dispensational distinctives, and doctrines in comparison with the Apostle Paul's epistles. Their relationship to God's prophetic kingdom program and their proper use and application during the present Dispensation of Grace is thoroughly examined. (Revelation, and Daniel are taught together in a separate course.)

304 – *(Four credit hours)* This course deals with the Poeticals, or Wisdom Literature of the Bible found in the books of Job through Song of Solomon. Each book will be studied in its dispensational setting as part of all Scripture, (II Tim. 3:16). The primary textbook for this course is the Bible.

105, 106 - BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINES I, II*: *(Four total credit hours)* A concise study of the important major doctrines of Scripture from a dispensational point of view.

105* – *(Two credit hours)* This course covers the introduction to Bible doctrines; the Bible, the Godhead, the Person of Christ, the Depravity of Man, Salvation, the Security of the Believer, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Gifts, and the Believers Walk.

106* – *(Two credit hours)* This course covers Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Resurrection, the Second Coming of Christ, the State of the Dead, and the Mission and Commission of the Church, Human Sexuality, Sanctity of Life, Christian Civil Responsibility, and Christian Stewardship.

107 - PERSONAL EVANGELISM & FOLLOW UP*: *(Two credit hours)* The student will learn first hand how to lead both adults and children to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Procedures for one on one witnessing, door-to-door evangelism, and evangelistic meetings will be taught. This is one of the most important classes an individual can take. In addition, how to follow up on a new believer in order to help them become established in the faith and begin walking in the spirit is taught.

108 – ROMANS*: *(Two credit hours)* This course systematically works through the important epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans. The study of this book is vital to the understanding of man's universal need of salvation, God's provision of salvation through Jesus Christ, God's offer of salvation by faith alone, the dispensational nature of the Bible, God's dealings with Israel, and living the Christian life by faith.

109 – DISPENSATIONAL HERMENEUTICS*: *(Two credit hours)* The study of how to correctly interpret the Bible from a literal and dispensational view. The sound and practical methods of personal Bible study which are essential to a proper understanding of the Scriptures will be examined and applied. This is an important course for those who want to be serious students of God's Word.

110 – ACTS*: *(Two credit hours)* This course is an expositional study of the book of Acts with special emphasis given to the importance of its historical aspects concerning the beginning of the Church (the Body of Christ), the dispensational transition into Grace, and their harmonization with the epistles of the Apostle Paul.

111 - STUDY SKILLS/PERSONAL FINANCE*: *(One credit hour)* The first eight weeks of the semester are devoted to helping the student develop good study skills and habits, enabling them to obtain the most from their studies. This is especially important for those who have not experienced formal education beyond the high school level. The second eight weeks deal with personal finance to help individuals wisely manage their personal finances following Biblical principles. A practical course that teaches people how to get out of debt and stay out of debt.

112 – CULTS & WORLD RELIGIONS*: *(Two credit hours)* This course gives special attention to the distinctive errors that characterize the religious systems of the cults. The main emphasis is given to the true message of God’s Word enabling the student to recognize erroneous teachings whenever and wherever they are encountered. An overview of the beliefs of the major cults in America and how to reach individuals caught in the spiritual darkness of a cult or false religious system with the message of God’s Grace in Jesus Christ is also given.

113 – ENGLISH*: *(One credit hour)* To be successful students or teachers, individuals must have the ability to communicate effectively. This course is provided to help students to improve their speech and writing skills. This is a specially programmed course designed to make learning of English grammar a positive experience.

115 – PUBLIC SPEAKING*: *(One credit hour)* The ability to communicate effectively is important in all areas of life. The goal of this course is the development of basic oral communication skills to give the student confidence in extemporaneous speaking giving their testimony, presenting a devotional message, etc. Training in public speaking is an immediate step in preparing for the work of the ministry.

116 – BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW*: *(Two credit hours)* The major worldviews are compared and contrasted with Biblical Christianity. This study shows how non-Christian values and belief systems have negatively influenced the thinking of our times. The incredible clarity, coherence, and truthfulness of the true Christian worldview is highlighted and affirmed. This is a two credit hour course that meets for only one hour per week.

201, 301 - PASTORAL MINISTRY I, II: *(Four total credit hours)* This course focuses on the local church as God’s primary ministry in this Dispensation of Grace. Paul’s letters, particularly to Timothy and Titus, provide the principles for Pastoral Ministry.

201 – *(Two credit hours)* This course covers the training of elders, church growth, and the pastoral job description, along with an examination of contemporary issues from a Biblical perspective.

301 – *(Two credit hours)* This course covers the practical structure of church polity, leaders and leadership, church services, congregational needs, and marriage and funeral services.

202, 302 – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION I, II: *(Four total credit hours)* This course provides a general overview of the purposes, principles, and practices of Christian education within the local church.

202 – *(Two credit hours)* This course covers the history of Christian education and the importance of developing effective educational ministries in the local church. The content and methods of Christian education is dealt with.

302 – *(Two credit hours)* This course covers the organization, development, and maintenance of educational ministries for children, youth and adults within the context of the local church and its outreaches. The establishment and operation of Christian day schools and camps will also be dealt with.

205, 206, 305, 306 – PRACTICAL DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY I, II, III, IV: *(Eight total credit hours)* Theology is the study of God. Systematic Theology is the ordered study of the great doctrines of God’s Word, the Bible. Dispensational Theology is the systematic in-depth study of the great doctrines of Scripture according to the Biblical principle of right division (II Tim. 2:15). Practical Dispensational Theology is the study of dispensational theology with an emphasis on the application of Biblical truths to both the individual believer’s life and in the context of the corporate Body of Christ. **BBi**’s program covers these doctrines in four courses as follows:

205 – *(Two credit hours)* The introduction to Dispensational Theology, and the doctrines of Bibliology (revelation, inspiration, authority, and the dispensational character of the Bible); Theology Proper (the existence of God, the nature of God, the eternal purpose of God, and the works of God).

206 – *(Two credit hours)* The doctrines of Angelology (the nature and activities of angels); Anthropology (doctrine of man, his creation, nature and fall).

305 – *(Two credit hours)* The doctrine of Soteriology (doctrine of salvation; the Person of the Savior, the provision of salvation, and the application of salvation); the doctrine of Zoeology (doctrine of Christian life and ministry).

306 – *(Two credit hours)* The doctrines of Ecclesiology (doctrine of the Church, baptism, and the Lord's Supper), and Eschatology (the doctrine of future things - death, the intermediate state, the resurrection, the judgments, and the final state).

207 – THE MAJOR PROPHETS*: *(Two credit hours)* This course focuses on the ministry, message, and person of each of the major writing prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel (Daniel is covered briefly since it is covered in depth in 308 Daniel & Revelation). The study looks at the significance of each prophet's time and place in Israel's history, their relationship to the false prophets of their day, the dispensational importance of their messianic prophecies, and the character of each prophet.

208 – THE MINOR PROPHETS*: *(Two credit hours)* This course is a survey of the twelve Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi). Attention is given to the background, life, and major focus of the message of each of these prophets of God. Special interest is applied to the dispensational importance of their pre-millennial messianic themes.

209, 210 - HOMILETICS I, II: *(Four total credit hours)* How to study for, prepare, and deliver sound and relevant messages from God's Word.

209 – *(Two credit hours)* Covers the introduction of the basic purpose, principles, and the importance of preaching from the Bible. The student is presented with the need for personal Bible study and spiritual growth with an emphasis on relying on the power of God and His Word in preaching. This class focuses on the necessity of the preacher preparing himself before preparing his message, while teaching him how to put together and deliver Biblically sound sermons.

210 - *(Two credit hours)* This course is a follow-up to Homiletics 209. It helps the student to further develop the Biblical approach to studying, preparing and the delivering of topical, textual, and expository sermons. The student will examine the different types of sermons and will be expected to form and present messages of each kind before a live audience.

211, 216 - BIBLE COUNSELING I* & II: *(Three total credit hours)* Bible Counseling is the use of the truths found in the Scriptures to help people work through their problems. In these classes, the foundation of God's Word is used to show the sufficiency of God's grace as revealed in His Word through the Lord Jesus Christ for facing the issues and challenges of life.

211 – *(Two credit hours)* This course presents the Bible as sufficient for providing answers for all of man's personal problems in every area of life, and as such shows how it is to be used for dealing with one's own personal problems or in counseling others who are in need. Bible Counseling is shown to be the Christ-centered and Holy Spirit empowered practical application of Biblical truth to an individual's life with the goal of spiritual victory, maturity, and fruitfulness toward God.

216 – *(One credit hour)* This course focuses on the practical application of God's grace as the answer to the problems encountered in life by individuals, with the centrality of the Lord Jesus Christ being emphasized. Students will gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the Dispensation of the Grace of God as they learn how it applies to personal problems. They will also learn why a "law-centered" legalistic approach to life is actually the root cause of many of the personal problems that people have.

212 - CHURCH HISTORY*: *(Two credit hours)* An overview study of the major events affecting the church from the time of the Apostle Paul to the present. A knowledge of Church History is essential to understanding the doctrinal and practical issues that led to the formation of the various denominations and other groups that exist today.

213 - MANNERS & CUSTOMS OF THE BIBLE*: *(One credit hour)* This course studies the manners and customs of the people of the Bible. This background information helps to bridge the culture gap that exists between then and now in order to help the student accurately interpret the Bible.

215, 220 - BIBLICAL GREEK I, II: *(Four total credit hours)* These courses serve as an introduction to New Testament Greek studies.

215 - *(Two credit hours)* This course supplies the student with an understanding of how to use Greek study helps and provides a foundation for understanding Greek grammar, beginning with the Greek alphabet and moving on into vocabulary, verb tenses, and translation.

220 - *(Two credit hours)* This course builds on the studies of Biblical Greek I by further presenting New Testament Greek grammar, providing the student with an increasing understanding of Greek translation. **215** Biblical Greek I is prerequisite for taking this course.

218 - MINISTRY LEADERSHIP: *(Two credit hours)* This course is designed to instruct the student in various aspects of Biblical Leadership. The student will also be exposed to the importance of assessing and determining the core values, mission and vision of a ministry. Because of their training at **BBi** some students will be seen as leaders. It is essential for our students to understand God's view of leadership and how to lead others to make an impact for the Lord Jesus Christ.

307 - MISSIONS & CHURCH PLANTING*: *(Two credit hours)* These two subjects deserve to be handled together as they enhance each other and compose a vital part of the local church ministry.

MISSIONS - Using Paul's missionary methods, a workable mission philosophy will be taught. Present world fields will be looked at with an introduction to Grace missionaries currently laboring in them.

CHURCH PLANTING - Extending the local church at home and in foreign lands was the Apostle Paul's desire and God-given mission. The Pauline pattern of church planting will be studied as the example the church of today is to follow.

308 - DANIEL & REVELATION*: *(Two credit hours)* Because of their intricate relationship to each other these two important prophetic books will be studied together and compared. Emphasis will be given to their dispensational perspectives and how they relate to other Bible books as well as the prophecies found in them concerning the fulfillment of God's purpose for the nation of Israel, and the Lord Jesus Christ's Second Coming in power and in glory.

311 - CHRISTIAN WRITING: *(One credit hour)* This course presents the need to effectively communicate by encouraging letter writing. Beyond this it promotes formats for writing articles, newsletters, tracts, printed Bible studies etc.

312 - EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, AND COLOSSIANS*: *(Two credit hours)* A systematic review of the Apostle Paul's prison epistles to local churches. Special attention is given to Paul's distinctive message of God's Grace in Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ's heavenly position and hope as revealed in these important letters.

315 - MUSIC AND SONG LEADING: *(One credit hour)* Students are taught how to lead/conduct congregational singing. It includes how to choose appropriate hymns to enhance sermonic themes in worship and church services. Some time will be spent in researching the history of sacred classical music for use in the local church services.

317 – ADVANCED HERMENEUTICS: *(Two credit hours)* In this class the student will put into practice the principles of dispensational hermeneutics and inductive Bible study. Various passages of Scripture will be looked at. The practical exercise of sound Bible interpretation is the focus of this class. Special attention is given to each text and its context, the use of figures of speech, symbols, idioms, parables and allegories. (**109**-Dispensational Hermeneutics is prerequisite for taking this course).

319 – YOUTH MINISTRY: *(Two credit hours)* This class focuses on the basic principles of conducting youth work in the local church setting. Effective methods of youth ministry, Biblical counseling, activities, soul-winning, and camp will be covered.

321 – CROSS CULTURAL STUDIES: *(Two credit hours)* This course is designed to instruct the student on the importance of understanding a given culture. The student will also be made aware of the potential problems that can arise should one not seek to understand the host culture and tries to simply impose their own cultural understanding on those with whom they seek to minister. By understanding the cultural nuances one can minister more effectively and with less difficulty. This is critical to successfully carry out ones mission to proclaim the gospel of the grace of God.

322 – THE LIFE OF CHRIST*: *(One credit hour)* This course focuses on the life of the Lord Jesus Christ from a three-fold perspective. It looks at the Lord's life as presented in prophecy; the manner and purpose in which He carried out His earthly ministry as found in the Gospel Records; and from His heavenly position today as the Head of the Church. Emphasis is given to His role as the Suffering Servant, His Headship of the Church, and how members of the Body of Christ are to serve Him today.

324 – THEOLOGY IN MISSIONS: *(Two credit hours)* This course is designed to view missions through the ministry of the Apostle Paul. The theological basis for mission is born out of God's commission to and through the Apostle Paul and God's strategy for leadership, evangelism, training and establishing churches on the mission field.

B. SPECIAL CLASSES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: In addition to the classes listed in the preceding schedule, **BBI** offers special courses each semester.

These following two classes are offered to promote the understanding and application of the Biblical principles that pertain to the relationships that exist between a husband and wife, and parents and their children. **1001**-Biblical Principles of Family Life: and **1002**-Biblical Principles of Married Life: or their equivalents are required for graduation from **BBI**.

1001 – BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY LIFE: *(Two credit hours)* Offered during the fall semester, this is a special class on understanding and applying the Biblical principles of personal relationships within the family. With the moral fabric of our nation already badly eroded by the persistent flow of humanistic thought into the mainstream of our culture, the traditional views of the family and moral ethics are quickly fading away. This course is designed for those who are sincerely interested in learning how to protect their own families from the destructiveness of worldly philosophies and to help others do the same through the application of the Biblical principles of parenting and other family issues. Class size is restricted for this course, so those desiring to attend should sign up as soon as possible. Single people are allowed to attend. A husband or wife may take the class without their spouse, but married couples are strongly urged to attend together if at all possible.

1002 – BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF MARRIED LIFE: *(Two credit hours)* Offered during the spring semester, this is a special class on the Biblical principles of marriage. With the institution of marriage under assault because of the increasingly secularist/humanistic worldview that has permeated our society, it is vitally important that those who want a secure marriage understand the Biblical principles of marriage, and how to apply them in their own relationship. The roles and responsibilities of husbands, wives, and couples as well as how to solve the most difficult problems of married life will be covered. Those who are interested are encouraged to sign up for the class as soon as possible. Single people are allowed to attend. Married couples are strongly urged to attend together if at all possible.

The following special courses are offered as needed according to the Courses Offered (Section XI) schedule.

1005 & 1006 – WOMEN IN MINISTRY I, II*: *(Two credit hours each)* These classes are offered “as needed” opposite of Pastoral Ministry courses. These classes are for any woman who has a desire to grow spiritually and to learn more about what the Bible teaches about being a Godly woman. They are especially recommended to those who are planning to be pastor’s wives, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, etc. *No pre-requisites are required for these classes.*

1007 – ADVANCED PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR WOMEN: *(Two credit hours)* This course is offered during the fall semester in conjunction with 209 Homiletics I. **Berean Bible Institute** recognizes that God uses women in ministry in unique and powerful ways. Women use their gifts on the mission field, in the home, or speaking at women’s retreats or Bible Studies. It is essential that they receive training to effectively present God’s Word wherever He provides the opportunity. Advanced Public Speaking for Women is designed to give them training in preparing and presenting the Word of God in an effective way in a group setting. *115 Public Speaking is a prerequisite for taking this course if the student has no prior public speaking credits.*

C. INDEPENDENT STUDIES: These courses are formatted in such a way as to allow the student to complete them during a semester without spending time in class. The student receives a syllabus and curriculum and periodically meets with an academic advisor to discuss course content and progress.

1101 – READINGS IN MISSIONS: *(Two credit hours)* This course is designed to further introduce the student to various works in the field of World Missions. The student will be assigned specific reading and writing assignments as well as be required to meet with a faculty member concerning the progress of the students work. *307 Missions and Church Planting is a prerequisite for taking this course.*

1102 – READINGS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: *(Two credit hours)* This course is designed to further introduce the student to various works in the field of Christian Education. The student will be assigned specific reading and writing assignments as well as be required to meet with a faculty member concerning the progress of the students work. *Either 202 Christian Education I or 302 Christian Education II must be taken as a prerequisite for taking this course.*

D. SPECIAL MINISTRY COURSES: **BBI** occasionally arranges special ministry seminars in which students may participate to earn credit as an elective or in meeting requirements of a particular program. These courses are designated as **1200** level courses and are announced as scheduled.

E. GRADUATION COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS: A student graduating from **BBI** with a Diploma of Advanced Biblical Studies or Bachelor of Ministry is required to complete both a ministry practicum (hands-on experience) and a student ministry project (written thesis).

1301 – MINISTRY PRACTICUM: The **Berean Bible Institute** Ministry Practicum is a practical training course that combines real hands-on ministry experience under the mentorship of a ministry professional. This course is done through a non-traditional format in that it is measured based on the supervised time spent under a ministry mentor’s direction. Students who participate in the Ministry Practicum must complete at least 100 hours of supervised experiential training. It allows the student to participate in various ministry experiences in their chosen field of study. Students are required to meet with a faculty advisor at the beginning of their graduating year to map out how this requirement will be accomplished. No student will be allowed to graduate unless this requirement is fulfilled.

- Pastoral Studies – The Ministry Practicum for Pastoral Studies students may include the following: preaching, teaching Sunday School, visitation, attending church board meetings, and observing or participating in both weddings and funerals.
- Missions – The Ministry Practicum for Missions students may include the following: deputation, on site mission field ministry such as evangelism, visitation, care ministry, church planting, teaching, and supporter follow up.
- Christian Education – The Ministry Practicum for Christian Education students may involve the following: Christian camp ministry, child evangelism ministry, Christian education within the local church, and teacher training.
- Interdisciplinary Studies – The Ministry Practicum for Interdisciplinary students may include the following: working for a Christian para-church organization such as a Bible society or publisher, a rescue mission, a Bible college or institute, or a Christian relief ministry.

Upon completion students are required to submit a Practicum Resume detailing the ministries performed in meeting the requirements of the Practicum. The student must have their Practicum Resume read and signed by their practicum ministry supervisor, before it is turned in to their advisor. Practicums must be completed at least two weeks prior to graduation.

1302 – STUDENT MINISTRY PROJECT: A student ministry project is the process in which a student plans and completes a thesis paper in the subject of the track the student will graduate in, either Pastoral Studies, Missions, Christian Education, or a broader topic in Interdisciplinary Studies. The process is structured with regular meetings with a **BBI** advisor or faculty member in which the student will present and discuss his or her topic, research, outline, contents, etc. The thesis is required to contain at least 20 pages of written content. Any student ministry project must be approved by an academic advisor.