

FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELISTS AND MINISTERS



Advanced Course

Introduction

This Advanced Course offered by the Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers covers every major topic in the Holy Bible. You will be expected to submit a 20,000-word thesis on completion of the course. Please contact your tutor regarding the proposed subject of the thesis before commencing it.

As you complete each section please email or mail it to your tutor for inspection and marking, and he or she will return it to you as soon as possible. You will find your tutor's details on the front of the course booklet. Do not hesitate to contact him or her if you need assistance or have questions relating to this course.

Please relax and work on this course in your own time, as there is no need for you to rush through it. It is our prayer that it will bless, encourage and edify you as you seek to know more of God's wonderful Word.

Section 1

The Major Prophets

1. Write a short paper on at least one important theme from each of the four Major Prophets listed below:
 - a) Isaiah
 - b) Jeremiah
 - c) Ezekiel

d) Daniel

2. Explain as fully as possible the ways you think the Book of Daniel compares with the Book of Revelation regarding the Last Day events?
3. Write a sermon or Bible study outline on a text found in any one of the Major Prophets.

Section 2

The Minor Prophets

1. Write an account of the ministry of one of the Minor Prophets and describe any of his successes or/and failures.
2. Compare and the work of any two of the Minor Prophets, one whose ministry was to Israel, the other to Judah.

Section 3

The Inspiration and Canon of Scripture

1. Why is it important to have a proper understanding of the Doctrines of Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible?
2. Can you suggest reasons why some theologians claim that the Doctrine of Divine Inspiration might lead to a mechanical understanding of Scripture?
3. Each of the Gospels reveals the personality of the author. Additionally, they differ in details recorded. Explain how this can be true if they are truly inspired by God rather than the work of men.
4. There are some who state that the Old Testament does not have the same measure of Inspiration as the New Testament. How would you answer such a charge as this?
5. "Authority does not come from Earth but from Heaven" - discuss this in light of the Canon of Scripture.
6. Present a argument supporting the equal validity of the Canonicity for both Old and New Testaments.

7. Is the Apocrypha worthy of study for the Conservative Evangelical Christian? State your reasons for or against.

Section 4

The Doctrine of God

1. What do we mean when we state that God is a "Person"? Do you have a better way of expressing this to enquirers?
2. Write a short article on the links you see between the names and attributes of God.
3. (a) What does Holy Bible teach concerning the relationship between the Persons of the Godhead / Trinity? (b) What are the special characteristics of each Person?
4. Theologians often use the word "Providence" instead of "God". Suggest reasons why this ought to be avoided when preaching and teaching God's Word.
5. Select two names of God; show their historical background and their relevance for the present-day believer.

Section 5

The Doctrine of the Son of God

1. Explain why the question of the Person of Christ is important to a proper understanding of Scripture.
2. Give an account of one evangelical theologian's view of Christ, and debate his conclusions.
3. From Scripture alone, prove that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly God.
4. What Scriptural evidence would you offer someone who believes the "Jesus Only" doctrine to reveal that his belief system is faulty?

Section 6

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

1. (a) What do you consider to be the Jesus' teaching concerning the Holy Spirit? (b) Do you think that there are any differences from, or additions to, what Jesus taught concerning the Spirit in i) Acts of the Apostles; ii) The Epistles?
2. (a) How far do you see the Holy Spirit at work in the Church today? (b) How do you think present activities in some churches compare with that of Apostolic times?
3. It is said that the Holy Spirit is the Executive Officer of the Godhead / Trinity. Discuss this.
4. (a) How do you understand the phrase that speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ as "a man full of the Holy Spirit"? (b) Do you think this detracts anything from His Deity?
5. It has been suggested that the Holy Spirit is the neglected Member of the Trinity. (a) State whether you agree with this idea, and give your arguments as to how He might be accorded due recognition. (b) To what degree is it possible, if it is indeed possible, to over-emphasize the ministry of the Spirit?

Section 7

The Westminster Confession

1. (a) Outline the areas of conflict amongst evangelicals on the question of the Inspiration of Scripture. (b) Present the case from your own view.
2. (a) To what lengths should the theory of "accommodation" be carried? Give reasons for your view.
3. Read the chapters on Padian (Infant) Baptism and Election in the Westminster Confession. Do you consider that there are Biblical grounds for the stand taken on these subjects? Provide Bible references reasons for or against each of these.

Section 8

Church History

1. What do we mean by the word "Church" in the phrase "The Church of Jesus Christ"?
2. What do you understand the words "Church History" to mean?
3. Where in Scripture do we find a record of the birth of the Church? Explain.
4. Please answer this four-point question:
 - a) How did the first persecution of the Church originate?
 - b) Who was the first martyr of the Church?
 - c) Where shall we find mention of the first Gentile Christian Community?
 - d) What do you know about the earliest Church council and why it met?
5. With regards to the evangelisation of the Gentiles, who were the two apostles with whom this great work was specially associated? Write a brief article on their ministry.
6. Some theologians teach that the apostolic age ceased in the first century. Argue either for or against this particular theory.
7. Answer the following two-part question.
 - a) Where do we find the first Apostles' Creed?
 - b) Briefly comment on each statement of the Apostles' Creed.
8. How many ordinances are ordained in the New Testament, and what are they?
9. According to the New Testament, only two offices are recognised in the Christian Church. Name them?
10. Who was the first "Christian Emperor"? Do you believe that he deserved such a title?
11. To whom does the phrase "The Morning Star of the Reformation" apply? Explain why.
12. Provide an estimation of the influence of John Wycliffe or John Hus on the Reformation in England?
13. Describe the importance of Erasmus in the work of Bible Translation.
14. (a) What do you know of the Renaissance? (b) Where do you see its influence in the spiritual field today?
15. Construct a short biographical sketch of the life and ministry of Martin Luther.
16. Research either Zwingli or The Diet of Worms and write brief notes on your topic.
17. Obtain a copy of "Calvin's Institutes". Briefly describe the book's importance for today, as well as in the time of John Calvin.

18. How far do you think the Reformation under Henry VIII was: -
(a) Politically and personally motivated
(b) Religiously motivated.
19. Indicate something of the part played by Henry VIII in making the Scriptures available in England.
20. How were the Puritan's feelings expressed in England at the time of the Civil War, giving attention to the role of Oliver Cromwell?
21. Describe the conditions in England at the era referred to as "The Evangelical Revival."
22. Write biographical notes on any one of the following:
a) John Wesley
b) John Newton
c) George Whitefield
d) Charles Spurgeon
23. What do you understand by the term "Oxford Movement"? Describe the aims and purposes of this society.
24. Write an assessment of any two of the following:
a) Lambeth Conference
b) The Salvation Army
c) World Council of Churches

Thesis

You are now required to submit a 20,000-word thesis. Your thesis must be typed not handwritten. It is advisable to make print a second copy of your work. Please discuss the subject of your thesis with your tutor before commencing.

Suggested structure for your thesis:

Title Page.

Title (including subtitle), author, institution, date.

Table of Contents.

List all headings and subheadings including page numbers.

Chapter headings and sub-headings if necessary.

Paragraphs should be double-spaced (as used in this study booklet).

Introduction

You cannot write a good introduction until you know what the body of the paper is about. Consider writing the introductory section after you have completed the rest of the thesis,

rather than before. Be sure to include a 'hook' at the beginning of the introduction. This is a statement of something sufficiently interesting to motivate your reader to read the rest of your work.

Conclusion

What is the strongest and most important statement that you can make from your observations? If you met the reader at a meeting six months from now, what do you want them to remember about your thesis? Include the broader implications of your results.

References

Cite all ideas, concepts, textual data that are not your own as footnotes on each page. Please use the small number e.g. ^{1,2,3} to identify footnotes. All references cited in the text must be listed.

Bibliography

After your conclusion, add, in alphabetical order, the sources you quote from, making use of the title, author, page, publisher and date format.

Book List recommended by the Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers

A History of Christianity, K. S. Latourette, Prince Press
Believer's Bible Commentary, William MacDonald, Nelson
Bible Doctrine, Wayne Gruden, IVP
Boyd's Bible Handbook, Robert Boyd, Harvest House
Christian Theology, Alister McGrath, IVP
Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, Walter Elwell, Baker
History of the Reformation, J. H. Merle d'Aubigne, Baker
In Defence of the Faith, Dave Hunt, Harvest House
Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin, Collins
New Bible Dictionary, IVP
New Dictionary of Theology, IVP
New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, R. F. Youngblood, Nelson
Old Testament History, Charles F. Pfeiffer, Baker
Outline of Theology, A.A. Hodge, Banner of Truth
Systematic Theology, A. H. Strong, Pickering and Inglis
Systematic Theology, Wayne Gruden, IVP
Systematic Theology, John Miley, Hendricksons
The Fundamentals for the Twenty-First Century, Couch, Kregal
The Other Side of Calvinism, Laurence M. Vance, Vance Publications
The Pilgrim Church, E. H. Broadbent, Gospel Folio Press
The Reformation, Will Durant, MJF Books
The Westminster Confession, G. I. Williamson, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co
Thompson's Chain Reference Bible, Kirkbride
Today's Handbook of Bible Characters, E. M. Blaiklock, Bethany Publishing House
What Love is This?, Dave Hunt, Loyal.