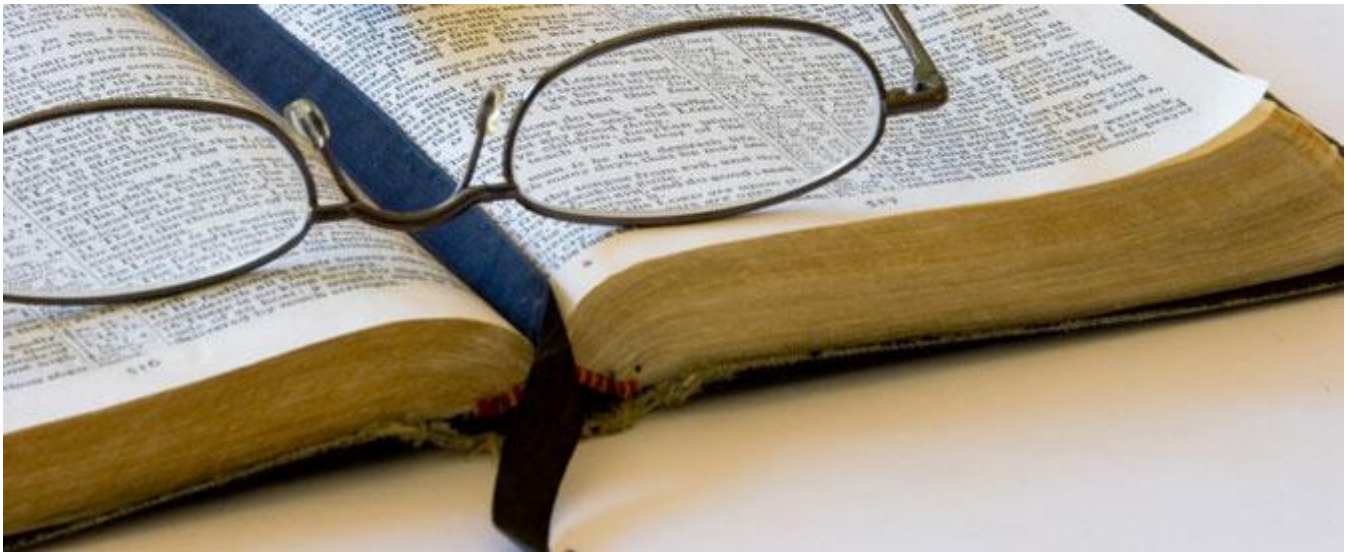


Central Texas

Academy of Christian Studies

*An Enrichment Bible Studies Curriculum
Imparting the Faith, Strengthening the Soul, & Training for All
Acts 14:21-23
A work of the Dripping Springs Church of Christ*

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31-32)



"And He Himself gave some to be...pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Mission

The Academy of Christian Studies (ACS) is a work of the Dripping Spring Church of Christ and under the oversight of its shepherds. It exist to glorify God by fulfilling the great commission: "Make disciples of all the nations," teaching them to observe all things commanded by the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20). It is likewise devoted to following the example of the early church in both strengthening the souls of believers and training them for ministry (Acts 14:21-23; 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus). Thus, the Academy of Christian Studies is committed to teaching the biblical text, apart from denominational bias or creed. With an avowed commitment of faithfulness to the sacred text, each textual course will focus entirely upon the Bible itself. Related subjects will be explored in a variety of additional courses, but as with every class, our mission will remain the same, to glorify God and to remain faithful to the biblical text.

Purpose

ACS offers a unique opportunity to study God's word within a structured setting. Courses are free and open to anyone, regardless of religious background, race, or creed, and they are designed to meet the needs of all adults who have a desire to know more about the word of God. ACS offers a unique opportunity to study God's word within the context of a formal classroom setting. Courses are open to anyone, regardless of religious background, race, or creed, and they are designed to give committed students an opportunity to survey the entire Bible and to examine the precepts and principles for Christian living, ministry, and a biblical worldview.

Core Themes

Biblical Competence

ACS exists to help equip the church and improve society worldwide by developing biblically informed Christians through offering quality courses on a more demanding level than those offered in the normative Sunday/Wednesday school traditional model. ACS affirms that biblical studies are the central integrating factor of its programs, with the firm belief that a biblical worldview serves as the structure for student transformation and contribution to society.

Academic Proficiency

ACS is committed to providing a quality educational experience where students who choose to enroll in its classes are highly encouraged to take notes and to work on a volunteer basis outside of class. Faculty are likewise charged with the responsibility of providing an enriched classroom experience that is scholarly and yet practical in nature.

Spiritual Formation

ACS exists to promote the spiritual and personal development of each student by assisting, counseling, and motivating students as they mature in their Christian faith. We are also committed to the development of independent and lifelong learners who understand and contribute to society, integrating their Christian faith and learning both into the church and the world.

Format

Classes will be conducted over a 6 to 8 week time period, or over a three day period following the a short course model. Classes conducted over the 6 to 8 week period will be two hours in length at each session. The short course model will consist of the following: Thursday – 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM; Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Saturday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

Session Calendar

Session I (January through February) – Offered either during the day or at night

Session II (March Weekend Course) – Offered in a single weekend setting

Session III (May Short Course) – Offered in a single weekend setting

Session IV (September – October) – Offered during the day or at night

Session V (November Weekend Course) - Offered in a single weekend setting

Weekend Course Schedule: Thursday – 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Faculty

ACS courses are taught by academically qualified instructors who are loyal to Christ, and committed to faithfully teaching the Bible as the inspired and authoritative word of God.

Academic Awards

General Bible Studies Award (I, II, and III) – Students must meet the audit requirements of no less than three courses (students are not required to take examinations or write papers). Audit students are required to be present for each class session and present a notebook to the instructor at the end of the course, simply to verify that they have “heard” and received the teaching presented in the class. Notebooks must contain notes from each class lecture and any handouts provided by the instructor. No assessment will be made or grade awarded for either the notebook or the course as a whole. Audit students who have met the criteria for participating in four courses will be awarded the General Bible Studies Award – Level I. Students who have met the criteria for participating in 6 courses will be awarded the General Bible Studies Award II; 9 Classes for level III and so on.

General Studies Bible Certificate – Presently this award is not available. However, as ACS continues to expand the requirements for this award will be as follows: To receive the General Studies Bible Certificate, students must earn at least 8 credit hours and possess at least a cumulative C average or above in all four courses.

Diploma of Biblical Studies – Presently this award is not available. However, as ACS continues to expand the requirements for this award will be as follows: The Diploma of Biblical Studies is designed to engage the learner in an overview of the Bible, major themes, and the historical, geographical, and theological settings of the Bible. Attention will also be given to the methods of Bible study and the principles of biblical interpretation, as well as to key doctrines of the faith, such as God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and the church. Students must earn at least 24 credit hours and possess at least a cumulative C average in all eight courses. Basic core courses will be required as specified by the director in a individualized and tailored made academic track per student.

Course Offerings

Bible

General Education

BIB 90 Introduction to the Bible - ESL* - A general introduction to the Bible taught within the context of an English as a Second Language setting. The basic structure of the Bible, key ideas, events and people will be presented at a comprehension level appropriate to non-English speaking students who are at a basic level of their English language capabilities.

BIB 101 Bible Survey - Understanding the Bible – Seeing the Big Picture

Seeing both the big picture of the Bible's story and the individual library of books is essential to properly understand scripture. To facilitate that understanding, this course provides an overview of the history, literature, themes, major persons, key events, and geographical setting of the Bible. Special emphasis will be given to the key principles and general concepts related to understanding the framework and message of the Bible, which will enable students to properly interpret and apply each of its component parts. Attention will also be given to the related topics of the history of the Bible, hermeneutical principles, canonization, and the redemptive theme of Scripture.

BIB 105 Advanced Introduction to the Bible - An introduction to the Bible which addresses the topics of how we got the Bible, the authority and inspiration of Scripture, basic Bible content and advanced introductory textual issues, and comparative religious studies (apologetic).

BIB 106 Life of Christ - A survey of the gospel accounts of the life of Christ, designed to introduce students to both historical and thematic content of the Gospels from which practical applications can be drawn.

BIB 107 Acts through Revelation - A survey of the books of the New Testament from Acts through Revelation.

BIB 205 Survey of the Old Testament - A survey of the books of the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi, designed to acquaint students with OT historical chronology and events, OT wisdom and prophetic literature, as well as such themes as the acts and nature of God, His covenants with mankind, and the morality He expects of man.

BIB 206 Christian Thought - A survey of major biblical doctrines designed to help the student identify distinctive Christian thought.

BIB 317 Bible Land Geography - A study of the geography, environs, and culture of the lands mentioned in the Bible as they relate to the events of ancient eastern history.

BIB 417 The Land and The Book: Studies in the Land of Israel - Designed to enhance sermon and classroom instruction for preachers and teachers of the Bible, this extremely helpful and practical course will focus on understanding the geography, history, and archaeology of the Bible Lands and its

geopolitical and cultural backgrounds and settings from both the ancient and modern eras. Students will be required to learn about the geography of Israel (which includes the elements of climate, topography, geology, hydrology, archaeology, and horticulture) and the major theological themes associated with the geography and settings of the Bible story. Understanding the content of these elements and themes, and being able to participate in an actual field study, will better equip teachers and preachers for sermon and lesson development as they seek to explain and defend the biblical text. A Bible Land studies course will bring color, clarity, and a deeper understanding to many customs, words, and practices of the peoples and settings of the Bible story and its historical and geographical context. Students completing this course will never look at the Bible in the same way again. Their understanding and knowledge of the biblical text will grow at an exponential rate. The information and experiences gained from the course will put enrollees in a better position to fully exegete the biblical text, share the word, defend the faith, and evangelize the lost. This course will also allow students to grow on a personal level, both educationally and spiritually. A trip to the land of the Bible is unique, exciting, and helpful, but to walk and study in the land where Jesus walked is both enlightening and transformative.

Textual Studies

BIB 304 Ministry Epistles - An exegetical study of the text of 1-2 Timothy and Titus with an emphasis on defining an appropriate doctrine of leadership.

BIB 305 Galatians and Romans - An exegetical study of the text of Galatians and Romans with emphasis upon the concept of law, gospel, grace, and faith.

BIB 306 Acts - A study of the text of Acts with special attention to the establishment, growth, and distinctive features of the first-century church.

BIB 307 Hebrews - An exegetical study of the epistle to the Hebrews with emphasis on the distinctive contributions of the author to New Testament thought.

BIB 308 I Corinthians - A general study of I Corinthians focused on practical applications, moral choices, and healthy church dynamics and relationships.

BIB 309 Prison Epistles - An introductory historical and exegetical study working toward practical applications in the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

BIB 310 Synoptic Gospels - A study of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke with a critical introduction to the synoptic problem and exegesis of selected texts in the three gospels.

BIB 311 General Epistles - An introductory historical and exegetical study working toward practical applications in selected passages from the General Epistles.

BIB 312 Gospel of John - An in-depth study of the Gospel of John with special attention to introductory material and critical questions.

BIB 313 Pentateuch - A study of the first five Old Testament books with special attention to developing themes, historical and exegetical studies, and applications for the church.

BIB 315 Joshua-Esther - An examination of Israel's history from their establishment in the Promised Land to their return from exile, drawing upon historical, exegetical, and archaeological materials.

BIB 401 Old Testament Wisdom Literature - A study of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, and the Song of Solomon with special emphasis on content, teaching, historical backgrounds, and New Testament citations.

BIB 402 Luke-Acts - A survey of Luke-Acts with special emphasis upon the doctrinal similarities and the overall themes and purposes of Luke's writings.

BIB 403 Major Prophets - A study of the historical, social, political, and religious backgrounds of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Selected passages will be used in understanding the importance of the message of the prophets for their own day and in the present.

BIB 405 Minor Prophets - A study of the historical, social, and religious backgrounds of the prophets Hosea through Malachi. Attention is given to the importance of the message of the prophets to their own period and to the present day.

BIB 406 Acts - A study of the text of Acts with special attention to the establishment, growth, and distinctive features of the first-century church.

BIB 407 Revelation - An exegetical study of the text with special emphasis given to the various theories of interpretation, and the nature of apocalyptic literature.

BIB 408 1-2 Corinthians - A general study of Corinthian correspondence focused on practical applications, moral choices, healthy church dynamics and relationships, and authenticity.

BIB 412 Gospel of John - An exegetical study of the Gospel of John with special attention to introductory material and critical questions.

Biblical Language Studies

BIB 160 Introduction to Greek - This course is an introduction to Greek. Students will learn the Greek and Hebrew alphabets, basic issues in grammar, methods of doing word studies, and the use of basic tools for biblical languages.

BIB 161 New Testament Greek I - The essentials of New Testament Greek language including vocabulary, the basic inflections, and syntax.

BIB 162 New Testament Greek II - A continuation of Greek I. Prerequisite: BIB 161.

Doctrinal Studies

BIB 343 Old Testament Doctrine - A study of the major themes developed in the Old Testament including God, mankind, and nature of revelation, sin, salvation, prophecy, God's eternal purpose, and mortality.

BIB 344 Christian Evidences - A study of the evidences for the existence of God and the Bible as God's inspired revelation. Emphasis given to internal and external evidences of the inspiration of the Bible.

BIB 345 New Testament Doctrine - A study of the overall life of the Christian in the Church. The righteousness of God, faith, salvation, morality, and a comprehensive view of God's purpose in Christ are emphasized.

BIB 346 Contemporary Religious Doctrines - An examination of the theology and systems of doctrine found in modern denominations in comparison to Biblical teaching.

BIB 347 Scripture Interpretation - A study of the history of hermeneutics focused on understanding the various theories of Biblical interpretation and interpreting the biblical text using the principles of exegesis.

BIB 348 New Testament Church - A study of the biblical teaching concerning the identity, nature, composition, history, purpose, and evangelistic thrust of the New Testament Church, with a special emphasis upon the conditions of entry and the implications for Christian practice and lifestyle.

Practical Ministry

BIB 225 Introduction to Ministry Seminar - An introduction to ministry which employs a variety of self-discovery instruments to help the student understand the nature of ministry and its methods.

BIB 320 Personal Evangelism - Methods of and motives for personal evangelism are combined with laboratory and field experiences in personal and home Bible study.

BIB 321 Educational Program of the Church - The teaching program of the church is described and its organization studied. Emphasis is given to methods of teaching and characteristics of good Bible teachers.

BIB 323 Sermon Preparation and Delivery - An introduction to homiletics with emphasis on preparing and delivering effective, Biblical sermons through classroom practice and critique.

BIB 327 Religious Speaking for Women (3 credits) - A study of homiletics and textual applications with an emphasis on developing religious presentations of special interest to women's groups and seminars.

BIB 329 Women in Christian Service (3 hours) - A study of the opportunities for Christian service available to women in contemporary society, with a focus on the history of women in Christian service, the service of women as described in the biblical text, and practical applications.

BIB 351 Youth Ministry (3 credits) - A practical course designed to introduce the goals, needs, programs, methods, materials, and structure of a youth ministry program in a local congregation. Emphasis will be given to understanding adolescents, and to the particular responsibilities of a youth minister.

BIB 352 Ministerial Counseling (3 credits) - A practical course designed to introduce the skills and biblical texts needed in church ministry counseling. Course topics include paradigms of ministerial

counseling, problems commonly encountered in ministry, counseling men and women, understanding your own natural style, knowing when to refer, and developing a network of trusted referral resources.

BIB 413 Teaching the Bible - A practical study of the techniques and tools for bringing the Biblical text into a practical, classroom situation.

BIB 415 Personal Spiritual Development - A practical study of spiritual development based in scripture while exploring journaling, the spiritual disciplines, classic spiritual literature, and the history of spirituality.

History and Religion

REL 341 History of the Church - A survey of the history of the Church from the post-apostolic period to modern times, with an emphasis on major personalities and movements as they inter-acted to formulate basic Christian doctrine. The doctrinal developments will be analyzed through the biblical texts on which they were based.

REL 342 Restoration Church History - A survey of how the idea of restoring the New Testament church in modern times developed into a Restoration Movement in America from the 18th century to the present. Concepts integral to the Movement such as, defining the New Testament Church, unity, salvation, music in worship, congregational leadership, fellowship, hermeneutics, etc., will be considered.

REL 371 Christian Ethics - A survey both of ethical teachings of the Bible and traditional ethical theories and their applications will be examined. This survey is integrated with a study of the foundation and application of Christian ethics as defined through a biblical perspective, including such topics as the nature of God, the role of Scripture, and the role of the church in making ethical decisions.

REL 372 Philosophy of Religion - A general introduction to and a biblical perspective of the major issues and theories in the philosophy of religion, including the nature of reality, logic and rationality, the existence of God, religious experience, the problem of evil, and ethics.

REL 373 Contemporary Religious Issues - A study of religious issues of concern to the contemporary Christian. The objective of the course is to develop a worldview which is philosophically sound consistent with the biblical text. Using that worldview, this course will examine such contemporary religious issues as Biblical truth, postmodernism, pluralism, and diversity. Other social issues, such as abortion, homosexuality, and the changing roles of women, will also be discussed.

REL 441 Major World Religions - A historical and comparative analysis of the major living world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam. Key religious concepts such as, divinity, revelation, spirituality, community, liturgy, cosmology, ethics and eschatology will be compared to and contrasted with the corresponding biblical perspective.