



Seminary Catalog 2012-13

"They read from the Book of the Law of God making it clear and giving the meaning so the people could understand what was being read." - Nehemiah 8:8





The Bible Seminary
 Bible study classes, Bible Certificates, Master of Divinity degree
We've got a place for you! Located in Katy!



Welcome to The Bible Seminary!

For nearly two thousand years, Jesus Christ and the 66 books known collectively as the Bible have shaped the history of our planet. The records and teachings within this singular document span the beginnings and prophetic end of the universe as we know it, and this content has been heard by, held by, read by, and studied by more people, and adapted into more forms of media expression, than any book in history.

The influence of Christ and the Bible have been major driving forces in the rise and fall of nations, the beginning and end of wars, exploration, enlightenment, renaissance, passionate expansion of civilization, and compassionate action. The sweeping impact is visible in nearly every sector of cultures and major institutions worldwide, and the essence of many public and private debates includes the understanding and significance of scripture and of Jesus Christ.

At the Bible Seminary, we believe these facts warrant reverence, and we firmly believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, crucified Savior, and resurrected Lord, and that the Bible is the fully true Word of God. Rooted in fervent prayer and heart-felt compassion, we aim to glorify God by training Christian believers in a context of biblical community in all 66 books of the Bible so they can serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God's Spirit.

This student catalog has been prepared to provide information about the seminary, including our policies, programs, and people. For more information, contact the seminary's main office at:

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 281-646-1109
 info@thebibleseminary.org
 www.TheBibleSeminary.org

Our Mission

The Bible Seminary exists to glorify God by training Christian believers in a context of biblical community in all 66 books of the Bible so that they can serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God’s Spirit.

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The Bible Seminary admits qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

About Us

The Bible Seminary is a 501(c)(3) non-denominational institution of higher education incorporated in the state of Texas in 2010. Located in the Katy area on the west side of Houston, Texas – the fourth largest city in the United States and the only mega city not home base to a major, residential seminary – The Bible Seminary offers an 8-course Bible Certificate program for laity, as well as a 32-course, 96-hour Master of Divinity program for professional, vocational ministry training.

Unique features of The Bible Seminary include:

- A foundational commitment to distinctively clear doctrinal and ethos statements, and 7 core values – the Lordship of Christ, the Bible as the fully true Word of God, Prayer, Unreached Peoples, the Local Church, Community, and Compassion.
- A vital emphasis on in-depth training in all 66 books of the Bible.
- A comprehensive curriculum that integrates the biblical books into instruction in the standard historical, theological, and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for 21st century ministry.
- A campus environment and degree program that directly engages students in mentored local church ministry throughout their degree program.
- Special Master of Divinity degree elements that include a Holy Land trip for all students (and spouses), ministry tools (provided computer or tablet, software, and training), and a number of distinctive experiential and best practice ministry experiences integrated throughout the program.

Administration and Faculty



Dr. Jim Leggett, *President and Faculty*, has been a Christ-follower for 30 years. He is the husband of Lisa and the father of Smith, Grace, and John David. He is the founding president of The Bible Seminary. Jim holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University, a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary. Jim has been in the ministry for 21 years and is the founding pastor of Grace Fellowship UMC – a fifteen-year old church plant in Katy, Texas whose vision is to be a house of prayer for all nations. Two of his lifetime goals are to preach through all 66 books of the Bible at Grace Fellowship and to trust God to reach 10 unreached people groups. Jim believes that there is a dynamic tie between the local church and a life-giving Bible Seminary.



Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, *Executive Vice-President/Provost and Faculty*, is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and an Elder and Full Member of the North Georgia Annual Conference. He received a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Georgia, a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Asbury Theological Seminary. He has a diverse professional background in business, education, and ministry as an engineer, senior pastor, director, and CEO. He has served in leadership on a number of ministry and professional boards, and served as a short-term missionary in Bolivia, Haiti, India, and Korea. His productions and publications include articles, books, cable TV show, dissertation, magazines, musical, songs, videos, and web sites. He and his wife, Wendy, have three children: Krista, Mark (Stuy), and Scotty.



Mr. Rick McCalip, *Vice-President of Finance and Administration*, retired from ConocoPhillips in August 2010, after 34 years of service primarily in safety and environmental program management. Upon retirement, he began immediately serving as a volunteer for The Bible Seminary, assisting with the initial capital campaign and establishing initial organizational plans and accounting procedures. Rick received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma in 1976. He and his wife, Elaine, have one married son.



Mr. Matt Larsen, *Communications Director*, grew up in Katy, Texas where he was involved in the Jr. High and Sr. High ministry at Grace Fellowship. He graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. in Journalism and minors in Religion and World Affairs in 2012. While at Baylor, he served at Antioch Community Church where God placed on his heart a passion for seeing the local church change the world. He served on short-term mission trips to Uganda, Haiti and North Africa while in college and hopes to go overseas long-term in the future. He also loves to tell stories of God's work in and through His people. Matt married the former Abbey Adams in October 2012.



Mrs. Abbey Larsen, *Administrative Coordinator*, grew up in Conroe, Texas. During her college years, she developed a passion for serving children and families, and graduated from Baylor University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Child & Family Studies. She has a desire to see God use His church to transform communities around the globe and has served on short-term mission trips to Uganda, Haiti and North Africa while at Antioch Community Church in Waco. Abbey has a six-year-old son, Matthew, and is married to Matt Larsen.



Mrs. Janice Havins-Hamric, *Institute Administrative Assistant*, retired after 35 years with Katy ISD as a teacher and librarian. She was graduated with a B.S. in Education, Master of Education Degree, and Master of Library Science Degree. She is active on the Prayer Altar Ministry Team, the Freedom and Healing Prayer Team, and serves as an assistant to teaching pastor, Paul Helbig, at Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church in Katy, Texas. She recently co-authored *From Misery to Ministry: A Walk of Faith Through the Loss of a Loved One* (Tate Publishing, 2011), with Brian and Leah Foutz. Janice and her husband, Steve, enjoy quality time with family members, especially granddaughter Justice.



Dr. Jim Hamilton, *Adjunct Faculty*, is a family man, avid basketball player, seminary professor, and preaching pastor. He currently serves as the Associate Professor of Biblical Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and as preaching pastor of Kenwood Baptist Church. He formerly served as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Houston campus and was the preaching pastor at Baptist Church of the Redeemer. He has written "God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment: A Biblical Theology, and God's Indwelling Presence: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments" (Crossway Books, 2010), and has contributed chapters to many other books, and authored many scholarly articles.



Rev. Paul Helbig, *Faculty*, began his ministry working with suicidal teenagers while attending Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He attended the College of Biblical Studies in Houston, Texas, and spent seven years serving as a full-time Youth Pastor shepherding a handful of youth into a vibrant ministry of 150 students in a church of 300 members. While serving as Co-Director for The Center for Youth Ministry at the College of Biblical Studies, he received his Masters in Bible from Dallas Theological Seminary. After teaching Bible Study Methods and Old Testament in the Bible exposition department at the College of Biblical Studies, he accepted a position as Teaching Pastor at Grace Fellowship UMC in Katy, Texas. He is passionate about face to face discipleship through Scripture, prayer, and practical ministry. He and his wife, Krystal, have six elementary through teenage children.



Dr. Israel Loken, Adjunct Faculty, was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. He graduated from Lancaster Christian School in Pennsylvania in 1986, graduated Lancaster Bible College in 1990, received his Th.M. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) in 1996, and a Ph.D. from DTS in 2001. He has taught at Dallas Christian College, served as a Teaching Assistant for the Bible Exposition department at DTS, served as an Adjunct Professor at DTS since 1999, and taught at the College of Biblical Studies since 2000 and where he currently serves as the Department Chair for both Bible and Theology. His Loken Exposition Commentary series includes three published volumes to date. He and wife, Kimberly, live in Tomball, Texas.



Dr. Linda Pattillo, Adjunct Faculty, is a career educator and missionary. After serving as a Greek Tutor and Adjunct Professor of Hebrew at Oral Roberts University, and an Adjunct Professor of Hebrew at Phillips Seminary, Dr. Pattillo has spent nearly 30 years as an Itinerant Missionary for Natan Ministries teaching biblical studies and pastoral development and spiritual formation in such diverse locales as Argentina, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia (Slovak Republic), Latvia, Norway, Poland and various domestic locations. She has vast experience in research and study in the Holy Land, including regular research work helping present the life and teachings of Jesus in their original cultural and linguistic settings in association with Jerusalem Perspective's synoptic scholar, David Bivin. Dr. Pattillo is married to Dr. Phillip Pattillo, recently retired from BP America, and they have two children and several grandchildren.



Dr. Steve Sullivan, Adjunct Faculty, served twenty years as a pastor and currently serves as Chairman of the Ministry Skills Department and Professor at the College of Biblical Studies (CBS), Houston, Texas. He has been published in Christian periodicals, is an author of numerous articles, and was awarded the Who's Who Among American Teachers in 2003, 2004 and 2005. He is a member of the Pre-Trib Study Group, Evangelical Theological Society, the Society of Biblical Literature and Tyndale House in Cambridge. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (1973) from the University of Oklahoma and is a registered pharmacist in Texas and licensed in Oklahoma as a Doctor of Pharmacy. He also earned a Master of Theology (1979) and Doctor of Ministry degrees (2000) from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is a candidate for Ph.D. in Theological and Biblical Studies at the University of Wales Trinity St. David. Steve and his wife, Vicki, were married in 1975 and have two children, Samuel and Andrew.



Blake Wilson, Adjunct Faculty. Blake has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Southwest Texas State University, and Master of Arts in Christian Education from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has served in Youth Ministry since 1994, served as Co-Director of The Center for Youth Ministry at the College of Biblical Studies for seven years, and currently serves as Pastor of Crossover Bible Fellowship in Houston, Texas. Blake has been married to Dr. Ronique Wilson since 1994, and they have two children, Reagan Faith Abrielle Wilson and Robert Chance Priest Wilson.

Board of Trustees

- Mr. Dan Dunham, *Chair*
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- Mr. Eugene Chambers
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- Rev. Charles Wisdom

Core Values



Our official seal includes our name, slogan, titles and symbols of our seven core values (below), as well as our date of incorporation and reference to a key Bible verse integral to our mission – Nehemiah 8:8, “They read from the book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.”



Lordship – Because He is Lord (Philippians 2:11), we will continually ask Jesus Christ to sit on the throne of the seminary and on the throne of the lives of its faculty, administrators, and students for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).



Bible – Because the Bible is the fully true Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16), we will offer and require the study of all 66 books of the Bible before graduation with a degree. We will seek to creatively integrate classical theological disciplines and ministry training by studying books of the Bible (i.e. Church History will begin with the Book of Acts and keep going; Pastoral Leadership will come through the study of the Pastoral Epistles; Systematic Theology will flow out of the study of the Pauline Epistles).



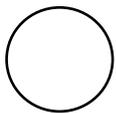
Prayer – Because apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5), we will continually seek to plug into the Vine Jesus Christ through yielding to Him in prayer. We will offer a unique emphasis on prayer including classes on prayer, a school of prayer, prayer faculty, and multiple prayer opportunities in the life of the seminary.



Unreached Peoples – Because the return of Christ awaits the evangelization of all people groups (Matthew 24:14), we will keep our eyes on the unreached peoples of the world and train our students to have a heart for the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) by seeking to reach millions of souls for Jesus Christ.



Local Church – Because the local church is God's plan (Matthew 16:18), we will be based at a local church and have a symbiotic relationship of service and training including internships, volunteerism, and prayer/worship opportunities.



Community – Because we were created for community (Genesis 1:26; Romans 12:5). We will seek to build a campus-based fellowship where the “one anothers” of Scripture are lived out, where authenticity and accountability are practiced, and where integrity is modeled and taught.



Compassion – Because God has a huge heart for the poor and overlooked (Matthew 25:31-46), we will strive to motivate, equip, and train students to minister to “the least of these” as a lifestyle.

Doctrines

The Bible Seminary recognizes that different doctrinal issues have varying levels of importance that relate to Christian fellowship, so we have divided our doctrinal statement into two categories: *Convictions* and *Persuasions*.

We define *Convictions* as core beliefs of the Christian faith that we would die for and break fellowship over, while *Persuasions* are beliefs that we are persuaded about and for which we would argue.

We recognize that many Bible believing Christians have taken different stances on persuasion issues, but we believe that we can co-exist in the same seminary (and Body of Christ) and have different stances on these persuasion issues.

While The Bible Seminary employees and leaders are in 100% agreement with our core convictions, faculty members are welcome to take different positions on persuasion issues. Professors are free to teach their own persuasion as long as they also comprehensively present the seminary's official position on these issues (as outlined below). We seek faculty and students who passionately share the same belief convictions and who are comfortable studying alongside others who may or may not share the same belief persuasions.

Convictions

Core beliefs of the Christian faith that we would die for and break fellowship over.

- We believe in the authority of Scripture – The Bible is the Word of God, fully true, and is our authority for all that we believe and do (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18). We hold to the inerrancy of Scripture as outlined in the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy.
- We believe in God – There is one true God who exists eternally in 3 Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 14:9; Acts 5:3-4,9; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3).
- We believe in the deity of Christ – Jesus Christ is Lord being 100% God and yet 100% Man, born of a virgin birth as affirmed in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds (Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-2,14; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:13-20; Hebrews 1:8).
- We believe in substitutionary atonement – Jesus Christ died on the cross as our substitute – taking upon Himself the penalty of the sins of fallen humans (John 1:29; Romans 3:25-26; 5:8, 12-19; Galatians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18).
- We believe in the resurrection of Christ – Jesus rose from the dead in a bodily resurrection defeating sin and death (Romans 6:4-9; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6).
- We believe in salvation by grace through faith alone – A person is saved from eternal separation from God as a free gift when that person places their faith in Jesus Christ who is the only way to the Father (John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 21:27).
- We believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ – Jesus Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead (Matthew 24-25; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19-21).
- We believe in heaven and hell – Believers in Jesus Christ will be resurrected to everlasting blessedness and joy in eternal fellowship with God (1 Corinthians 15:35-57; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-5). Unbelievers will be resurrected to conscious separation from God and eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41,46; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:10-15; 21:8).

Persuasions

Beliefs that we are persuaded about and for which we would argue; however, we would not die for these issues or break fellowship over them. The following is the official stance of the seminary, but faculty and students are welcome to believe differently:

- End Times View – Jesus will rapture His church (believers) before the tribulation period described in Revelation 6-19 (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:1-11; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 3:10). Jesus will return in a glorious appearing to set up a 1000-year Kingdom before throwing satan into the lake of fire and ushering in a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 19-22).
- Predestination – We are persuaded that the Bible clearly states both positions (free will and election) and, thus, we are persuaded they must work together but our finite minds cannot comprehend this mystery (Romans 3:11-12; 5:12; John 6:44; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:4-5,11; Romans 9:11-16; 12:3; Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 26:28; John 10:11,26; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25; John 6:37; Acts 13:48; John 1:9; 12:32; 16:8; Matthew 11:28; Revelation 3:20; Romans 4:4-5; 8:29; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 John 2:2; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 2:1; John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4; Hebrews 4:2; Matthew 23:37; Luke 7:29-30).
- Eternal Security – God empowers a believer to believe to the end of his or her life (John 10:27-29; Romans 8:28-39; Philippians 1:6; Jude 24).
- Supernatural Spiritual Gifts – Supernatural spiritual gifts still exist today. Speaking in tongues is a valid gift for the church today (1 Corinthians 14:39) and should operate under the boundaries of 1 Corinthians 14. One such boundary: Tongues confuses unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:23) and therefore should be expressed in believers' settings such as prayer groups and personal prayer. Another such boundary: Supernatural spiritual gifts should operate in love (1 Corinthians 13) and should edify the church rather than just edifying oneself (1 Corinthians 14:4). Tongues may accompany being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6) but is not THE sign that a person has been filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31; 8:17; 9:17-18; Ephesians 5:18).
- Baptism – The local church can offer to those who have placed their faith in Christ any of the 3 modes of water baptism that have been practiced in church history: immersion (Romans 6:3-4), pouring (Acts 2:17-18), and sprinkling (Ezekiel 36:25-27). Water baptism does not save anyone but rather is an act of obedience (Luke 3:13-17; Acts 2:38-39; Luke 23:39-43). Faith in Jesus Christ is what saves a person (Ephesians 2:8-9). There is possible biblical support for both infant dedication (1 Samuel 1:27-28) and infant baptism (Genesis 17:10-14; Luke 18:15-17; Acts 16:15,33; 1 Corinthians 1:16).
- Communion – Communion is an outward sign or symbol of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We believe that God is active in the Communion ritual imparting His grace to us. To participate in Communion is more than just a picture – it is to actually participate (commune) with Christ (1 Corinthians 10:14-22). We do not believe that the bread and juice turn literally into the actual flesh and blood of Christ.
- Spiritual Warfare – Satan and demons exist. They were defeated through the cross but will not be thrown into the lake of fire until the Second Coming (Revelation 20:10). Believers have authority in Jesus' name over demonic powers. Believers may be oppressed by demons but not possessed (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:15). Prayer is an essential weapon for the church in this on-going battle (Mark 11:17; Acts 12:5,12).
- Women in Ministry – Because the Scriptures (both OT and NT) give numerous examples of women having spiritual authority over men, we are persuaded that God does call and equip women for pastoral ministry in the church today (Judges 4:4-9; 1 Samuel 25; 2 Kings 22:14; Esther 4:16; Micah 6:4; Luke 13:13; 24:10; John 4:28-30; Acts 18:18,26; 21:9; Romans 16:1,3,7; 1 Corinthians 1:11; 11:5; Hebrews 11:2,11,13,23,31,35; 2 John 1). We acknowledge this belief as a persuasion but, as the above is the official stance of the seminary, we ask that all faculty and students be sensitive in their handling and discussion of this issue for the sake of sister faculty members and students.
- Church Government – Several different church government configurations can fulfill the Bible's description of church government including episcopal, congregational, and elder board.

Where We Stand On Some Controversial Social Issues

We acknowledge that the following social issues have brought much pain and division in some churches, and we do not approach these issues lightly or glibly. But we also acknowledge that, at the heart, these are authority of Scripture issues. To us, the Bible is clear on these issues, and therefore, we take a strong stand:

- *Homosexuality* – God loves homosexuals (John 3:16) and we believe homosexuals should be welcomed and encouraged to attend the local church (Mark 2:17). At the same time, we believe the practice of homosexuality is a sin (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Genesis 19; Jude 7; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Timothy 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Therefore, we believe that repentance is the pathway to church membership. After repenting of sin and turning to Christ, any person (including a homosexual) should be encouraged to become a member of a local church. Any former homosexual considering leadership in a local church should be welcomed and encouraged to do so. In keeping with 1 Timothy 3, we would ask such a person to wait for a period of time in order to demonstrate a track record of freedom over their former life of sin. We would ask this of any new believer. We do not believe in the ordaining of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals. We do not believe in ceremonies that celebrate same-sex unions.
- *Abortion* – We believe that the life inside a mother's womb is a real human created in the image of God (Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5) and, therefore, that abortion is murder and is wrong/sin (Exodus 20:13). We believe that God offers full forgiveness to an abortive mother/father who has turned to Jesus Christ (Col 2:13-15; Eph. 1:7).

Ethos

It is a high honor and privilege to represent God to people by being in the ministry and training for ministry. When people see someone "in the ministry," they see that person as representing Christ's church. It is for this reason that the Bible outlines in 1 Timothy 3 some of the expectations and qualifications of a leader in the church. It is very important for each member of the seminary community (no matter what their position) to seek to live up to these standards (with God's help and empowerment). Thus, we ask each member of the seminary community to covenant to lead a life that is "above reproach" as defined by the following Ethos Statement. The heart of this document is healthy community full of grace and truth (John 1:17).

As a member of the seminary community, I agree, with God's help and empowerment, to live by the following ideals to the best of my ability:

- I will seek to walk with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (Genesis 5:22; John 17:3; Mark 12:29-31; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- I will seek to have no other gods than Jesus Christ (Exodus 20:3-6; 1 Peter 3:15). I will seek to keep myself from idolatry (1 John 5:21) by not making idols out of money, sex, power, people, material things, school, or ministry success.
- I will work as "unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:23-24). I will give God my best in my family, in my job performance and in my training for ministry.
- I will refrain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). If I am married, I will be faithful to my spouse (Exodus 20:14). If I am single, I will remain celibate in my singleness. I will not engage in homosexual practice (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- I will refrain from drunkenness or the use of illegal drugs (Ephesians 5:18). I will not allow a substance to control me, rather I will seek to be controlled by God. If I choose to "drink socially," I will do so in a way that does not cause other people to stumble (1 Corinthians 8).
- I will practice Biblical conflict resolution. If someone hurts or offends me, I will go to that person and speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15,25) and forgive them (Ephesians 4:32). If this does not resolve the issue, I will then involve a second person as prescribed in Matthew 18:15-17. I will not slander another

person by talking negatively about him/her without him/her present (Ephesians 4:31). I will seek to build others up with my words (Ephesians 4:29). If I cannot bring resolution through these steps, I will seek counsel.

- I will be respectful of those in authority over me and submit to their leadership (Hebrews 13:17) unless they were to call me to do something contrary to Scripture (Acts 5:27-29). I will seek humbleness in my life (1 Peter 5:5-6).

The purpose of this Ethos Statement is order (1 Corinthians 14:40) and to uphold integrity, respect, honor and character (2 Timothy 2:20-22). There is plenty of grace in this community for mistakes (James 5:16), whereas there is not room in this community for blatant and unrepentant rebellion (1 Corinthians 5). I agree to do my best to live by this Ethos Statement with God's help and power through Jesus Christ and for His glory.

Facts

- Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) institution of higher education in State of Texas, 2010
- Non-denominational
- Executive Officers
 - Founder and President – Dr. James E. Leggett, Sr. Pastor of Grace Fellowship UMC, Katy Texas
 - Executive Vice-President/Provost – Dr. K. Lynn Lewis
 - Vice-President of Finance and Administration – Mr. Rick McCalip
 - Board of Trustees Chair – Mr. Dan Dunham
- Exemption granted by Texas Workforce Commission, March 2011
- Exemption granted by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, May 2011
- Affiliation with Association for Biblical Higher Education approved, April 2012
- 8-course, Bible Certificate program
 - First Bible Certificate classes offered, 2008
 - 699 students have enrolled in classes since 2008
- 32-course, 96-hour Master of Divinity program
 - First M. Div. classes offered, Fall 2012
 - Unique Features
 - In-depth training in all 66 books of the Bible
 - Comprehensive, relevant curriculum for the 21st century ministry
 - Local church mentoring and training opportunities throughout the entire degree program
 - Special program elements
 - Holy Land trip
 - Technological ministry study and resource tools
 - Multiple experiential learning opportunities
- Commitment to distinctively clear doctrinal and ethos statements
- Commitment to seven core values
 1. Lordship of Christ
 2. Bible as fully true word of God
 3. Prayer
 4. Unreached Peoples
 5. The Local Church
 6. Community
 7. Compassion
- Current Location – Great Southwest Equestrian Center grounds and the adjacent 30-acre campus of Grace Fellowship UMC in Katy, Texas

History

The passion for a vibrant Bible-based, Christ-centered, Mission-focused training center for church laity and professional ministers began in the life and ministry of Dr. Jim Leggett, founder and senior pastor of Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church in Katy, Texas. Founded in 1996, this church of more than 2,700 members has a weekly average attendance of 2,800 meeting on a 30-acre campus adjacent to and acquired from the Great Southwest Equestrian Center on South Mason Road in Katy. Church facilities include a 1,500-seat worship center, a three-story 20,000 square foot office/prayer complex, a 25,000 square foot children's building, and a comprehensive 30,000 square foot youth center. Work is currently under way to build a new two-story, 28,000 square foot children's ministry addition.

The idea for the seminary began in 1996 when Grace Fellowship UMC envisioned creating a school offering seminary-level training to laity. Initially visualized as a "Growth Institute", the idea evolved into a "Bible Institute" under the leadership of Grace Fellowship UMC Teaching Pastor, Paul Helbig – a former teacher and key leader at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston, Texas. In the spring of 2008, the church officially established a Bible Institute to begin teaching laity a series of courses covering all 66 books of the Bible. The classes were designed to be highly engaging and transformative, a joy and not a burden, taught by seminary-trained, credentialed instructors, and more intensive than typical Bible studies, but not quite as intense as a full-level seminary class.

The Bible Institute courses included Bible Study Methods (the first and only prerequisite class), three Old and three New Testament classes, and one Missions perspective class. Each course is one semester in length, and students generally meet one night per week in 2 or 3 hour sessions. Since the spring of 2008, more than 400 students have enrolled in Bible Institute courses, including approximately 120 students enrolled in the Fall 2011 semester. The first twelve students to complete all eight courses are scheduled to finish the Bible Institute program track in December 2011.

Also in 2008, several key Grace Fellowship UMC members began working diligently with Dr. Leggett and others to develop The Bible Seminary as a separate, non-denominational organization, including establishing bylaws, a Board of Trustees, core values, doctrines, ethos, financial support, incorporation in the state of Texas, institutional policies, and a program track for a three-year Master of Divinity degree aimed at attracting full-time, residential students. These tasks were completed or advanced significantly under the leadership of seminary Board Chair, Dan Dunham, and seminary Vice-President of Finance and Administration, Rick McCalip.

In the fall of 2010, the newly elected Board officially named Dr. Jim Leggett President of The Bible Seminary, and hosted a fundraiser targeted toward the Grace Fellowship UMC congregation. Ultimately, more than 260 church members and friends committed in excess of \$1,100,000 to help launch the seminary.

In December 2010, the Board launched a nationwide search for an Executive Vice-President/Provost. In July 2011, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis – a dynamic professional with more than 25 years of experience as an entrepreneurial businessman, educator, fundraiser, and ministry leader – accepted this position. A former administrator at one of the largest private Christian schools in Georgia for 9 years – where he helped lead the advancement, communications, programming, and campus redevelopment of a 236-acre, 1700 student school – Dr. Lewis is also an ordained United Methodist minister with 8 years of experience as a senior pastor. A former engineer, founder and President of the media communications company, InspireUSA, Inc., he has worked in both public and private secular and Christian schools, colleges, and universities; published and produced articles, books, a cable TV show, magazines, music, web sites, and videos; served as CEO, Board Chair and a board member of a variety of community, educational, and ministry organizations; and helped raise more than \$35 million for churches, ministries, and schools.

In March 2011, The Bible Seminary was granted an exemption for its Master of Divinity program by the Texas Workforce Commission, and received a similar exemption in May 2011 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. In July 2011, the Bible Institute was officially transferred from Grace Fellowship UMC and integrated into The Bible Seminary.

Academic Calendar

Bible Institute program

May 1, 2012	Course Registration Opens – Fall 2012 semester
August 13, 2012	First Day of special class – Fall 2012 semester <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Mondays, August 13 – December 10, 2012, Kingsland Baptist Church
September 4-10, 2012	First Week of regular classes – Fall 2012 semester <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Testament III – <i>Taught by Israel Loken</i> Mondays, September 10 – December 10, 2012 at The Bible Seminary, Classroom 270• Bible Study Methods – <i>Taught by Paul Helbig</i> Tuesdays, September 4 – December 11, 2012 at The Bible Seminary, Classroom 270
November 1, 2012	Registration Opens – Spring 2013 semester
December 10-14, 2012	Last Week of regular classes – Fall 2012 semester
January 28-31, 2013	First Week of regular classes – Spring 2013 semester <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Testament I – <i>Taught by Israel Loken</i> Mondays, January 28 – April 29, 2013 at The Bible Seminary, Classroom 270• Bible Study Methods – <i>Taught by Paul Helbig</i> Tuesdays, January 22 – April 23, 2013 at The Bible Seminary, Classroom 270• New Testament I – <i>Taught by Blake Wilson</i> Thursdays, January 24 – April 25, 2013 at The Bible Seminary, Classroom 270
May 1, 2013	Registration Opens – Fall 2013 semester
May 10-14, 2013	Last Week of regular classes – Spring 2013 semester

Master of Divinity (M. Div.) program

June 15, 2012	Course Registration Opens – Fall 2012 semester
July 31, 2012	Registration Deadline – Fall 2012 semester
August 17, 2012	Payment Deadline – Fall 2012 semester
September 4, 2012	First day of class – Fall 2012 semester <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible Study Methods I – Mark, Ruth, Esther Tue and Thu, 9:00 am - 10:20 am, Classroom 270, <i>Paul Helbig</i>• Hebrew Language I – Jonah Tue and Thu, 10:40 am - 12:00 noon, Classroom 270, <i>Linda Pattillo</i>• Spiritual Formation/Ministry I – Exodus Wed and Fri, 9:00 am - 10:20 am, Classroom 270, <i>Lynn Lewis</i>• Missions I – Genesis, Nahum Wed and Fri, 10:40 am - 12:00 noon, Classroom 270, <i>Paul Helbig</i>
September 7-8, 2012	Orientation Retreat for all M. Div. students, faculty, and staff
October 1-5, 2012	One-week Intensive <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theology I – Gospel of John Mon - Fri, 8:15 am - 4:35 pm, Classroom 270, <i>Jim Hamilton</i>
November 1, 2012	Course Registration Opens – Spring 2013 semester
November 19-23, 2012	Reading Week – Thanksgiving break, no classes

December 11-14, 2012	Final Exams
December 14, 2012	Last Day of Class – Fall 2012 semester
January 4, 2013	Registration Deadline – Spring 2013 semester
January 18, 2013	Payment Deadline – Spring 2013 semester
January 25, 2013	First Day of Class – Spring 2013 semester <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible Study Methods II – 1 & 2 Samuel Tue and Thu, 9:00 am - 10:15 am, Classroom 270, <i>Paul Helbig</i>• Hebrew Language II – Ezekiel Tue and Thu, 10:35 am - 12:00 noon, Classroom 270, <i>Linda Pattillo</i>• Prayer I/Worship – Leviticus, 1 & 2 Chronicles Wed and Fri, 8:00 am – 9:15 am, Classroom 270, <i>Paul Helbig</i>• Spiritual Formation/Ministry II – Numbers Wed, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon, Classroom 270, <i>Lynn Lewis</i>• Theology II – Romans, Hebrews Fri, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon, Classroom 270, <i>Steve Sullivan</i>
March 11-15, 2013	Reading Week – Easter break, no classes
March 29, 2013	Good Friday – no classes
April 1, 2013	Course Registration Opens – Summer 2013 semester
April 30, 2013	Registration Deadline – Summer 2013 semester
May 6-10, 2013	Final Exams
May 10, 2013	Last Day of Class – Spring 2013 semester
May 17, 2013	Payment Deadline – Summer 2013 semester
June 1, 2013	Course Registration Opens – Fall 2013 semester
June – August, 2013	Summer 2013 semester – Off-campus summer intensives
July 31, 2013	Registration Deadline – Fall 2013 semester
August 16, 2013	Payment Deadline – Fall 2013 semester
September 3, 2013	First day of class – Fall 2013 semester

Accreditation

The Bible Seminary is a new institution of higher education established in 2010. Accrediting agencies generally require that a class of students fully complete a program of study before an institution can seek accreditation.

Thus, our first class of M. Div. students will have the pioneering distinction of receiving an excellent education deeply rooted in all 66 books of the Bible, and exceptional training for vocational ministry, from an unaccredited school. Students who plan to pursue denominational ordination should discuss this with their denominational leaders prior to applying to The Bible Seminary.

Bible Certificate

Introduction

Our Bible Certificate program is designed to serve laity and glorify God by training believers in Jesus Christ as a community in all 66 books of the Bible in such a way that they can serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God's Spirit.

Classes are designed to be highly engaging and transformative, a joy and not a burden. They are taught by seminary-trained, credentialed instructors, and are more intensive than typical Bible studies, but not quite as intense as a full-level seminary class.

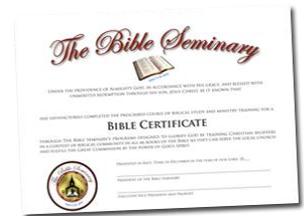
More than 800 students have been enrolled in Bible Certificate courses since our first classes in 2008, and our first 10 students received Bible Certificates in December 2011.

If you are or aspire to be a local church leader, Bible Institute training can help:

- Transform your perspective of the Bible as a whole through an in-depth study of scripture, including its historical and theological context across both Old and New Testaments and the course of human history.
- Provide a strong foundation for teaching adults, youth, and children in your own local church.
- Prepare you to be a more effective Christian leader in your home and family, church, community, and even in your career.
- Engage you in a shared community of advanced learning with highly skilled instructors and passionate co-learners.
- Bolster your confidence for serving in ministry and as a ministry leader.

Courses

The Bible Certificate courses offer students the opportunity to study all 66 books of the Bible in a dynamic environment under the leadership of professionally trained biblical scholars. Students who complete each course will receive a certificate of completion for that course. Students who complete the seven *Required* courses plus at least one *Elective* will receive an official Bible Certificate from The Bible Seminary.



Required Courses

Bible Study Methods

This course is designed to teach the student how to study the Bible through the process of observation, interpretation and application, and is a prerequisite for all other Bible Institute courses.

Old Testament I

A study of the books from Genesis to Judges. We will follow the history of God's relationship with his people with a focus on the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants. This class will demonstrate to the student the importance of knowing the Old Testament in order to comprehend Jesus and the New Testament.

Old Testament II

This course will study the historical books of Ruth through II Kings 17 and the wisdom books of Psalms and Proverbs plus the prophets Hosea, Amos, Jonah, and Nahum. We will see how the most powerful nation of its time was torn in two and then discuss how the Northern Kingdom ended up exiled by the Assyrian Empire.

Old Testament III

An historical and prophetic study of the nation of Israel following the exile and destruction of the Southern Kingdom by the nation of Babylon. Special attention will be given to prophecy that relates to ancient Israel, Jesus, and end times.

New Testament I

The Gospels: This course will study the person and work of Jesus Christ with attention

given to the specific presentation and purpose of each Gospel writer.

New Testament II

Acts and the Pauline Epistles. This course is a detailed look at the argument and message of each of these books. Special emphasis will be placed on connecting the book of Acts to the Pauline Epistles.

New Testament III

A study on books Hebrews through Revelation. This is a critical study that will connect Hebrews to the book of Leviticus. Proper time will be given to the practical realities of pastoral ministry. Finally the student will look intently at the book of Revelation and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Electives

Holy Land: *Tour Preparation*

Designed for anyone planning a trip to Holy Land and who wants to get the most out of their experience. This course provides an excellent review of places and events in the Bible with correlations to modern day locations. Highly recommended for anyone planning to go on a trip to the Holy Land.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

A 16-week, nondenominational course that utilizes dynamic instructors from around the world, interactive learning experiences, and creative demonstrations to present the biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic aspects of fulfilling the Great Commission. Visit katyperspectives.com for more information.

Soul Care: *Equipping Spiritual Caregivers*

For those who want to help others recognize how the Bible applies to the daily challenges of life. Emphasizing practical ways to advise others and how to offer hope to those who long for encouragement, topics include:

- Qualifications of a Christian caregiver
- The Bible's role in advising
- Goals of Christian caregiving
- Using Scripture to address common problems
- Understanding disorders from a biblical perspective
- Biblical tools for Christian caregivers

World Missions: *Extending God's Kingdom*

Designed to provide a sweeping understanding of Christian missions. From Genesis to Revelation, students will engage Scripture and contemporary authors to better understand God's plan to extend His Kingdom.

Registration

To review and register for upcoming Bible Certificate classes, please visit www.TheBibleSeminary.org and click on Academics – Catalog – Bible Certificate – B. C. Registration.

Seminary

M. Div. Introduction

Our Master of Divinity (M. Div.) curriculum integrates an in-depth study of the Bible with the standard historical, theological and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for ministry in the 21st century.

The M. Div. 32 courses total 96 hours and are designed to teach all 66 books of the Bible over a typical 3-year course of study offered during two standard semesters per year, plus summer intensives. An additional intensive may be necessary to satisfy denominational requirements.

Although FULL-TIME students (registered for 9 or more credit hours per semester) receive scheduling priority for all classes, we welcome PART-TIME students. Auditing is available for some courses on a limited basis.

Note: The three objectives for each course include:

1. To exposit the book(s) of the Bible covered in that course.
2. To learn the classic Master of Divinity discipline associated with that course.
3. To teach the above in a way that reinforces the 7 core values of The Bible Seminary.

M. Div. Degree Schedule – First Year			
Fall Semester I		Spring Semester I	
Bible Study Methods I – Mark, Ruth, Esther	3	Bible Study Methods II – 1 & 2 Samuel	3
Theology I – Gospel of John	3	Theology II – Romans, Hebrews	3
Hebrew Language – Jonah	3	Hebrew Language II – Micah, Habakkuk, Malachi	3
Missions I – Genesis, Nahum	3	Prayer I/Worship – Leviticus, 1 & 2 Chronicles	3
Spiritual Formation & Ministry I – Exodus	3	Spiritual Formation & Ministry II – Numbers	3
Total Hours =	15	Total Hours =	15
Summer I Intensive (3 hours)			
First Year Total = 33 Hours (Cumulative Total = 33 Hours)			

M. Div. Degree Schedule – Second Year			
Fall Semester II		Spring Semester II	
Pastor-Shepherd I – Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations	3	Pastor-Shepherd II – Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians	3
Theology III – 1 & 2 Corinthians; 1 & 2 Timothy	3	Theology IV – Joel, Daniel, Revelation	3
Church History – Acts	3	Expository Preaching I – Isaiah	3
Greek Language I – Jude, Philemon, 2 & 3 John	3	Greek Language II – Galatians, 1 & 2 Peter	3
Spiritual Formation & Ministry III – Psalms	3	Spiritual Formation & Ministry IV – (Holy Land Trip)	3
Total Hours =	15	Total Hours =	15
Summer II Intensive (3 hours)			
Second Year Total = 33 Hours (Cumulative Total = 66 Hours)			

M. Div. Degree Schedule – Third Year			
Fall Semester III		Spring Semester III	
Expository Preaching II – 1 & 2 Thessalonians	3	Evangelism/Church Planting – Matthew	3
Discipleship I – Deuteronomy, Judges	3	Discipleship II – Proverbs, James, 1 John	3
Pastor-Leader – Titus, 1 & 2 Kings	3	Pastor-Leader II – Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah	3
Prayer II – Luke, Psalms II	3	Missions II – Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Haggai, and Zechariah	3
Spiritual Formation & Ministry V – Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes (Career Placement)	3	Spiritual Formation & Ministry VI – Ezekiel	3
Total Hours =	15	Total Hours =	15
(Optional) Summer III Intensive (3 hours)			
Third Year Total = 33 Hours (Cumulative Total = 96 Hours)			

Summer Intensives

- **Cross-cultural Missions Experience**
- **Vocational Ministry Experience**
- **Denominational Track (optional)** – for example, the United Methodist track would offer required UM Theology (3), UM History (3), and UM Polity (3)

M. Div. Courses

LANGUAGES			
Greek I	3 hours	Jude, Philemon, 2 & 3 John	Basic principles of biblical Greek.
Greek II	3 hours	Galatians, 1 & 2 Peter	Grammar and syntax of the Greek New Testament. Prerequisite: Greek I.
Hebrew Language I	3 hours	Jonah	Basic principles of phonology, morphology, and syntax of biblical Hebrew.
Hebrew Language II	3 hours	Micah, Habakkuk, Malachi	Learning how to integrate information gleaned from biblical Hebrew into practical ministry applications.
HERMENEUTICS			
Bible Study Methods I	3 hours	Gospel of Mark, Ruth, Esther	Learning the inductive Bible study method.
Bible Study Methods II	3 hours	1 and 2 Samuel	Advanced methods of inductive Bible study.
THEOLOGY			
Theology I	3 hours	Gospel of John	Doctrine of the Godhead and the doctrine of the Bible.
Theology II	3 hours	Romans, Hebrews	Doctrines of angels, man, sin, and salvation.
Theology III	3 hours	1 & 2 Corinthians 1 & 2 Timothy	Doctrines of sanctification and the church.
Theology IV	3 hours	Joel, Daniel, Revelation	Doctrine of the end times.
Church History	3 hours	Acts	Church history AD 33 through the present.
MISSIONS			
Missions I	3 hours	Genesis, Nahum	Biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic perspectives on the world Christian movement.
Missions II	3 hours	Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah	Training in ministries of compassion and justice for the poor, the overlooked, and the forgotten.
Evangelism and Church Planting	3 hours	Gospel of Matthew	Training for evangelism and church planting.
PREACHING			
Expository Preaching I	3 hours	Isaiah	Basic principles of expository preaching and teaching.
Expository Preaching II	3 hours	1 & 2 Thessalonians	Advanced principles of expository preaching and teaching and illustrating sermons. Prerequisite: Expository Preaching I.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP			
Pastor-Shepherd I	3 hours	Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations	Basic principles of pastoral care and counseling.
Pastor-Shepherd II	3 hours	Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians	Advanced pastoral care and counseling including training for weddings, funerals, hospital visitation, and crisis situations.
Pastor-Leader I	3 hours	Titus, 1 & 2 Kings	Basic principles of leadership in ministry.
Pastor-Leader II	3 hours	Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah	Advanced leadership training in ministry including budgeting, staffing, hiring, firing, finances, fundraising, church government, and conflict resolution.
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND MINISTRY			
Prayer I/Worship	3 hours	Leviticus , 1 & 2 Chronicles	Training in personal prayer, intercessory prayer, spiritual warfare, and prayer ministry.
Prayer II	3 hours	Gospel of Luke, Psalms II	Advanced training in prayer and worship ministry.
Spiritual Formation and Ministry I	3 hours	Exodus	Personal spiritual formation in a small group environment. The student will conduct a minimum of 5 hours of ministry per week and debrief that ministry together with peers and a professor.
Spiritual Formation and Ministry II	3 hours	Numbers	Personal spiritual formation in a small group environment. The student will conduct a minimum of 5 hours of ministry per week and debrief that ministry together with peers and a professor.
Spiritual Formation and Ministry III	3 hours	Psalms I	Personal spiritual formation in a small group environment. The student will conduct a minimum of 5 hours of ministry per week and debrief that ministry together with peers and a professor.
Spiritual Formation and Ministry IV	3 hours	(Holy Land Trip)	Journey to the Holy Land with your study peers and professors (and spouse, if applicable) and then process the experience and develop ministry applications together over time while focusing on personal spiritual formation in a small group environment.
Spiritual Formation and Ministry V	3 hours	Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes	Begin the process of vocational ministry career placement, and continuing to focus on personal spiritual formation in a small group environment. The student will conduct a minimum of 5 hours of ministry per week and debrief that ministry together with peers and a professor.
Spiritual Formation and Ministry VI	3 hours	Ezekiel	Personal spiritual formation in a small group environment. The student will conduct a minimum of 5 hours of ministry per week and debrief that ministry together with peers and a professor.
Discipleship II	3 hours	Proverbs, James, 1 John	Advanced training in discipleship ministry.
Discipleship I	3 hours	Deuteronomy, Judges	Basic principles of personal discipleship in a ministry context.

SUMMER INTENSIVES			
Summer Intensive I	3 hours	Cross-Cultural Ministry Experience	Cross-cultural ministry experience (whether overseas or in an urban setting) in order to gain a heart for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
Summer Intensive II	3 hours	Vocational Ministry Experience	Vocational ministry experience through a summer ministry job in a church or para-church setting in order to gain additional practical ministry training.
Summer Intensive III	3 hours	Denominational Track	Denominational studies (theology, history, polity) for a student seeking ordination in a particular denominational setting.

M. Div. Distinctives

BEST PRACTICES TOURS

On-site visits to successful churches and ministries, and in-depth interactions with key leaders.

EDUCATIONAL IMMERSIONS

- Experience perspectives of the universe.
- Experience the wonderful diversity of creation (and life on an ark) during a behind-the-scenes journey through the Houston Zoo.
- Experience life as a shepherd, a fisherman, a farmer, and more.
- Experience components of the culture of the Old Testament sacrificial system.
- Experience elements of physical life and death through interactions with local physicians, morticians, and funeral directors.
- Experience the dynamics of interpersonal relationships related to love and sacrifice, temptation and sin, forgiveness and emotional healing, as well as take and review common personality and profile tests in association with local counseling professionals.
- Experience leadership and administration through interactions with executive leaders in business, education, government, and ministry.
- Experience elemental ministry practices related to baptism, communion, funerals, weddings and more.

HOLY LAND TRIP

Typically built into the program in January of Year Two, this experience is a multi-week, on-site educational tour of Israel and other sites mentioned in the Bible.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Entertainment, retreats, trips, tours, and world-class guest speakers.

VOCATIONAL MINISTRY SERVICE

Regular and special ministry activities and leadership involvement in Katy and Houston-area congregations and ministry organizations.

CAREER SHEPHERDING

Graduate with a strong team of mentors and experienced leaders available to journey with you and provide a personal, critical support network throughout your ministry career.

M. Div. General

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The Bible Seminary's standard academic calendar includes one Fall Semester (typically September through December), one Spring Semester (typically January through May), and one Summer Intensive (typically June through August).

CLASS SCHEDULES

Semester classes for the M. Div. program are generally held weekdays Monday through Friday. Most 3-credit hour classes meet twice per week throughout a semester, although some courses may occasionally be held in one week or longer condensed intensives. The Summer Intensives typically include one 3-credit hour course stretched across the entire summer, although shorter full-time intensives are allowed on a case by case basis.

COURSE LOAD

The Bible Seminary accepts full-time, part-time students, and audit students for most M. Div. classes, with some limitations, according to the definitions below. The standard course load for full-time students is 15 hours per Fall and Spring semester, and 3 hours per Summer term.

- **Full-time** (9 or more credit hours per semester) – Students accepted, registered, paying according to a full-tuition schedule, and attending 9 or more credit hours per Fall or Spring semester and 3 credit hours for Summer terms.
- **Part-time** (8 or less credit hours per semester) – Students accepted, registered, paying according to a part-time tuition schedule, and attending less than 9 credit hours per Fall or Spring semester and less than 3 credit hours for Summer terms.
- **Audit** – Students registered, paying according to audit tuition schedule, and attending 3 or more credit hours per term. The number of students allowed to audit a course may vary per course in accordance with the class structure and provision(s) offered by the professor(s).

COURSE WORK

Each standard 3-credit hour course at the Master's level typically requires an additional five (5) to seven (7) hours of work per week outside of class. Full-time students should expect to spend approximately 40 hours per week engaged in classes and course study and preparation.

STUDENT CLASSIFICATIONS

- *Juniors* – First-year students with 0-32 credit hours
- *Middlers* – Second-year students with 33-65 credit hours
- *Seniors* – Third-year students with 66+ credit hours

ENROLLMENT STATUS

- *Enrolled* – All students accepted into the Master of Divinity program and actively enrolled in specific course(s) will be considered enrolled, with one of the following qualifications:
 - *In good standing*: All admissions materials have been received and student meets all preliminary requirements for the intended degree.
 - *With Provision*: Noted when a student's file lacks an official document, or when a student does not meet a preferred preliminary requirement for the intended degree. Provision is removed when a student's file is complete, or student meets criteria noted by the Admissions Team relative to the provision.
 - *On Probation*: Noted when a student has a below preferred minimum GPA, but may also relate to other circumstances as designated by the TBS Admissions Team or Administration.
- *Non-enrollment*- Students not enrolled in any class(es) for a period of one-year from the date of last enrollment will be inactivated, except under special, pre-approved circumstances as noted below. Inactive students will be required to reapply for admission.
 - *Medical Leave* – Provisions can be made for students with documented medical or psychological circumstances to maintain their acceptance status during leave without requiring reapplication for admission. All such leave must be documented by appropriate professionals, and conditions of leave must be mutually agreed upon between the student and registrar and must be pre-approved by the seminary registrar, except in sudden emergency cases.

- *Military Leave* – Similar provisions noted above can be made for students engaged in military service.
- *Limitation on Term of Leave* – Any leave lasting longer than two years may require reapplication.
- *Delinquent payments* – Students with delinquent payments may jeopardize their official status as enrolled students, including being dropped from a course or courses, and withdrawn for non-payment from the program altogether. Students withdrawn for non-payment and who desire to continue to study at The Bible Seminary must reapply for admission and reconsideration.

DEGREE COMPLETION PARAMETERS

Full-time students can expect to complete the 96-hour Master of Divinity program in three (3) years. Students will be allowed up to ten (10) years from the date of first enrollment to complete the program.

GRADING

The Bible Seminary defines one credit hour as one hour of classroom work per week throughout a typical semester, in conjunction with the typical outside course work noted elsewhere under “Course Work”. The seminary uses the following grading system based on a 4.0 scale:

Letter	Minimum Points	Grade Points	Comments
A+	97.00	4.00	Excellent
A	94.00	3.75	
A-	90.00	3.50	
B+	87.00	3.25	
B	84.00	3.00	Satisfactory
B-	80.00	2.75	
C+	77.00	2.50	
C	74.00	2.25	Acceptable, but below standards
C-	70.00	2.00	
D+	68.00	1.50	
D	65.00	1.00	Sub-par performance
D-	62.00	0.80	
F	0.00	0.00	Fail, no credit
CR			Credit
NC			No credit
AUD			Audit
WD			Withdrawn
IP			In progress
I			Incomplete

COURSE REPETITION

Students who receive a passing grade in a course are not allowed to repeat the course for credit. Students who fail a course by receiving an “F” (Fail) may repeat the course for credit, and the failing grade from the first

attempt only can be converted to a "NC" (No Credit) and not included in the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average. Grades from all subsequent attempts following the first one will be included in calculating grade point averages.

INCOMPLETE WORK

A student may receive an "I" (Incomplete) in a course if all work for that course is not submitted to the professor or other designated person by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of Final Exam week each semester. Except for unavoidable emergencies, this circumstance requires pre-approval from the professor and the Registrar. Students will generally have up to the end of ten (10) weeks into the following semester to complete the work, or the "I" (Incomplete) will be converted to an "F" (Fail). Students with an active "I" (Incomplete) in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in a new semester.

PROBATION

- *New Students* – Students admitted on academic probation may be removed from probation following successful completion of a minimum of 18 credit hours and earning a minimum of a cumulative 2.00 grade point average.
- *Existing Students* – Current students may be placed on academic probation if the cumulative grade point average slips below 2.00 – the standard threshold for consideration for graduation with a Master of Divinity degree. Probationary status may require a student to take a reduced workload. Students on Probationary status for more than two consecutive terms will be dropped from seminary enrollment.

M. Div. Student Technology

Full-time students enrolled in The Bible Seminary's Master of Divinity graduate program receive a Student Technology (ministry/study tools) budget package to employ throughout their seminary experience in order to graduate equipped, trained, and ready for action.

Initial package resources are delivered to all Junior students during their first week of class. Training is provided throughout the student's seminary experience through classes and special training sessions.

Any hardware and software provided by the seminary for student use is considered "on loan" while students are enrolled at The Bible Seminary.

While enrolled at the seminary, hardware and software updates, as well as reasonable maintenance, repair, and replacement costs will be provided by the seminary.

Students who leave the program and are no longer enrolled at The Bible Seminary must return the full package of hardware and software to the seminary. In this case, retaining copies of licensed software on any other computer(s) or electronic storage medium is strictly prohibited. Upon graduation with a Master of Divinity degree from The Bible Seminary, students are gifted their ministry/study tools and take full ownership of any hardware and all software provided, as well as full responsibility for any maintenance, repair, and/or replacement costs of any kind.

Incoming 2012-13 M. Div. students will be designated an allowance of up to \$5,000 that includes, if the student does not already have it, purchase of the Logos Bible Software Portfolio Edition, Video Training Series, additional Logos training, and Computer Orientation training.

Students will also have the opportunity to use the balance of their Student Technology budget to request purchases of additional resources of their choosing during their seminary education, including hardware (desktop, laptop, Ipad, etc.) or software purchases such as digital books, or software productivity programs (graphic design, publishing, or audio and video production).

Admissions

Requirements

The Bible Seminary admits qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Bible Certificate students

There are no specific admissions requirements for Bible Certificate students other than registration and payment for class. We do, however, ask that everyone take Bible Study Methods prior to taking any of the other seven courses.

Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students

- Admissions Application Inquiry (www.TheBibleSeminary.org, click on “Admissions – Inquiry”) – on the inquiry form, select “Master of Divinity” under “Academic Interest – Program”
- Completed Application
- Non-refundable Application Fee (\$50)
- Accredited baccalaureate degree with a minimum of 2.75/4.00 GPA
- College transcript(s)
- If English is not your primary language, a TOEFL iBT score of at least 79, TOEFL CBT of 213, or TOEFL PBT of 550, or 7.0 IELTS
- Four References (including at least one pastoral reference)
- A criminal background check
- A personal interview may be required

** Considerations may be granted for some exceptions to these requirements*

Financial Aid

Educational funding to support and sustain the mission of The Bible Seminary is derived primarily from student tuition and fees, and donations. Students interested in receiving financial assistance to attend The Bible Seminary have several options, as noted below.

Regarding Student Loans: We realize that conventional educational philosophy – and the rising cost of education – has evolved to include the expectation that students will take out loans as part of their educational journey. However, The Bible Seminary does not encourage this practice. Our preference is to do all we can to help our students and their families commit to, journey through, and attain their degrees without incurring financial debt or undue financial obligations that would hinder their future ministry. If students desire to pursue loans for educational purposes, they may, but The Bible Seminary is not registered with the Federal Student loan program or any other governmental or business agency or entity offering these type of services.

Financial Assistance Services provided by The Bible Seminary:

- **Student Scholarship Fund** – The Bible Seminary is a 501(c)(3) institution of higher education incorporated in the state of Texas in 2010, and all donations are charitable and tax deductible as allowed by law. In

addition to specific scholarship opportunities that may be made available to students, we encourage students to tap into their own network(s) to invite family, friends, church(es) and others to donate funds to The Bible Seminary directed toward the "Student Scholarship Fund" in their name. Accepted students who request Financial Aid and assistance in raising scholarship support will receive excellent resources and effective tools to assist in this process. Plus, our first 25 registered Master of Divinity students selected for the Fall 2012 semester will receive a Pioneer Scholarship worth \$10,000!

- **Work/Study Program** – The Bible Seminary educational degree track includes vocational ministry experience components as an integral part of the program design. In some cases, students may be able to receive vocational compensation from local ministries that can be directed toward their educational expenses as part of a Work/Study arrangement.
- **Residential Assistance** – Students and their families who need local housing may request residential assistance from The Bible Seminary. We are working toward creating a residential seminary community and work with our students to help provide arrangements for those who need assistance in this area.

Tuition and Fees

Bible Certificate Program

- Adult = \$234 per course
- Student = \$85 per course

Master of Divinity Program

Description	Fall (15 hrs)	Spring (15 hrs)	Summer (3 hrs)	Part-time†
Application Fee = \$50				
Tuition (\$530 per credit hour)	\$7,950	\$7,950	\$1,590	\$1,590 per class
Books (estimate)	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$80 per class
Library Fee	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
Registration Fee	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
Student Activity Fee	\$135	\$135	-	\$27 per class
Student Services Fee	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$18 per class
Technology Fee	\$55	\$55	\$35	\$35
Transportation Fee	\$90	\$90	-	\$18 per class
Tuition, Books, and Fees totals per semester =	\$8,790	\$8,790	\$1,785	(varies)
2012-13 Institutional Scholarship* =	-\$4,500	-\$4,500	-\$1,000	-
Student cost for 2012-13 semesters =	\$4,290	\$4,290	\$785	(varies)

* Available to the first 25 full-time students accepted into the Master of Divinity program for the 2012-13 academic year

† Part-time student costs include \$1,590 (tuition per class) + \$143 (apportioned fees per class) + \$125 (general semester fees). So, one class totals \$1,858, two classes total \$3,591, three classes total \$5,324, four classes total \$7,057, and 5 classes total \$8,790.

Campus Resources

Campus Map

The Bible Seminary is located at 2655 South Mason Road in Katy, Texas in proximity to the 80-acre grounds of the Great Southwest Equestrian Center and the 30-acre campus of Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church.



Classrooms

Classroom 270 is located near The Bible Seminary offices, and the Epi Classroom is located upstairs in the Grace Fellowship Youth Building (see map above). Community classrooms are typically located in area churches and other ministries, and these locations are noted along with registration information for each class.

Great Southwest Prayer Center

The Great Southwest Prayer Center (thegreatsouthwestprayercenter.org) is a community prayer room established for the city of Katy and the greater Houston region in which believers from different denominations and backgrounds come together in unity for the purpose of seeking the face and heart of God and stand together in worship and intercession for the city, the nation, and the world through night and day prayer. Led by and staffed with worship leaders and prayer leaders from churches in the Katy area with a goal of 24/7 Night and Day prayer, the Center currently offers over 20 hours weekly of live prayer and worship sets called "Audience of ONE" (a1). First Fridays and Saturdays each month, the Center offers a full 24 hours of uninterrupted prayer and worship in and event called "twenty-four ONE". Seminary students are encouraged to use GSPC resources and participate in, and even take leadership in, Great Southwest Prayer Center activities.

Library

On campus facilities include a library of several thousand theological study resources. In addition, all M. Div. students are provided with a subscription to Logos Bible Software, which includes thousands of digital resources available on hardware multi-platforms (PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, and web aps). Other resources, available online under "Academics – Library", include links to Journals, Online Databases, and Study Tools.

The Bible Seminary is extremely fortunate to offer our students local access to one of the emerging, premier biblical research libraries in the United States, the Lanier Theological Library. Housing a comprehensive collection of books, periodicals, magazines, artifacts, and historical documents designed to aid the serious study of Scripture, this impressive facility currently holds more than 60,000 volumes and ill eventually hold over 100,000 books. The library contains several private collections of noted scholars that have been kept intact, and also regularly hosts events with noted authors, guest lecturers, and researchers. The library covers the following research areas:

- Ancient Languages
- Ancient Near Eastern Studies
- Biblical Studies
- Church History
- Classics
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Egyptology
- Monasticism
- Patristics
- Theology



Parking

Student parking on campus is available as noted on the campus map.

Seminary Offices

The seminary offices in the Great Southwest Equestrian Center office complex just north of The Mansion on the Grace Fellowship campus, as noted on the campus map.

Technology

Access to electrical power and wireless Internet is available in seminary classrooms, offices, the library, and some outside areas on campus. Additional technology assistance may be available from seminary staff, and, if necessary, can be arranged for a fee from an outside contractor associated with the seminary.

Laptops and other portable devices are welcome in classrooms as long as they are used for educational purposes and their use is not disruptive to other students or instructors. Cell phones should be set on silent during class, and phone calls should never be conducted in the classroom during class time. In case of an emergency call, please exit the classroom to answer.

For more information, contact The Bible Seminary at:

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