

#215 Christ in the Gospels
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Academic Year 2018-2019

COURSE INFORMATION

Welcome!

Welcome to the Pastoral Mentorship Program course in Christ in the Gospels. You will be working during the year on several projects, in preparation for your concentrated study and review we will conduct in the concentrated sessions. As you work on these projects, you will be able to discuss this material and ask questions from your professor or from your local mentor.

Course objectives

This course is designed to give you a detailed knowledge of the background and sources for the life of Christ on earth, and of his life itself. You will be working on three main projects during the year. These three projects consist of (1) lectures and study of the course syllabus, including two exams over its contents, (2) reading assignments in standard works about Jesus and his life, and (3) a special assignment chosen by you from a list of possibilities. Each of these items is described below.

Course outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to defend the historicity of the person of Jesus Christ and the trustworthiness of the Gospels. You will know the general outline of Jesus' life, be familiar with his teachings and miracles, and be prepared to teach or preach from the life of Jesus. If you are seeking ordination, you also should be prepared to pass the section of the English Bible exam dealing with the life of Jesus and the Gospels.

(1) The course syllabus and testing

Read through the syllabus carefully. As you do so, look up the indicated Bible passages. Notice that at the beginning of the syllabus there are study questions. These questions follow the order of the syllabus, and will aid you in summarizing the items you need to remember for the tests. There are two tests that will be given to you during the time you study this syllabus. The first test covers Study Questions #1-38, and the second test covers Study Questions #39-64. The

two tests will consist of some of those exact questions; the number in parentheses after each question is the number of points that each question is worth, and normally tells you how many items should be in your answer. When you are prepared to take them, these tests will be administered to you under the supervision of your Mentor or a person designated by him.

(2) Reading assignment

The following books are to be read. There will be no separate testing on these books, but you will be asked if you have read them with attention.

- The four Gospels, in two different translations
- E. F. Harrison, *Introduction to the New Testament*, ch. 5-9; OR Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction*, ch. 1-8; OR D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, ch. 1-5 (You may choose any of these standard NT introductions to read from; you will be assigned other portions from this introduction in the other NT classes, so that the whole book will be read as the NT curriculum at WRS is completed.)
- James Stalker, *The Life of Jesus Christ*
- E. F. Harrison, *A Short Life of Christ*
- Robert B. Strimple, *The Modern Search for the Real Jesus*
- Robert L. Thomas and Stanley N. Gundry, *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels*, including Prefaces, Explanation, and all the Essays (The second half of the syllabus is keyed to this book's outline.)

(3) Special assignment

You may choose one of the following. Please obtain approval by the professor for the particular special assignment you choose.

- Read a scholarly book concerning some aspect of the course and write a two-page review and critique. Use the standard format for journal articles found in the *SBL Handbook of Style*.
- Translate one chapter from each of the four Gospels.
- Write a five-page research paper on some controversial question of interpretation in the Gospels. Use the standard format for papers found in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

- Prepare a series of at least five sermon or Bible lesson outlines on a part of the life of Jesus.

Bible atlas

In addition to the required reading texts, you will need to obtain the *Holman Quick Source Bible Atlas*. Bring this atlas to class during the concentrated sessions, as we will be referring to it frequently during class lectures and discussions.

Grading

The final grade will consist of the following:

Class participation	20%
Reading	25%
Special assignment	15%
Midterm examination	20%
Final examination	20%

Contacting the professor

Feel free to contact Dr. Battle whenever you have a question or desire clarification about the course material or about your assignments.

- Email – battle@wrs.edu
- Office phone – 253-272-0417
- Mobile phone – 253-720-7586

Suggested assignment schedule

During the first summer:

Read 4 gospels in 2 translations
 Read NT Introduction section
 Read Stalker

During September:

Read Harrison

During October:

Read Strimple

During November/December:

Work through course notes, ch. 1-4
Take midterm exam

During January/February:

Do special assignment

During April/May:

Read Thomas and Gundry
Work through class notes, ch. 5-14

May/June:

PMP Concentrated Classes

During June:

Final Examination