Syllabus for Hermeneutics Class

Teacher – Chris Dubois

Course Description – This class is designed to teach you the art and proper methods and principles of interpreting Scripture rightly. It will look specifically at interpreting Scripture in its historical, grammatical, cultural, literary, and theological context. It will include a sound exegetical method based upon genre issues, proper context, interpreting Scripture in the light of Scripture, textual criticism, and syntactic analysis.

Course Objectives – It is the aim of this class that you will be able to interpret the Bible properly in your own personal Bible study. You will be able to know the proper methods and principles of interpreting Scripture rightly. This course will help you to believe, understand, interpret, and apply the Scriptures rightly. It will challenge you to examine your own presuppositions and prior assumptions as well as tradition when understanding a biblical passage. It will train you to look at the proper context of a biblical passage and draw from the text the right meaning and application.

1. Reading

Textbook:

Read *How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

II. Final Paper:

At the end of the class, a minimum three typed page paper is due. The paper must include what the class was about in summary and what the student learned from it and also how it affected him personally.

1. Grading and Course Requirements:

There will be no grades given. It will be pass or fail depending upon whether the book and paper are completed showing an understanding of the material taught and faithfulness of attendance for the classes (this will require you attending at least eighty percent of the classes). If you miss a class in person, you can always watch it online (or you can watch all the classes online).

Along with taking classes faithfully, reading the book assigned, and writing a minimum three-page paper, you also need to do the following per semester for you to finish the semester in good standing:

* You need to complete 20 hours minimum of ministry in or outside of a local church context (serving others with the love of Jesus). This can include, but is not limited to, the following: Street evangelism, soup kitchen, food pantry, prison ministry, ushering, greeting, children’s ministry, youth ministry, young adult ministry, worship music ministry, teaching/preaching, leading in a home group fellowship, Celebrate Recovery group, a Bible study, prayer ministry, church leadership, etc.
* You need to commit to do evangelism at least once per semester. You can either witness on your own or join Pastor Chris and John on the streets. You need to share the Gospel with at least one person per semester. Helping with an evangelistic outreach counts toward this requirement as well.
* You need to commit to having a devotional time (a time of prayer and Bible study) with the Lord each day for at least thirty minutes a day (there will be rare exceptions where this might not happen such as illness or an emergency, etc.). We are not legalistic about this, but we are trying to get people to practice self-control in doing spiritual disciplines. This is essential for spiritual formation.
* You need to commit to being part of a local church.

\*These requirements being done are all based upon an honor system and there is a paper to sign at the end of each class and semester verifying it was accomplished

1. Course Outline

Here is the rough outline of the classes along with the reading material to read in advance for each class.

Class

1 – Introduction and finding a good translation of the Bible Read pgs. 9-44

2 – The Epistles Read pgs. 45-77

3 – The Old Testament Narratives Read pgs. 78-93

4 – Book of Acts Read pgs. 94-112

5 – The Gospels and Parables Read pgs. 113-148

6 – The Law Read pgs. 149-164

7 – The Prophets Read pgs. 165-186

8 – Psalms Read pgs. 187-205

9 – Wisdom Read pgs. 206-230

10 – Revelation and use of commentaries Read pgs. 231-254