

**BRITE**  
BLUE RIDGE INSTITUTE FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Doctrine of Scripture  
Spring 2022  
Jefferson Park Baptist Church  
2505 Jefferson Park Ave  
January 31 - May 26  
Mondays, 6pm to 8pm  
Dr. Keith Goad

**Course Description**

This course is a study of Theological Prolegomena (introduction, theological method) and Doctrine of Scripture (revelation, inspiration, inerrancy). The course will survey these doctrines first by exegeting Scripture and then seek insights from historical developments and confessions. The goal is to equip pastors, leaders, and church members to trust God's Word so that they are faithful in obedience and able to teach.

**Course Objectives**

- To introduce students to the foundational biblical truths concerning the Doctrines of Revelation and Scripture.
- To ensure students know and understand the primary passages when studying these doctrines as well as most important historical challenges.
- To help students identify areas in their own worldview that need more clarity and certainty so that they are more faithful in knowing God and themselves.
- To prepare students to defend the faith once for all handed down and to build up the church by strengthening their faith in God's revealed Word. (for BRITE's Theological Foundations, see <https://www.brite-va.org/about-brite/>)
- To equip students in their worship, discipleship, and faithful service.
- To equip believers to read, interpret, understand, and obey God's Word.
- To equip believers who desire to teach to "hold firm" to the Word and to be "able to teach."

## Course Texts

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans, revised & enlarged 1996 edition), \_\_\_\_.

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Westminster/John Knox, 1960 translation of the 1559 Latin edition, edited by John T. McNeill & translated by Ford Lewis Battles), 1:35-96.

D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1996).

D. A. Carson, "What is the Bible?" (an article provided by the professor)

Chicago Statement on Inerrancy ([here](#))

Jason DeRouchie, "Interpreting Scripture." (An essay from [The Gospel Coalition](#))

C. S Lewis "Fern Seed and Elephants" [here](#)

## Suggested Reading

St. Augustine, *On Christian Teaching*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, trans. by R. Green, 2008).

F. F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*.

Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*.

J. I. Packer, *God Has Spoken*, 3rd Ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998).

Thomas R. Schreiner, *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011).

Robert L Plummer, *40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2010).

## **Evaluation**

### **1. Attendance (20%)**

Students are expected to be present and prepared to discuss the assigned readings each week. Please contact the instructor if you know you will be absent.

### **2. Reading (20%)**

Students will submit a record of what they read from the course requirements and suggested reading. Extra credit will be given for reading from the suggested section.

### **4. Four Position/Exegesis Papers (10% each)**

Students will answer a significant question using Scripture, historical sources, and commentaries. These papers are designed to help students gain clarity on how to pursue answers from Scripture and be equipped to answer difficult questions that will arise in the life of a church. If a student wishes to answer a question that is not listed below, the instructor must approve it. The papers should be 5-6 pages in length.

### **Possible Papers**

- What is the significance and limitations of General Revelation?
- What is the relationship of Inspiration and Illumination?
- Why do some theologians differentiate between inerrant and infallible?
- How do Father, Son, and/or Spirit each participate in revelation?
- Choose a book of the New Testament and trace the theme of God's Word through it (the pastoral epistles are recommended).
- What does Paul mean by "type" in I Corinthians 10?
- What is the role of mystery in the New Testament (Ephesians 3)?

### **Passages for exegesis:**

- Psalm 1
- Psalm 19
- John 1:1-18
- John 16:4b-15
- II Tim 3:10-4:8
- II Peter 1:3-21
- I Corinthians 2
- Romans 10

### **5. Final Exam (20%)**

The examination will test the student's mastery of all the material covered in the course lectures & reading & allow the student to apply principles learned in the course to theological test cases.

### **6. Late Penalty**

All assignments are due by midnight of the day indicated. Each assignment will be penalized 5% per day that it is late, unless the student has gotten prior permission from the instructor. Please do not email the day of the assignment to request permission to be late unless there has been an emergency.

Date	Lecture	Berkof/Calvin	Reading/Assignments
January 31	Method	LB 44-67	
February 7	Revelation	LB 112-141	
February 14	Canon		Lewis, Elephant seeds
February 21	Inspiration	LB 142-167	Carson, "What is the Bible"
<i>February 26-27</i>	<i>Weekend Exodus</i>		
February 28	Inerrancy/Infallible		Chicago Statement
March 7	break		First paper due
March 14	Authority and Clarity		II Timothy 3:1-4:8
March 21	Sufficient and Necessary		II Peter 1:3-21
March 28	Illumination		I Corinthians 2; John 16
April 4	break		Second paper due
April 11	Interpretation: Canon		DeRouchie, "Interpreting Scripture"
April 18	Interpretation: Context		
April 25	Exegesis and Exposition		
May 2	No class		Final Exam and All Papers Due

\*NOTE: This syllabus is not yet finalized (12/29/2021).