



Instructions:

Christian Practice (CP) Courses: **(CP115, CP117, CP119)**

The *Foundational Theology Degree* (100 level course of study) also addresses 3 important areas of practical Christian living and discipleship: a prayer life, unashamed confession of Christ, and a devotional life. These are:

CP115 A Prayer Life:

The incredible encouragement and promises of prayer; praying amiss; praying through without discouragement.

CP117 Personal Testimony:



Scripture commands, let the redeemed of the Lord say so. This course helps one to put into words their own personal testimony and to share it with the group.

CP119 Devotional Life:

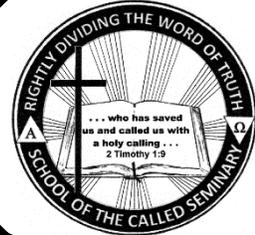
This course focuses on personal growth – how to have a quiet time with the Lord personally in His Word.

As with each course, there is a great deal of freedom in how the resident faculty member (i.e., the senior pastor/instructor) chooses to cover the subject matter described in the course descriptions. This is especially so in the “Christian Practice” courses. Rather than detailed sample outline for these courses, the following pages set forth suggestions/ideas for the resident faculty member to consider in designing how they will address the course material to be covered.

Required Reading: Keep in mind, beyond the outlined 100-level courses, in order to obtain the Foundational Theology diploma one must read (or have read) through the entire New Testament, and complete all lab work.



CP115 A Prayer Life: The incredible encouragement and promises of prayer; praying amiss; praying through without discouragement.



Suggestion for Implementation

Any growth in grace requires a prayer life. Yet, this aspect of practical Christian living is often neglected in discipleship ministries, *including advanced discipleship for fulltime ministry*. The apostles did not ask Jesus to teach them to preach (as important as it is), *but to pray* (Luke 11:1).

In addressing the course description for **CP115**, the pastor need not do so as a separate section. The pastor may choose to address developing a prayer life throughout a number of the gatherings for the doctrinal lessons. Perhaps the pastor may ask the students to develop a prayer list and log, or hold times of corporate prayer for the group, or smaller groups within the larger class. Or, one may choose to develop a course outline on prayer (similar to the other sample outlines for the other courses). However, the design of the “*Christian Practice (CP)*” courses is that it be a kind of “lab work” (i.e., the students actually engaging/practicing the subjects covered).

Regardless of how the subject is chosen to be addressed, it should of course include a Scriptural foundation. For any who may find it useful, the School of the Called Seminary also has a downloadable lesson by Don Minkler (mp3) entitled, “Encouragement to Pray”—pastors may find it useful in designing how they will cover this aspect of the course.

CP117 Personal Testimony: Scripture commands, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.” This course helps one to put into words his/her own testimony and to share it with the group.



Suggestion for Implementation

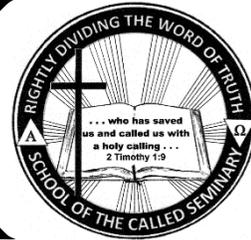
The value of this course is far reaching. First and foremost, it is of great value to the person who gives his testimony. Likewise, there is great value for those who hear such a testimony. Beyond that, there is no telling what fruit may result, both from the life who testifies and the lives of those who hear it (John 4:39-42).

In order to fulfill this course, students must publically share their testimony. The pastor may choose to have the students share their testimony before the group, or before the whole church – or both. This practice is one that has a rich history—*it has often been the means of greatly blessing the Church.* It has also been the means through which others have found Christ.

In order to help believers share their testimony, the following simple outline is suggested (however, once again, the Resident Faculty Member [senior pastor] is the one who determines how this course is fulfilled):

- I.) Students tell what life was like before they found Christ (e.g., raised in a Christian household or in an ungodly environment, stress, attitude, self-absorption, fears—describing their life before finding Christ).
- II.) Students tell about their conversion experience – what led up to it, how they came to faith in Christ, who was (and how they were) instrumental in the process (a friend, pastor, praying mother, dramatic experience, sickness, etc.).
- III.) Students tell about their life now—*their desire to obey, follow and serve Christ.*

CP119 Devotional Life: This course focuses on personal growth – how to have a quiet time with the Lord personally in His Word.



Suggestion for Implementation

As with the other two “*Christian Practice*” courses, the blessings and benefits from developing a personal time with the Lord in the Word are far reaching, holding forth blessings for both the individual and those in his/her sphere of influence.

There is great freedom (as with all the 100-level courses) in how this required course may be fulfilled. The outline on the next page is provided only as a suggestion for how the Resident Faculty Member might choose to implement this discipleship course. Passages should not be too long (around 10 verses +/-) and the time it should take to go through the suggested outline should be around 20 minutes +/-). This is one of the most important aspects of discipleship. Helping people to learn how to get into the Word and feed themselves leads to a lifetime of blessings, and beyond. (See example outline next page.)

A suggested outline:

Personal Devotional Time

1.) **Prayer** (Start with prayer, thanking God for meeting with you, asking Him to open up His Word to you now.)

2.) **Read text 3x's**

3.) **Tools to Dig With**

a.) **Give the passage a title**

b.) **Main Thought of the text** (A sentence or two that explains why you gave it the title you did.)

c.) **Commands:**

d.) **Warnings:**

e.) **Promises:**

} *Examine the passage
looking for these.*

f.) **Revealed:** (Write out anything that stood out to you (e.g., a truth; something to do; something to confess and repent from; some lesson or doctrine; some wonderful insight; some wisdom, etc. – anything impressed upon you from the text.

g.) **Key Verse in the passage**

4.) **Close in Prayer** (Thanking God for meeting with you.)

The above outline is only a suggestion on how to cover this course. However, the suggested pattern is a proven manner for helping many to personally dig into the Word.¹

This course (as with each of the “Christian Practice” courses), need not be held as a regular session, but something that is spread throughout a number of the regular sessions. You may find it a wonderful and exciting thing to have the group individually study the same passages devotionally, and then at the start of the “Doctrinal Courses” have them share something they learned in their private times. The possibilities are many concerning just how the requirements for CP119 might be fulfilled.

¹ To this I give my personal testimony. I am so grateful that many years ago (when I was around 18) my youth pastor showed me a simple outline, much along the order of this one. Through assigning myself and others short passages (10 verses or so) for us to individually go through in a private daily devotional time with the Lord, I began to experience personal growth in my spiritual life. Monday through Friday we would individually go through the same passages, and Saturday (after a breakfast at his house) we would share what we had learned. This was an exciting and transforming period in my life.

I continued the practice/discipline of daily setting time aside to meet with the Lord in the Word. Soon I was learning so many wonderful things in the Word which I had discovered that I just had to share it with others! I began to hold Bible studies which the Lord blessed – one I was praying for even got saved! After a few years, during one of my devotional times, the Lord especially impressed a word to my heart from Matthew 10:27, which became a foundational moment in my life towards discerning the Lord’s call on my life for ministry.

I have continued to have a daily devotional time with the Lord since that time so many years ago. Although I do not hold to this nor to any legalistic formula of “devotions,” my personal daily devotional life (meeting with God alone in His Word) still has a tie to these simple tools that I learned so long ago. Furthermore, following the example I learned from my youth pastor, I have taken many others (more than I can count) through such a discipleship process as well. And once again, as with myself, so with others—wonderful results and works of ministry have followed in their lives.

Also, by way of a suggestion, have them in a class setting all do a passage together (using the suggested outline) – including praying before they begin, silently reading the passage 3 times, and closing in prayer. Allow 10-15 minutes for people to go through the process. Then, encourage them to share something they wrote down. For example, ask: “What title did you come up with?” . . . “Anyone see a warning or promise in the passage?” . . . “Anything revealed through this passage to you?”²

A wonderful passage for such an exercise is Revelation 3:14-22. This passage serves well as a training passage, for the student can easily recognize a command, a warning, and a promise in the text. I have taken many groups through this text, going through it myself each time also. I have been greatly blessed by it, as have others.

Keep in mind that as the Resident Faculty Member you have great freedom in how you help those taking the courses satisfy the various requirements. **However, along with being taught the various doctrinal and Christian practice lessons, those taking the course with the desire to obtain the 100 level “Foundational Theology” diploma/certificate (and through it earn credits towards an A. A. in Theology Degree through the seminary) are also required to read (or have read) through the entire New Testament, as well as complete all lab work.** This Foundational Theology course is *entirely under the senior pastor’s discretion*, including not only *how the 100 level doctrines are covered*, but concerning these courses being “passed.” There are no textbooks for these courses, although there are materials provided from the seminary if the senior pastor chooses to use them.

For any questions, contact the seminary at (541) 714-3626. Yours in Christ, D. Minkler.



² I have done this with groups and found it to be an encouraging and rewarding experience.