



# SHEFFEY COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Perspective Student,

We are honored that you are interested in learning more about Sheffey College as we endeavor to launch our inaugural school year. The 2023 fall semester will mark the commencement of a new era in Southwest Virginia as our region will have for the first time a true Christian college whose primary textbook is the Word of God and its primary purpose is to equip believers for a lifetime of ministerial service.

Whether you're interested in becoming a pastor, church planter, Christian school teacher, or church leader, we are confident that the training you will receive at Sheffey College will be sufficient in laying the foundation upon which you can continue to build upon for the rest of your life.

Sheffey College is pleased to offer a wide series of undergraduate degrees, ranging from Associate's of Christian Education, Bachelor of Religious Education in Pastoral Ministries, and Bachelor of Religious Education in Christian Education.

Currently, we are pleased to offer a graduate degree for Master of Divinity, and also award Doctor of Sacred Theology degrees to a small number of applicants.

As an institution, we are making a three-fold promise to our students:

**Academic Excellence** – Sheffey College will not be a “diploma mill” and students who are awarded degrees will have earned them through many hours of study. Each graduate will have the intellectual understanding of how to thrive in their field upon completion of their degree program.

**Adherence to Scripture** – Not only will the Bible serve as our primary textbook for all subjects, but we are committed to believing the Holy Scriptures, including its guiding purposes in morality and ethics.

**Affordable Education** – The price of modern-day college education is outrageous and in many ways feel like little more than money racket – even among Christian and Bible college. We are founded out of a desire to address these concerns and are committed to providing a quality education to our students at the lowest price possible. Sheffey College is a ministry and we endeavor to treat it as such when it comes to our prices.

Jeremy Farley

President

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# INTRODUCING SHEFFEY COLLEGE



## Our Founding and Vision

In the summer of 2022 Pastors Mike Sage and Jeremy Farley began regularly meeting to discuss ways their two ministries could provide training to local pastors and ministry minded Christians. These conversations quickly expanded to include principals of local Christian academies who saw the need for Christian education degrees tailor made for the rising number of individuals serving in Christians schools.

Out of these conversations was birthed Sheffey College, a combined ministry of multiple local churches housed on the campus of Freedom Tabernacle of Atkins, Virginia.

Sheffey College aims to fill the existing void in Southwest Virginia for college-level courses and degrees focusing on ministry and specifically designed for ministers, while simultaneously providing low-cost options to students on a national level who desire this level of training but are reluctant to pay exorbitant prices found with so many other Bible colleges.

Our vision is twofold: 1.) To provide every student, whether in-person or online, with a first class Christian education that is equivalent to the very best of other Bible colleges; 2.) and to do so at a price that is a mere fraction of what the student would pay elsewhere.

Sheffey College has been born of a vision and desire to see future generations of pastors, church leaders, Christian school teachers, and ministers of the Gospel equipped with the necessary training and insights to prepare them for a lifetime of ministry success.

We are excited to begin our inaugural semester in the fall of 2023! Our enrollment for the fall of 2023 will be limited and given on a first apply basis. Additionally, our Online Distance Learning Program will be available to any who wish to attend who live too far away from the campus or wish to work at their own pace.

## SCHEDULE FOR LAUNCH OF COLLEGE

**Spring 2023**

Granted approval to operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a religiously exempt Christian college dedicated to ministerial training .

**Summer 2023**

Begin accepting applications for online distance learning students and for local in-person classes (non-dormitory students) for fall semester.

**Fall 2023**

Begin first semester for both online distance learning and in-person classes for non-dormitory students

**Spring 2024**

Completion of first year of online distance learning and in-person, non-dormitory classes.

**Summer 2024**

Begin accepting applications for on-campus dormitory students.

**Fall 2024**

Open dormitories for in-person, dormitory-resident students.



## A BIBLE COLLEGE FOUNDED BY LOCAL CHURCHES FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

We are convinced that there exists no greater institution in the entire history of the universe than the local church. In addition to being described by Scripture as the “Bride of Christ”, the local church serves as the single agent through which God has promised to carry out the bulk of His work.

With this idea in mind, it is essential to us that Sheffey College be founded by, under the authority of, and for the benefit of local churches.

In addition to its facilities being housed on the campus of a local church (Freedom Tabernacle in Atkins, Virginia), the founding President of Sheffey College also serves as a local pastor in Wytheville, Virginia.



*Sunday morning worship service at Freedom Tabernacle*

## A BIBLE COLLEGE THAT CHAMPIONS PERSONAL LIBERTY

There are many areas in which Scriptures give clear and precise direction as to how we should and should not live, but we also acknowledge that the Word of God leaves an abundance of room for personal liberty and individual differences on a wide swath of subjects.

While so many Bible colleges have become notorious for their endless sets of rules and standards which often aren't even Scripturally based, often becoming merely a yoke of bondage than a guide toward a successful Christian walk, we champion Galatians 5.1, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage...”

The desire of Sheffey College is to foster an environment where students don't learn legalism and all its perils, but rather develop their own personal convictions and learn to lead honest and sincere Christian lives, while fully realizing that many great believers will differ from them on issues of preference.





# WHO WAS ROBERT SHEFFEY?

## Overview of the Life of Sheffey

Born in 1820 in neighboring Wythe County, Virginia, Robert Sheffey surrendered his life to the Lord at the age of eighteen in Abingdon, Virginia. Over the next six decades, Sheffey would serve as an itinerant preacher throughout the Appalachian region traveling through mountain communities with a message of salvation, grace, and love. While he was known for his extreme humility and eccentricities, it was the evidence of God's touch on his ministry that propelled him to legendary status even to this day.



## Early Life & Conversion

Sheffey was born into a prominent local family, his uncle was a four-term US Congressman, while his brother was Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates.

At the age of two, his mother passed away and he was sent to Abingdon, Virginia, to be raised by his aunt. In his late-teens Sheffey enrolled at Emory & Henry College, but "his early dislike for books and an aversion for profound study" left him defeated as a student and dropping out of college.

At the age of eighteen, however, his life was forever changed thanks to him becoming born again through the ministry of a local revival, a decision that his Presbyterian family largely struggled to understand and support.

Despite the fact that Sheffey was raised Presbyterian, he became a Methodist upon making Christ his personal Savior, but the established Methodist Church of his day found his backwoods demeanor, eccentric antics, and preaching style to be embarrassing, refusing to grant him a license to preach.

Undeterred, he continued preaching and eventually his circuit of Methodist churches spanned fourteen mountain counties in Virginia and West Virginia.

## The Legacy of Robert Sheffey

The founders of Sheffey College chose this name out of a desire to honor the spirit of one of the most well-known and effective ministers of the gospel the Appalachian region has ever known.

## OUR FOUNDERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mike Sage, Chancellor**

*Tennessee Temple University*

*Liberty University*

**Jeremy Farley, President**

*Victory Baptist College*

*University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service*

*Breckbill College*

**Lori Deel, Board of Directors Member**

*Emory & Henry College*

**Henry B. Cooke, Board of Directors Member**

*North Carolina State University*



## ACCREDITATION & STATE OVERSIGHT

Sheffey College is a religious institution in nature, with the specific goal of training and preparing Christians for a lifetime of ministry service. Therefore, we feel that it would be inappropriate to ask a non-Christian educational system to accredit ministry training.

It is for this reason that we have sought and received religious exemption status from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) under 8VAC40-31-50 of the Code of Virginia. Sheffey College is exempt from the requirements of state regulation and oversight.

### A Brief History of Higher Education in America

It is a well-known fact that the first institution of higher education in America was Harvard University; however, it is largely unknown to the average person that Harvard was founded for the sole purpose of training Christians for ministry service.

*“After God had carried us safe to New-England, and wee had buildd our houses, provided necessities for our livelihood, rear'd convenient places for Gods worship, and settled the Civill Government: One of the next things we longed for, and looked after was to advance Learning and perpetuate it to Posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the Churches, when our present Ministers shall lie in the Dust. And as we were thinking and consulting how to effect this great work, it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard (a godly gentleman and a lover of learning; then living amongst us) to give one-half of his estate (it being in all about £1,700) towards the erecting of a Colledge, and all his library. After him, another gave £300; others after them cast in more; and the public hand of the State added the rest. The Colledge was by common consent appointed to be at Cambridge (a place very pleasant and accomodate), and is called (according to the name of the first founder) Harvard Colledge.” - New England's First Fruits (1643)*

Sometime after the founding of Harvard College, the neighboring colony of Connecticut decided on October 9, 1701, to launch their own institution of higher education in an effort to train ministers and lay leadership. Shortly thereafter, a group of ten Congregational ministers, all graduates of Harvard, met together and chose to donate their books to form the school's library. From this library would be born Yale University, a college whose sole purpose was to train congregational ministers.

America's higher education system was founded by highly educated men and women of great faith, whose sole desire was to see future generations of ministers and believers equipped with the education, moral fiber, and applicable training to reach their contemporaries for Christ.

The concept of ministry training is Scriptural and dates back to the days of Elijah with “the sons of the Prophets” (II Kings 2). Hosea 4.6 states, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” It is the desire and prayer of the founders of Sheffey College to equip perspective ministers and Christians with the concentrated knowledge and servant-leadership spirit that will aid them in seeing a lifetime of success regardless of where their ministering takes them.



## CHARLES SPURGEON ON BIBLE COLLEGES

In 1856, Charles Spurgeon, known as the Prince of Preachers, founded a college in London with the expressed intent to train Christian ministers. The school, which was originally named “Pastors’ College” provided a practical theological education to its students.

As founding president of England’s most successful Bible college, Spurgeon’s wisdom regarding higher education was held in high esteem around the world. In a letter to the American Baptist Education Commission, he laid out the commonsense approach he believed should serve as the pillars of any Bible college.

*\*The following is taken from Charles H. Spurgeon: His Faith and Works, 1892, By Heman Lincoln Wayland:*

- I. Found a college into which men with an ordinary English education can be admitted without being degraded by comparison with graduates of secular universities.
- II. Set before the men no ambition after scholarship for its own sake, but keep them to the one aim of being soulwinners and edifiers of the saints...
- III. Provide for poor men all necessities board, lodging, clothes, books, in fact all they want.
- IV. Keep all this at the cheapest rate that men may not form habits they cannot afterward live up to.
- V. Affiliate the College to a large working church. Expect the men to be members and during the first six months, workers in the schools, etc.
- VI. Keep the period of study short say, two to three years. Never exceed this. Men who cannot do in that time are no great good for rough work.
- VII. Give every man the first three or six months as probation and constantly weed out the idle, vain, inefficient, or devoid of zeal.
- VIII. Keep up the devotional spirit by giving half a day in the week for nothing but prayer. Begin each class with prayer.
- IX. Make them live in Christian families and send round a Christian man constantly to inquire as to habits, domestic moral, etc.
- X. Make it known by your magazines and papers that men can be received and are wanted.





XI. Do not embarrass the President with committees, etc.

XII. Sort the men and do not make the studies in each case the same. Some never will learn classics some will readily.

XIII. Have frequent sermonizings, discussions, etc. and encourage extempore speech.

XIV. Let a man who is really a good fellow stay till a place is ready for him, and let him come back if in his first church he does not succeed. Keep him with you another term and let him try again.

XV. With poor men keep up a system of traveling libraries to keep them in books and help them to go on educating themselves.

XVI. Let tutors be brethren to the men, not lords. The more familiar the intercourse, the deeper the love, and the truer the respect.

XVII. Call in pastors, missionaries, and successful workers to talk to the men and tell them their experiences.

XVIII. Keep the men to outdoor preaching and encourage them to be winning souls while students.

XIX. Make the physical sciences a great point, they furnish illustrations, relieve the severity of study, and enlarge the mind. Change of work is recreation.

XX. Keep the church praying for them. Interest the church by meetings in which the men speak. Let beginners speak and then in after months, the people will remark their progress and see the reality of their preparation.

XXI. Believe in Dr. Francis Wayland's Principles of the Baptists and practically carry them out.

XXII. The Lord, the Holy Spirit, direct you and bless you with His guidance, follow that guidance and not my recommendations wherein they fail.



THE PASTORS' COLLEGE





# ADMISSIONS





# IS SHEFFEY COLLEGE RIGHT FOR ME?

## Understanding what Sheffey College is... and is not.

Sheffey College is not a secular college, nor do we award secular degrees. We are a Bible institution committed to training ministers of the Gospel, whether these ministers will serve as pastors, missionaries, church planters, Christian school teachers, or in the business world, our goal is to prepare students with Scriptural foundational truths that will lead them toward a lifetime of service and Christian success.

Sheffey College is an evangelical college that teaches Baptist doctrine.

## Personal Walk & Qualifications for Enrollment

Sheffey College admits students of any race, color, disability, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the college. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs. The pastoral program is limited to men because of the Biblical qualifications of the pastor found in I Timothy 3.

Students must be born again Christians.

Students must cheerfully abide by the rules of Sheffey College. The student should understand that attendance at Sheffey College is a privilege and not a right. This privilege may be revoked if the student does not adhere to rules of Sheffey College.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSIONS

### Requirements for Admissions (All Students)

Students applying to Sheffey College must provide the following:

A clear testimony of personal salvation,

Willingness to be teachable and desire to serve the Lord

Graduation from high school or its equivalent or received the General Equivalency Diploma (GED)

### Requirements for Admissions (Graduate Level)

In addition to the above stated requirements, students wishing to make application for enrollment in graduate programs must have received a bachelor's degree in an approved undergraduate program.

## PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSIONS

### Application Procedures for New & Transfer Students (Undergraduate and Graduate Level)

1. Download / Complete application, available on website
2. Submit application to the email or mailing address listed on the application
3. You will be contacted within two-business days by a college counselor to discuss your application status

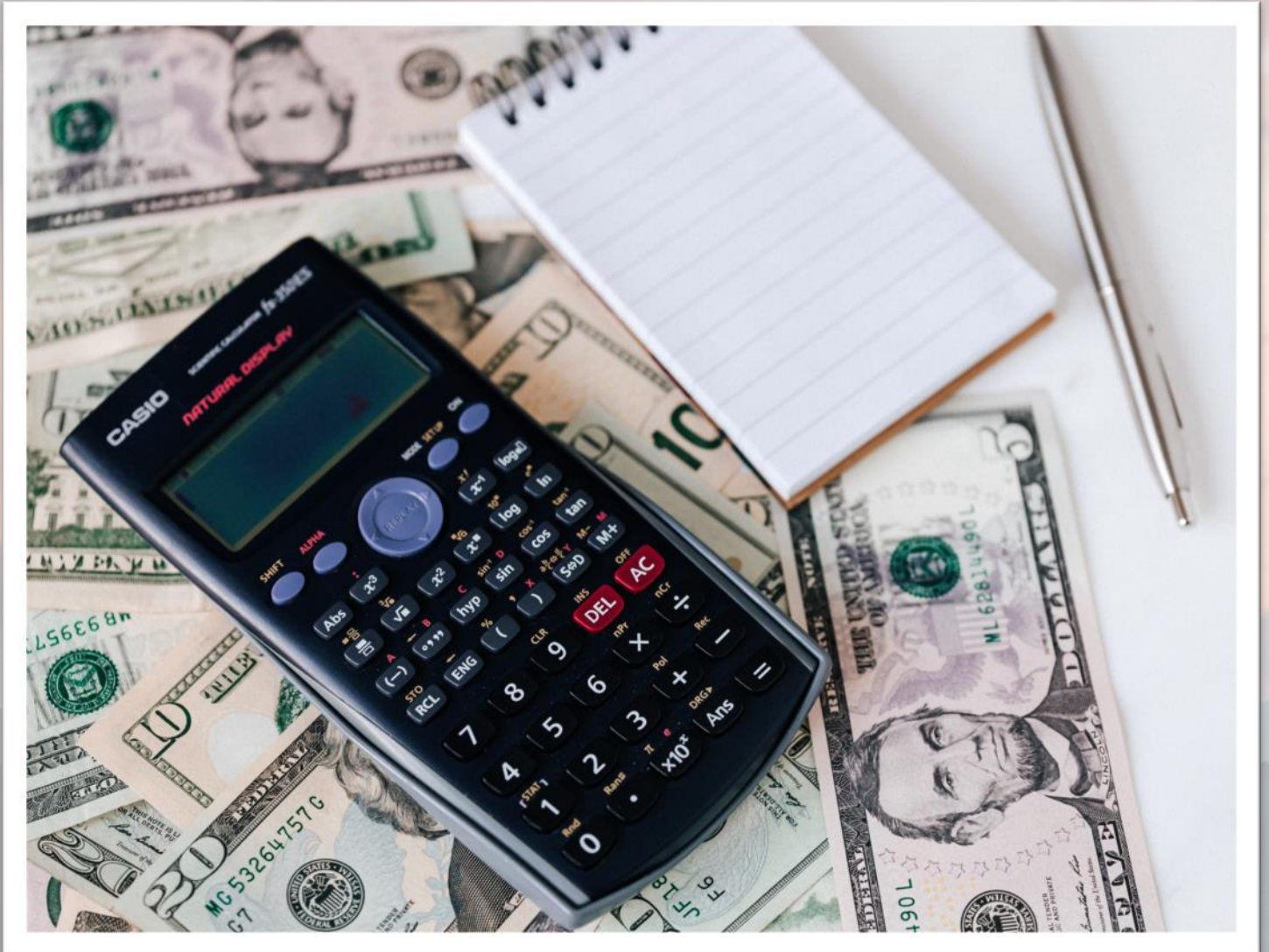
### Application Procedures for Returning Students (Undergraduate and Graduate Level)

Current students will be given a return-application for the coming year in the final quarter of the spring semester.





# FINANCIAL INFORMATION





## TUITION & COSTS

The prices associated with earning an undergraduate degree in America has become so exorbitant many are left feeling their only option for a quality education is by becoming insnared with a lifetime of debt. Sadly, this same mentality has become pervasive even within the world of Christian education. Many Bible colleges are now charging outrageous prices that are crippling to students and leave families struggling for years to come.

Scriptures teach that the borrower is servant to the lender (Proverbs 22.7) and from this principle was born our commitment to affordable education. We are dedicated to ensuring that Sheffey College is, and forever shall be, affordable to any person wishing to study Biblical principles for life and ministry.

### **Full-Time Student Costs per Semester**

Undergraduate Students: Online or In-Person\*

\$450 tuition per semester + up to \$50 in book fees.

= \$500 per semester

*\* There are additional charges for dormitory students*

### **Graduate Students:**

\$400 flat rate for degree + up to \$50 in book fees.

## FINANCIAL AID & DISCOUNTS

As part of our commitment to keep the costs associated with ministry education to a minimum, we are pleased to offer several discounts and scholarship options to students:

### **Hardship Scholarship**

Occasionally, “hardship scholarships” are awarded to individuals who have suffered catastrophic financial hardships and only when funding is available to cover the student’s tuition. These discounts are typically on a semester-to-semester basis and are provided at the discretion of the college.

### **Ministry Discount**

Pastors, Assistant Pastors, Christian School Teachers, and others involved in ministry are provided a 10% tuition discount. Additionally, the spouses and students who are the children of these ministers under the age of 25 are entitled to this same discount.

### **Military + First Responder Discount**

Honorably discharged members of our nation’s armed forces, as well as currently serving first responders (Police, EMT, Fire) are provided a 10% tuition discount, as well as their spouses, and students who are the children of these individuals under the age of 25.





# ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING





## ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

In the fall of 2023 Sheffey College will begin its first semester of operation, offering classes only via its online distance learning portal. The following year, in the fall of 2024, we will begin accepting on-campus students for traditional learning inside the classroom.

The Online Distance Learning program has been created for students who possess a self-motivated nature and are fueled by a desire to earn their degree while at the same time not uprooting their entire lives. This particular program of study has been specifically designed with the working parent or individual currently serving in ministry in mind.

## DELIVERY OF ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

Each semester lasts fifteen weeks and fulltime students (whether online or in person) will typically study four separate courses per semester. In total, this means that the student will attend a total of 60 class sessions each semester (15 per course).

Sheffey's *Online Distance Learning Portal* will present the student with one course at a time and allow the student to work toward completing all 15 sessions of each particular course at their own pace, before moving on to the next course. This will allow the student to work at his or her own schedule without the fear of going too fast or too slow.

The courses will be delivered via email with links to the required videos to watch, as well as questionnaires proving the videos were viewed, reading assignments, and any tests or quizzes for that particular session.

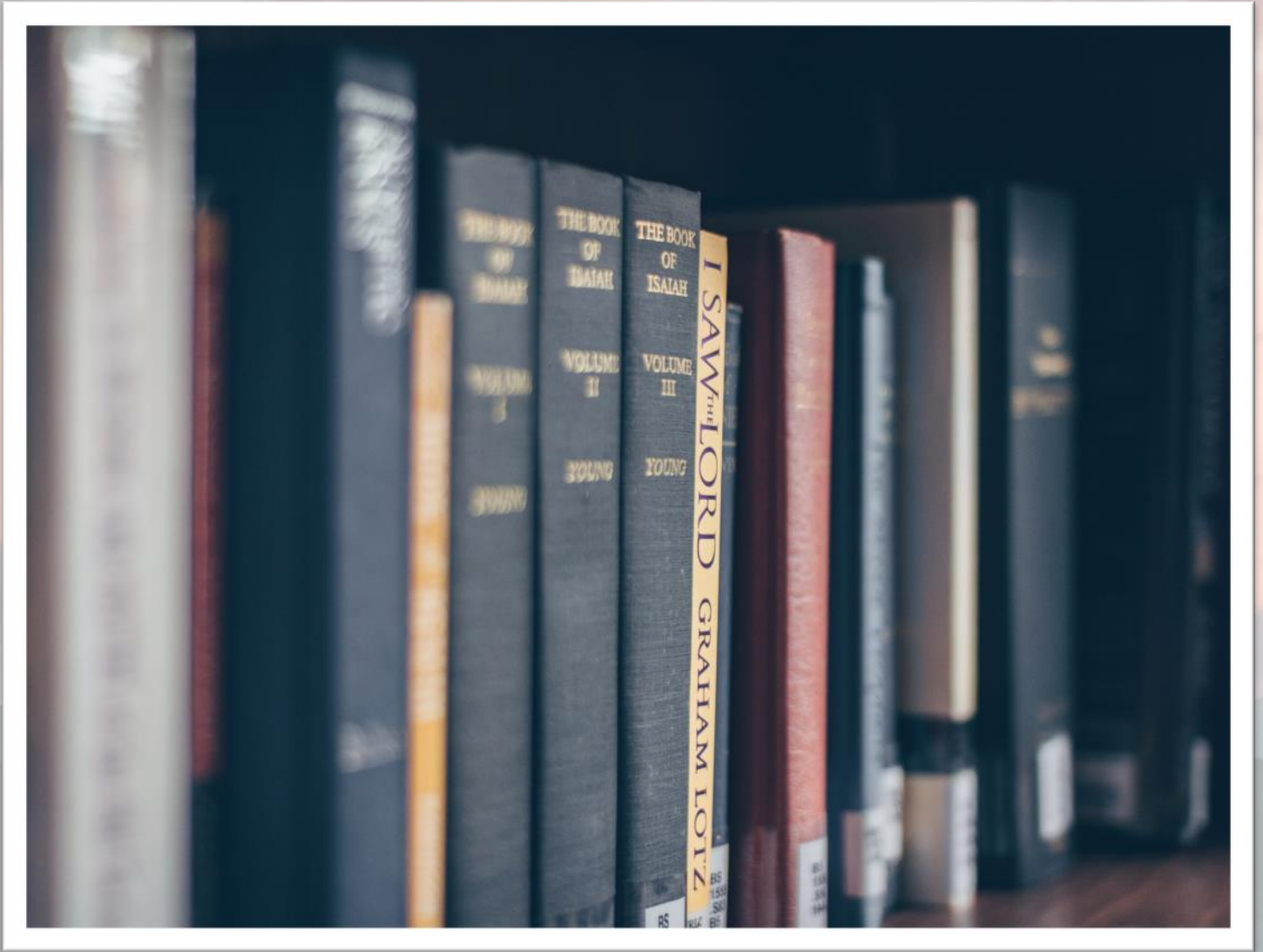
Once all fifteen sessions of the course are completed, the student will then be given their next course which must then be completed in the same manner.

After all four courses are completed, the student advances to the next semester.

Thanks to Sheffey College using professors and requiring the same level of academic rigor online as in the classroom, students who complete the course requirements earn college credits rather than correspondence credits.

Degrees conferred by Sheffey College to graduates through the *Online Distance Learning Portal* are equivalent in all manner to the degrees earned by fulltime students.

# ACADEMICS





## OVERVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

### **Bible Study Certificate, 8-week in person or online**

8-week in person or online Bible study program aimed at providing students with an overview of church ministry and Christian leadership. A major emphasis is placed upon lay ministry in this course of study. The course is held in person for local students annually but can also be taken online any time.

### **Associate of Christian Ministries, 60 credits**

The aim of this degree is to equip ministers of the Gospel with a confidence in Scripture, as well as the skillsets needed to serve as gracious and effective agents for positive and spiritual change within their congregations. Additional credits for outside of the classroom experience will be awarded to current pastors and those serving in ministry, as well as individuals with life experience credits.

### **Associate of Christian Education, 60 credits**

The Associate of Christian Education program will assist in preparing Christian school educators in becoming confident and effective educators in a Christian School setting. An overview of elementary and secondary Christian education techniques, history, and approaches will be studied through this program.

### **Bachelor of Religious Education, B.R.E., Pastoral Ministries, 120 credits**

Whereas the Associates of Biblical Ministry degree provides a limited overview of the day-to-day ministry activity associated with pastoring, the Bachelor of Religious Education, Pastoral Ministries degree provides an in-depth look at all facets of pastoral ministry including history, church polity, counseling, and Biblical studies. Additional credits for outside of the classroom experience will be awarded to current pastors and those serving in ministry, as well as individuals with life experience credits.

### **Bachelor of Religious Education, B.R.E., Christian Education, 120 credits**

Focusing on elementary and high school teaching in a Christian School environment, the Bachelor of Religious Education in Christian Education program will provide students with in-depth preparation so that they can become effective educators in a Christian School. Upon graduating, students will be able to articulate the value of Christian education, showcase a mastery of the subjects they will be teaching, and effectively apply their understanding of these subjects to the real-world environment of Christian education.

## OVERVIEW OF GRADUATE DEGREES

### Master of Divinity, 30 post-graduate credits, available online only

Explore the Word of God, Christian history, and ministry philosophies deeper through the Master of Divinity program. The course will conclude with a fifty-page dissertation researching and highlighting the material covered through the course of study.

### Doctor of Sacred Theology, 60 post-graduate credits, available online only

The Doctor of Theology program is designed to enhance the intellectual understanding, as well as practical skill-sets of post-graduate students in their understanding of Scripture, ministerial concepts, and Christian leadership.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Each student pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree must take the following courses from Sheffey College (other courses may transfer from other colleges or universities at the administration's discretion): Personal Spirituality, Personal Finance, Old Testament Survey, and New Testament Survey.

Associate Degree — Requires the completion of 60 credit hours.

Bachelor's Degree — Requires the completion of 120 credit hours.

### Graduate Degree Requirements

To enter Sheffey College's graduate program, all students must present a bachelor's degree, which includes the following: at least 24 undergraduate credit hours in Bible and/or Christian ministries courses.

Master's Degree — Master's degree requires 30 graduate-level credit hours above a bachelor's degree, plus a dissertation. A master's dissertation is a minimum of 60 typewritten, double-spaced, 8 ½ x 11 pages. The topic of the thesis must be approved by the administration of Sheffey College. Life experiences and accomplishments in ministry may also provide a substitute for the credit hours required.

Doctoral Degree — The Doctor of Sacred Theology degree requires the completion of 60 graduate-level credit hours above a bachelor's degree, plus a doctoral thesis on a topic pre-approved by the administration of Sheffey College. A doctoral thesis requires a minimum of 100 typewritten, double-spaced, 8 ½ x 11 pages.



## GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### Unit of Credit

Academic credit hours are measurements Sheffey College uses to determine how much coursework a student has completed. One credit hour typically represents one-hour of work per week for a 15-week semester.

### Transferring Credits

Sheffey College is a special purpose institution and while we agree to accept transfer credits which apply to specific courses and programs, each institution of higher learning reserves the right on an individual student basis to determine what transfer credits (if any) it will or will not accept. Students should be aware that transfer of credit is always the responsibility of the receiving institution. Whether or not credits transfer is solely dependent upon the evaluation policies of the receiving institution. Any student interested in transferring credit hours should check with the receiving institution directly to determine how many, if any, credit hours can be transferred.

We will gladly accept the transferring in of credits of other academic institutions that are comparable to Sheffey College's academics. A student's GPA will be based solely upon the student's grades at Sheffey College. Sheffey College reserves the rights to withhold recognition of credits or transferring in of any credits the administration deems necessary.

### Life Experience

The administration of Sheffey College reserves the right to provide (or withhold) credits for Life Experiences to individual students at any level in any degree program. Life experiences are predominantly awarded to persons who have successfully served in various ministries, including (but not limited to) churches as a pastor or youth pastor, deacons or elders, or in Christian schools as teachers and administrators.

### Grading Systems

A student must conclude the semester with a D or higher average in order to pass a particular course. Grades are awarded based upon the following averages:

93-100	A
83-92	B
76-82	C
69-75	D
0-68	F

### Semester

Sheffey College has two semesters each school year: A fall semester and a spring semester.

Each semester has 15 class sessions per course and the student will typically complete four separate courses per semester. In total, students will attend 60 sessions each semester.

# PROGRAMS OF STUDY







# PASTORAL MINISTRIES





## PASTORAL MINISTRIES DEGREES

*Bible Study Certificate*

*Associate of Christian Ministries*

*Bachelor of Religious Education, B.R.E.,  
Pastoral Ministries*

*Master of Divinity*

*Doctor of Sacred Theology*



## BIBLE STUDY CERTIFICATES

Bible study certificates are awarded in a multitude of subjects and count as one credit toward a degree. Sheffey College issues Bible Study Certificates for the following subjects: Bible Doctrines, Biblical Church Growth, Teaching God's Word, and Overview of the Family.

### **Bible Study Certificate: Introduction to Bible Doctrines**

1. The Bible: God's Word & Final Authority
2. Salvation: Being Sure
3. Understanding the Holy Spirit
4. Baptism
5. Purpose of the Local Church
6. Priesthood of Believers
7. Christian Liberty
8. Christian Wisdom

### **Bible Study Certificate: Biblical Church Growth**

1. Church Should be the Best Run Organization in Town
2. Being Like Jesus: Your Testimony
3. Outreach
4. First Impressions
5. Follow Up
6. Worship & Music
7. Children & Teens
8. Facilities

### **Teaching God's Word**

1. Understanding the Different Types of Sermons
2. Introduction to Expository Outlines
3. Speaking in Humility
4. The Power of a Good Story
5. Study to Show Thyself Approved
6. Know Your Crowd: I Became All Things to All Men
7. Rightly Dividing the Word of God
8. Common Errors of Preachers

### **Overview of the Family**

1. The Prerequisite for a Biblical Marriage
2. Role of a Husband & Father
3. Role of a Wife & Mother
4. Seeing Children as Arrows
5. Discipling & Raising Children
6. Sex: God Has a Lot to Say About This
7. Family Finance
8. Leaving a Godly Legacy

# ASSOCIATE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES DEGREE

## Program Overview

The Associate of Christian Ministries degree is an abbreviated version of the Bachelor's in pastoral ministries program. This aim of this degree is to lay a foundation for ministers of the Gospel to move forward in ministry with a confidence in Scripture, as well as the skillsets needed to serve as gracious and effective agents for spiritual maturity wherever they may serve. Additional credits for service outside of the classroom, may be awarded to current pastors and those serving in ministry, as well as individuals with life's experiences in ministry.

## Year One

### Fall Semester

History of the Bible  
Personal Spirituality  
Old Testament Survey  
Pastoral Methods

### Spring Semester

Communications  
Hermeneutics  
New Testament Survey  
Philosophy of Christian Music / Cancer of Tradition

## Year Two

### Fall Semester

History of Civilization  
Marriage & Family  
Book of Genesis  
Church Planting

### Spring Semester

Fundamentals of Leadership  
Rightly Dividing the Word  
Four Gospels  
Youth Ministry



# BACHELOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, B.R.E., PASTORAL MINISTRIES

## Program Overview

Whereas the Associates of Biblical Ministry degree provides a limited overview of the day-to-day ministry activity associated with pastoring, the Bachelor of Religious Education, Pastoral Ministries degree provides an in-depth look at all facets of pastoral ministry including history, church polity, counseling, and Biblical studies. Additional credits, outside of the classroom, will be awarded to current pastors and those serving in ministry, as well as individuals with life experience credits.

## Year One

### Fall Semester

History of the Bible  
Personal Spirituality  
Old Testament Survey  
Pastoral Methods

### Spring Semester

Communications  
Hermeneutics  
New Testament Survey  
Philosophy of Christian Music / Cancer of Tradition

## Year Two

### Fall Semester

History of Civilization  
Marriage & Family  
Book of Genesis  
Church Planting

### Spring Semester

Fundamentals of Leadership  
Rightly Dividing the Word  
Four Gospels  
Youth Ministry

## Year Three

### Fall Semester

History of the Church  
Personal Finance  
Acts & Romans  
Pastoral Counseling

### Spring Semester

Marketing  
Introduction to Greek & Hebrew  
Life of David & Solomon  
Dealing with Difficult People & Conflict Resolution

## Year Four

### Fall Semester

Great Christian Biographies  
Apologetics  
Eschatology  
Ministering Like Jesus

### Spring Semester

Church Business Operations  
Expository Preaching  
Minor Prophets  
Revitalizing Dying Churches

# MASTER OF DIVINITY

## Program Overview

*Master of Divinity, 30 post-graduate credits, available online only*

Explore the Word of God, Christian history, and ministry philosophies even deeper through the Master of Divinity program. The program will conclude with a fifty-page thesis researching and highlighting the material covered through the course of study.

Students must maintain a 3.0 combined average of all Sheffey College graduate courses to be awarded the Master of Divinity degree.

## Courses Required:

**Apologetics**

**Life & Ministry of Robert Sheffey**

**Baptist Distinctives & Church History**

**Biblical Exegesis**

**Teaching & Preaching the Bible**

**Ministry Practicum\***

**Dissertation\*\***

*\*Ministry Practicum — Students will be required to serve in an elevated capacity within a local church in order to earn a Master of Divinity Degree. Service may include, but not be limited to: Serving as a pastor or associate pastor, worship leader, youth worker, counselor, jail / nursing home minister, etc.*

*\*\*Dissertation — Final completion of the Master's of Divinity degree will require the student to produce a master's dissertation (minimum of 60 typewritten, double-spaced, 8 1/2 x 11 pages). The topic of the dissertation must be pre-approved by the administration of Sheffey College.*



# DOCTOR OF SACRED THEOLOGY

## Program Overview

*Doctor of Sacred Theology, 60 post-graduate credits, available online only*

The Doctor of Theology program is designed to distinguish candidates for their enhanced intellectual understanding of theological truths and mastery of ministerial concepts and Christian leadership.

Candidates for Doctor of Sacred Theology degrees must maintain a 3.0 combined average of all Sheffey College graduate-level courses and complete the specified course of study laid out by the administration of Sheffey College. This course of study will follow the following format:

### Introductory Stage

1. Candidates must complete “Foundations for the Doctor of Sacred Theology” seminar
2. Candidates must complete “Personal Spiritual Assessment Form” and have three other individuals fill out a "Spiritual Assessment Form" on their behalf
3. Candidate must submit a “Doctoral Thesis Statement” for the administration to review and approve. The administration will work with the student in developing their Doctoral Thesis Statement so that it is concise, specific, and unique.

### Class & Study Stage

*Upon completion of the Introductory Stage, candidates for the Doctor of Sacred Theology degree will then proceed to studying their assigned subjects: Theology of the Gospel, History & Practice of Biblical Theology, and Utilizing the Scriptures as a Pastor.*

#### **Theology of the Gospel**

#### **History & Practice of Biblical Theology**

#### **Utilizing the Scriptures as a Pastor**

### Completion of Thesis Project

1. Research & Thesis Development
2. Complete Writing of Thesis
3. Thesis Defense\*

*\* A thesis defense is an oral presentation and discussion of a thesis study with the doctoral committee. This undertaking is designed to showcase to the committee that the author presents a clear understanding of the subject and a mastery understanding of the Scriptures and the subject being presented.*





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEGREES

*Associate of Christian Education*

*Bachelor of Religious Education, B.R.E.,  
Christian Education*

# ASSOCIATE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEGREE

## Program Overview

The Associate of Christian Education program will assist in preparing Christian school educators in becoming confident and effective educators in a Christian School setting. An overview of elementary and secondary Christian education techniques, history, and approaches will be studied through this program.

## Year One

### Fall Semester

Personal Spirituality  
Old Testament Survey  
Teaching History  
Teaching Language Arts

### Spring Semester

Personal Finance  
New Testament Survey  
Teaching Science  
Teaching Math

## Year Two

### Fall Semester

Teaching Phonics  
Classroom Management  
Philosophy of Christian Education  
Teaching Males

### Spring Semester

Marriage & Family  
Teaching Males  
Teaching the Bible  
Methods & Materials



# BACHELOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, B.R.E., CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Program Overview

Focusing on elementary and high school teaching in a Christian School environment, the Bachelor of Religious Education in Christian Education program will provide students with in-depth preparation so that they can become effective educators in a Christian School. Upon graduating, students will be able to articulate the value of Christian education, showcase a mastery of the subjects they will be teaching, and effectively apply their understanding of these subjects to the real-world environment of Christian education.

## Year One

### Fall Semester

Personal Spirituality  
Old Testament Survey  
Teaching History  
Teaching Language Arts

### Spring Semester

Personal Finance  
New Testament Survey  
Teaching Science  
Teaching Math

## Year Two

### Fall Semester

Teaching Phonics  
Classroom Management  
Philosophy of Christian Education  
Teaching Males

### Spring Semester

Marriage & Family  
Teaching Males  
Teaching the Bible  
Methods & Materials

## Year Three

### Fall Semester

Communications  
Dealing with Difficult People & Conflict Resolution  
Ministering Like Jesus  
American Literature

### Spring Semester

Christian School Administration  
Practice Teaching I  
Great Christian Biographies  
History of the Bible

## Year Four

### Fall Semester

Marketing  
Practice Teaching II  
Child Psychology  
Teaching Physical Education

### Spring Semester

Leadership  
Practice Teaching III  
First Aid / Schoolroom Safety

# FACILITIES

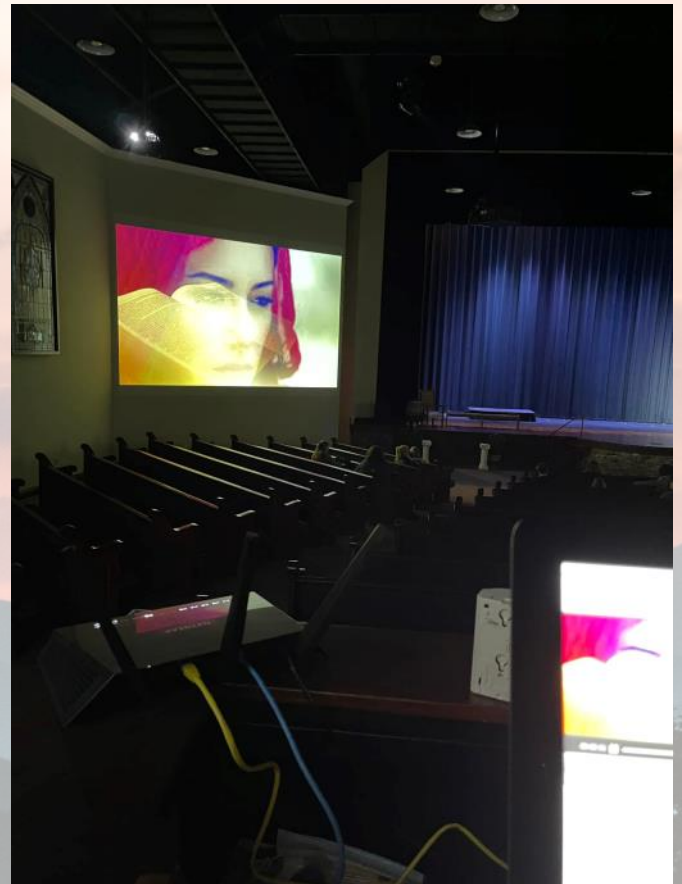




## THE CAMPUS OF SHEFFEY COLLEGE

Situated in beautiful Southwest Virginia in the heart of America's Appalachian Mountains, Sheffey College's main campus rests on the 50+ acre property of Freedom Tabernacle in Atkins, Virginia. The property includes the main sanctuary of Freedom Tabernacle Church, the elementary and high school facilities of Grace Christian Academy, softball field, youth day camp, daycare facilities, basketball court, bookstore, and high school and college chapel area. Additional buildings are currently being constructed to serve as educational space for Grace Christian Academy and Sheffey College.

*Freedom Tabernacle and Sheffey College enjoy state of the art theater production capabilities:*





*Sheffey College Chapel: An earlier meeting place of Freedom Tabernacle, the college chapel building serves as a full-functioning worship space for youth groups, Grace Christian Academy, and Sheffey College.*





*Freedom Tabernacle Sanctuary:*





*Athletic facilities:*

*Softball field, basketball court, and hiking trail.*





*Freedom Tabernacle Camp and Bookstore:*



# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT





## I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

## II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

### A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

*Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

### B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

*Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

### C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

### III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*



#### IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

#### V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10, 19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

## VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*



### VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

### IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

### X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

*Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.*

## XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.*

## XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

*Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

## XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

*Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*



#### XIV. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

*Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*

#### XV. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; Psalms 127; Psalms 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*



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