**THE 365 – Spiritual Development: “Intimacy with God”**

**Course Syllabus**

**Appalachian School of Theology, Inc.**

**Fall 2022**

**I.** **Class Meeting Place, Dates, and Time**

 Meeting Place: First Baptist Church, Family Life Center, Nickelsville, VA but we are also offering this as a hybrid class online utilizing Zoom technology.

 Dates: Each Monday night beginning August 22nd and ending December 5th.

 Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM

**II. Course Instructor**

Steve J. Collins; Church Office Phone: 276-479-3222; Home Phone: 276-467-2389**;**

Cell Phone: 276-393-2741; E-mail: astincva@gmail.com

**III. Course Description**

This course is a study focusing on the doctrine of knowing God (epistemology). Special attention is given to the induvial practice of knowing God which should challenge and motivate the student to seek the Lord God. Special emphasis will be on what faith is and is not and how to use your faith in the Kingdom and marketplace.

**IV. Learner-Center Outcomes / Course Objectives**

As a result of enrollment and participation students will:

1. Explain the idea of knowing God from a theological and personal perspective.
2. Evaluate the validity and efficacy of biblical practices and processes with respect to knowing God.
3. Describe the nature of faith and its connection to having a relationship with God.
4. Practice methods of knowing God – both personally and corporately.
5. Analyze how the study of knowing God impacts one’s leadership and life.
6. Function intentionally, faithfully, ethically, and effectively as a leader in positions wherein the student may already be serving or will serve in the future.
7. Form reasonable belief-positions regarding contemporary issues in society and articulate how these may influence and shape his/her leadership skills.
8. Help others mature in the areas of bible study, leadership, and ministry.
9. Integrate their learning experiences into the formation of a Christian worldview that honors Jesus Christ and aids in the advancement of His Kingdom.

**V. Required Texts and Materials**

In addition to the Bible you will need one textbook which is:

1. J.I. Packer, Knowing God, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill., ISBN: 0-8308-1651-8

Other books that would prove to be helpful in your pursuit of intimacy with God might be:

1. A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, Aneko Press, 2015
2. Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Claude King, Experiencing God, Broadman & Holman Publishing, Nashville, TN, 2008

**VI. Learning Activities and Evaluation**

1. Attendance – 20% of final grade.

* Students are expected to attend all class sessions.
* If for any reason it is not possible to attend a class, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor beforehand, or in case of an unavoidable emergency, at the earliest opportunity.
* The policy of the Appalachian School of Theology, Inc. is: *Any student taking the class for credit who misses four or more class sessions will automatically be assigned a final grade of “F” for the course.*

 2. Reading & Participation – 20% of final grade.

* There will be regular reading assignments from the text, the Bible, and other sources in preparation for the class.
* Class participants are expected to do all the assigned readings prior to each session and come to class prepared to critically discuss the main themes covered in their reading assignments.
1. Examinations – 60% of final grade:
* There will be three exams given during the semester, with each accounting for 20% of the student’s final grade. These exams will be take home exams wherein students can use their bibles, books, class notes, and engage in conversation with anyone about the content of the exams. They will be due within two weeks after their distribution.

\*A copy of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers (6th edition)* by Kate L.

 Turabian, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1996 is available for

 use by the students.

\*Plagiarism statement – Academic integrity is an important part of the educational process. As such, honesty and accountability are vital to each student who truly wishes to learn and honor God in the process. With this in mind:

* Students are expected to write their own work. While students are encouraged to study and talk with fellow students and the instructor, each student must write their own assignments.
* If you borrow more than 3 or 4 words in a row from another source, it should be properly referenced using quotation marks and full bibliographic information, including page numbers. When you borrow ideas but not actual words, you may cite the source at your discretion to help your reader follow up on your writing.

**VII Teaching Methodology**

This course is designed to be an interactive learning experience. As such we will employ lecture, interactive discussion, and intense Bible study. The facilitator will provide a copy of his / her teaching outline to each participant; however, students are expected to prepare

 for each session by completing their reading and written assignments in order that they may actively and positively enhance our learning environment by their intense participation.

**VIII. Grading Scale**

 A+ 98 – 100 (4.3) The student has demonstrated the mastery of the

 A 95 – 97 (4.0) material and its application.

 A- 93 – 94 (3.7)

 B+ 90 – 92 (3.3) The student has demonstrated above average

 B 87 – 89 (3.0) mastery of the material and its application.

 B- 85 – 86 (2.7)

 C+ 82 – 84 (2.3) The student has demonstrated the required mastery C 79 – 81 (1.7) of the material and its application.

 C- 77 – 78 (1.7)

 D+ 74 – 76 (1.3) The student has demonstrated below average D 71 – 73 (1.0) mastery of the material and its application.

 D- 69 – 70 (0.7)

 F 68 – below (0.0) The student has failed to master the material and its application.

 P Passing WP Withdrew Passing

 I Incomplete WF Withdrew Failing

**IX. Library Support**

* Our students are able to use resources from our Regional Resource Library which is located on the church campus of First Baptist Church of Nickelsville but borrowing privileges must be approved by one of our facilitators.
* Virginia residents and UVA/Virginia Tech graduates can use and borrow books from the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech libraries by using a Virginia driver’s license.
* Access to free, full text journals is available at <http://www.doaj.org>

**X. Expectations of Students**

* Regular attendance in class is required of all students. Any student who is absent in more than 25% of his/her class sessions cannot expect to pass the course. The faculty is responsible for enforcing this policy.
* Students are expected to be on time for class and ready to study.

**XI Late & Make-up Assignments**

 Unless other arrangements are made with the facilitator all assignments are due as listed.

**XIII Use of Technological Devices**

 Students may use laptops, tablets, and smart phones for class.

**XIV CLASS SCHEDULE**

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| **Date** | **Readings**  | **Topics** |
| 8/22/2022Week #1  |  Main Text, Preface - pg. 32 | **Preface; The Study of God, The People Who Know Their God**  |
| 8/29/2022Week #2 |  Main Text, 33-51 | **Knowing & Being Known, The Only True God** |
| 9/5/2022Week #3  | **Labor Day: No Class**  |  |
| 9/12/2022Week #4 | Main Text, 52-65 | **God Incarnate, He Shall Testify**  |
| 9/19/2022Week #5  | **Section 1: Know the Lord****Distribution of 1st Exam** | **Class Discussion on Section 1** |
| 9/26/2022Week #6 | Main Text, pgs. 75-89 | **God Unchanging, The Majesty of God** |
| 10/3/2022Week #7 | Main Text, pgs. 90-108 | **God Only Wise, God’s Wisdom & Ours**  |
| 10/10/2022Week #8 | Main Text, pgs. 109-127 | **Thy Word is Truth, The Love of God** |
| 10/17/2022Week #9 | Main Text, pgs. 128-147 | **The Grace of God, God the Judge** |
| 10/24/2022Week #10  | Main Text, pgs. 148-166 | **The Wrath of God, Goodness & Severity** |
| 10/31/2022Week #11  | **Reading Days: No Class****(Halloween)**  |  |
| 11/7/2022Week #12  | Main Text, pgs. 167-175**Section 2: Behold Your God** **Distribution of 2nd Exam** |  **The Jealous God****Class Discussion on Section 2** |
| 11/14/2022Week #13  | Main Text, pgs. 176-229 | **The Heart of the Gospel, Sons of God,**  |
| 11/21/2022Week #14  |  Main Text, 230-252  | **Thou Our Guide, These Inward Trials** |
| 11/28/2022Week #15  | Main Text, 253-279**Section 3: If God Be For Us** **Distribution of 3rd Exam**  | **The Adequacy of God****Class Discussion on Section 3** |
| 12/5/2022Week #16  | **Final Class of Semester** | **Get Together for Evening Meal**  |
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