Spiritual Formation

Henderson Training Institute

Fall 2015
Spiritual Formation

Spiritual Formation - Course Syllabus
Fall 2015

Instructor: Chris Newkirk | cnewkirk@hhbc.com
Assistant Instructor: Parker Griffin | pgriffin@hhbc.com

Class meeting: Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m. We will start in the Worship Center and dismiss to classrooms. Classroom is W-105

Course description.
This course is designed to give students an introduction to the dynamics involved in the spiritual formation of the Christian. Christians are spiritually formed and renewed as we increasingly understand and experience the gospel. This gospel-fueled renewal takes place gradually, over-time as the believer learns to walk in the rhythms of faith, repentance, and obedience and appropriate the gospel graces that God has provided.

Course objectives.
Knowing:
• Understand and articulate a theological understanding of the Gospel as it relates to the daily, ongoing life of a believer
• Understand and articulate theological terms central to the Gospel
• Understand the biblical imperative for holiness and spiritual growth
• Understand and articulate what the American church often substitutes for Gospel centric Christianity
• Understand various spiritual disciplines a Christian can use to grow toward maturity in Christ

Being:
• To know God more through the power of the Gospel
• To learn to fear God more than man
• To increasingly enjoy God
• To identify and repent of core idols and sin in your life that vie for your affections
• Learn how to preach the gospel to yourself daily to experience it’s power daily
• Practice common spiritual disciplines that God uses to grow your affections for Him (Bible reading, meditation, prayer, journaling, fasting, humility, etc.)
• Be used by the Lord as an agent of spiritual growth and renewal in the lives of others

Doing:
• Identify how your understanding of the gospel impacts your ministry at HHBC or the church you attend
• Identify opportunities to speak the gospel to Christians and non-Christians alike
Course requirements.

Class Attendance 70% Attendance is required for credit
Reading Due each week as assigned in schedule
Reading Report (Keller) Due Nov. 4.
Spiritual Journal Entries Due Nov. 18 (Last Day of Course)
Spiritual Retreat Report Due Nov. 18 (Last Day of Course)
Final Paper Due Nov. 11

A final ‘pass’ or ‘fail’ grade will be issued for each student seeking credit for this course based upon the above requirements. Each student will need to complete each assignment in a satisfactory and timely manner for the work to be accepted.

Course Texts.

Required:

Chalmers, Thomas. “The Expulsive Power of the New Affection.” Student can buy this online or download here: http://tinyurl.com/nxkju8o


Marshall, Colin. “The Ministry of the Pew.” Student can read this article online at the following web address: http://matthiasmedia.com/briefing/1994/03/factotum-1-the-ministry-of-the-pew/


Recommended:


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**Submission of Papers**

Papers should be submitted, in hard copy, at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date. Papers should be clearly labeled with your name, class name, and date submitted. All papers should be typed, double-spaced and using 12 pt. Times New Roman font. All papers should be thoroughly edited and assessed for clarity and accuracy. This means using good grammar, complete sentences, correcting spelling errors, using consistent formatting for references, etc.

**Reading Report**

Over the duration of the course the student will be required to submit a reading report for his/her reading of Keller’s book. The reading report should be 3-5 pages in length. Do not use the reading report to outline or explain the book. Instead, the student should highlight the concepts from the book considered to be helpful, insightful, or even wrong. Discuss why the student agrees/disagrees. Additionally, the student should draw out applications that seem especially important to pursue.

**Spiritual Journaling**

Record your thoughts and ideas around the lectures and readings, as well as personal meditations and devotions. Be sure you engage your mind in the subject matter and wrestle with the material and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit enriching your mind, heart, and soul. Focus on integrating this information into your head, heart, and hands. Submit at least 5 journal entries on the last day of class.

**Spiritual Retreat**

Take 3 hours during any day after week 6 and reflect on the biblical concepts studied in this course regarding the power of God revealed in the Gospel. Go through your notes, review passages of scripture that stood out to you during the previous weeks, review your favorite passages within the readings, pray, and/or meditate on scripture. Diligently give your attention to rehearsing the gospel and preaching it to yourself. Submit a two to three-page report on how you conducted your retreat as well as what insights you gained. This is due by the last day of class.

**Final Paper**

In 7-10 pages clearly articulate the gospel, what the gospel accomplishes, and how the gospel applies to the Christian’s life (as opposed to just a non-believer). This paper is aimed to help the student articulate in his/her own words the most important truths of this course and the Christian faith. Therefore, you should not just repeat or rephrase what the instructor has already said. Your paper should reflect patient consideration and thorough contemplation. The paper should reflect careful consideration of the assigned readings. This is due by the start of the class on week nine.
**Course Schedule**

The following is the intended course schedule. This schedule is open to alteration throughout the semester as deemed necessary by the instructors.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Reading Due</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>What is Spiritual Formation?</td>
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<td>Sep 16</td>
<td>The Heart of the Problem</td>
<td>Keller, Intro-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 23</td>
<td>Other Spiritual Formation Challenges &amp; False Remedies</td>
<td>Keller, 22-71</td>
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<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>Gospel Promises</td>
<td>Keller, 72-125</td>
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<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Gospel Fixes</td>
<td>Thomas Watson, “The Expulsive Power of the New Affection”</td>
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<td>Oct 14</td>
<td><em><strong>NO CLASS FALL BREAK</strong></em></td>
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<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Gospel Graces (Part II)</td>
<td>Keller, 126-153</td>
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<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Gospel Graces (Part IV)</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Renewal as a Rhythm of Life</td>
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<td>1. Spiritual Retreat 2. Spiritual Journal</td>
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