

**Birmingham Theological Seminary**  
**2200 Briarwood Way, Birmingham, Alabama 35243**  
**205-776-5650**

**INSTRUCTOR/CLASS INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Rev. Lyle Lee  
**Email:** lyle@lincolnvillageministry.com (preferred method of contact)  
**Course:** PT5531 Christian Workers Personal Life & Spiritual Formation  
**Term:** Fall, 2019  
**Class Time:** Tue 7:30-9:30 PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a course development of the church worker's own personal walk with God. Special attention is given to leadership of one's self and spiritual formation through the classic spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer life, devotional habits, etc.) as well as call to work, relationship with spouse and children, and ability to relate to and minister to people. REQUIRED FOR M.Div., M.A.B.C., M.A.B.S., M.A.M., C.B.S. – Two Credit Hours

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will be able to examine for themselves the internal and external call of God to Christian work, as well as consideration of a biblical theology of work. The qualifications and qualities of a Christian worker will be examined.
2. The student will be able to develop disciplines of spiritual growth consistent with Scriptural principles of personal sanctification and Christ likeness through personal prayer, devotion to the Scriptures, and worship.
3. The student will be able to development disciplines of: spiritual service, humility, patience, self-leadership, confronting and overcoming sin, and theology of change.
4. Special attention will be devoted to cultivating the students' understanding and practice of spiritual disciplines and Christian character of the heart manifested by the fruit of the spirit.
5. After a thorough consideration and examination of the students' oversight of self, the course will transition to cultivating the students' oversight of others, particularly in relation to family (spouse, children, and parents) and the flock/church.

## COURSE TEXTS

### **Required:**

- Reggie McNeal *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*  
Jossey-Bass ISBN-10: 1118103181; ISBN-13: 978-1118103180 (1)
  - Jerry Bridges *The Practice of Godliness* Navigator Press ISBN: 0-89109-941-7 (1) \*
  - Charles Spurgeon *The Power of Prayer in the Believer's Life* Emerald ISBN:  
1883002036 (1)
  - J. Oswald Sanders *Spiritual Leadership* Moody Press ISBN:082467997 \*
  - Dietrich Bonhoeffer *The Cost of Discipleship* Touchstone ISBN: 9780684 815008 (1) \*
- \* **Written book critique required; (1) Certificate students text requirements**

## COURSE TEXTS

### **Recommended:**

- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 7th Edition* University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London ISBN: 0226823377
- Vyhmeister, Nancy J. *Quality Research Paper* Zondervan, Grand Rapids ISBN: 0310274407
- Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles Van Doren *How to Read A Book* Touchstone Publishing ISBN 0671212095
- *StyleEase for Chicago and Turabian Style* [www.StyleEase.com](http://www.StyleEase.com) StyleEase Software, LLC
- *Logos Bible Software* - Libronix Digital Library System (See [www.birminghamseminary.org](http://www.birminghamseminary.org))

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit a **400** word typed essay on your personal call to ministry. Due week two.
2. All students are expected to have read assigned materials and be prepared to participate fully in class.
3. **Attendance:** The student is expected to attend all classes unless providentially hindered. If the student must be absent from a class, they must contact the professor prior to class. Student is still responsible for all assignments to be completed as per syllabus. More than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.

4. **Scripture Memorization:** Each week, the professor will assign for memorization one short Scripture passage related to the material covered that week in class. The students are to memorize and meditate upon that Scripture verse. Students' memorization Scripture verses will be checked each week.
  
5. **Oral/Written Book Critiques:** The student will write three (3) two-three (2-3) page critical papers on each book listed in the course texts with asterisks. Each critical paper will have the following component parts:
  - a. What is the book about as a whole? (**Description-define the problem/problems that the author is trying to solve**)
  - b. What is the author saying in detail and how is it said? (**Interpretation-what are the author's claims?**)
  - c. Is the book true, in whole or in part? (**Critical thinking, Agree? Disagree? Why & what is the foundation for your response? Can you reasonably say "I" understood the book?**)
  - d. What is the significance of the book? (**Personally, Spiritually, & Academically**) (**What are the formations and or applications to your life and ministry?**)
  - e. As you write your paper your goal is to answer these questions concisely and achieving Master's level requirements. **This is not a book report, think through critically.**
  
6. Each student will present to the class, an **oral report** on each book lasting no more than five (5) minutes. The significance will be based on your personal interaction (self-application/life-transformation) with each book.
  
7. **Ministry Paper:** This paper will be six-nine (6-9) pages on your philosophy of ministry for the Christian Worker in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This paper should be comprehensive, select a specific topic from the materials covered in the course that is pertinent to your area of Christian ministry.

Note: Certification student papers will be three-six (3-6) pages.

### **BTS Format and Style Standards**

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how "formal" a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition. Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook section on plagiarism for guidance.

## COURSE GRADING

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|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Scripture memory and timeliness of assignments: | 20 points        |
| 2. | Class participation and preparedness:           | 10 points        |
| 3. | Book critiques/oral presentations:              | 40 points        |
| 4. | Ministry paper:                                 | <u>30 points</u> |
|    |   | 100 points       |

### Course Outline (Subject to adjustments)

Date	Class Activities	Readings Due this Date
9/3	<u><i>Call to Ministry &amp; Christian Work</i></u>  Introduction/Syllabus Review	N/A
9/10	<u><i>The Sanctified Life</i></u>  <u>DUE:</u> <i>Call to Ministry Essay</i> Memory Verse (Rom 6:6-7)	Chapters 1-6 (Bridges)
9/17	<u><i>Living by Faith in Christ</i></u>  <u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (Heb 11:17-18)	Chapter 1 (McNeal) Chapters 7-12 (Bridges)
9/24	<u><i>Becoming Men and Women of the Word</i></u>  <u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (II Tim 3:16-17) <i>Book Critique - Bridges</i>	Chapter 2 (McNeal) Chapters 13-18 (Bridges)
10/1	<u><i>Becoming Men and Women of the Word</i></u>  <u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (Ps. 119:15-16)	Chapter 3 (McNeal) Chapters 1-6 (Spurgeon)

10/8	<p><u><i>Disciplines of a Life of Prayer</i></u></p> <p><u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (Mark 11:24) <i>Oral Presentations - Bridges</i></p>	<p>Chapter 4 (McNeal) Chapters 7-12 (Spurgeon)</p>
10/22	<p><u><i>Appropriating the Power of the Holy Spirit</i></u></p> <p><u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (I Cor. 2:3-4)</p>	<p>Chapters 5-6 (McNeal) Chapters 7-15 (Sanders)</p>
10/29	<p><u><i>Cultivating a Heart of Obedience</i></u></p> <p><u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (John 14:15) <u><i>Oral Presentations - Spurgeon</i></u></p>	<p>Chapters 7-8 (McNeal) Chapters 16-22 (Sanders)</p>
11/5	<p><u><i>Developing a Servant's Heart</i></u></p> <p><u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (Mark 10:44-45) <u><i>Book Critique – Sanders</i></u></p>	<p>Chapters 1-10 (Bonhoeffer)</p>
11/12	<p><u><i>Fruit of the Spirit</i></u></p> <p><u>DUE:</u> Memory Verse (Gal 5:22-24) <i>Oral Presentation – McNeal</i></p>	<p>Chapters 11-20 (Bonhoeffer)</p>
11/19	<p><u><i>Fruit of the Spirit</i></u></p> <p><u>DUE:</u> <i>Oral Presentation – Sanders</i> <i>Book Critique - Bonhoeffer</i> Memory Verse (Gal. 2:20)</p>	<p>Chapters 21-32 (Bonhoeffer)</p>
11/26	<p><u><i>Worship</i></u></p> <p><u>DUE:</u> <i>Oral Presentation - Bonhoeffer</i> Memory Verse (Phil. 3:10-11)</p>	

12/3	<b>Ministry Papers Due</b>	
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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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\*\*\*Syllabus copied/heavily influenced by Dr. Jay Haley's Christian Workers Personal Life & Spiritual Formation Syllabus for BTS\*\*\*