

Licentiate in Theology

Introduction

This Licentiate Certificate Course covers every major theme in the Holy Bible. You will be expected to submit a 30,000 word thesis on completion of the course. Please contact your tutor regarding the proposed subject of the thesis. Also, three of these modules will be examined under surveillance, your tutor will advise.

As you complete each module please mail it to your tutor for inspection and marking, which will be returned to you as soon as possible. You will find your tutor's details on the front of this booklet. Do not hesitate to contact him if you need assistance or have questions relating to this course.

Please relax and work on this course in your own time, as there is no requirement for you to rush through it. It is our prayer that it will bless, encourage and edify you as you seek to know more of God's Word.

Module 1

The Major Prophets

1. Write an essay on at least one important theme from each of the four Major Prophets:
 - a) Isaiah
 - b) Jeremiah
 - c) Ezekiel
 - d) Daniel
2. As fully as possible explain the ways you think the Book of Daniel agrees with the Book of Revelation regarding Last Day events?
3. Write a sermon or Bible study outline from the one of the Major Prophets.

Module 2

The Minor Prophets

1. Give an account of the ministry of one of the Minor Prophets and assess the successes and failures he saw.

2. Compare and contrast the work of two of the Minor Prophets, one whose ministry was to Israel, the other to Judah.

Module 3

The Inspiration and Canon of Scripture

1. Why is it important to have a proper understanding of the Doctrines of Inspiration and Inerrancy?
2. At one time it was thought that the Doctrines of Inspiration and Inerrancy were identical. Discuss this.
3. Give your views on the claims that the Doctrine of Inspiration leads to a too mechanistic view of the Scriptures.
4. Each of the Gospels show the personality of its author. Additionally, they differ in details. Explain how this can be true if they are truly inspired by God alone.
5. There are some who hold that the Old Testament does not have the same measure of Inspiration as the New. How would you answer this charge?
6. "Authority comes not from below but from above" - develop this in terms of the Canons of Scripture.
7. Argue the equal validity of the Canonicity for both Old and New Testaments.
8. Debate the place of the Apocrypha for the Conservative Evangelical Christian.

Module 4

The Doctrine of God

1. What is meant by saying that God is a "Person"? Can you suggest any better way of expressing this?
2. Discuss what links you see between the names and attributes of God.
3. What does the Scripture teach concerning the interrelationship of the Persons of the Godhead? What are the special features of each?

4. Argue for the desirability of avoiding the use of the word "Providence" when we mean "God".
5. Select two names of God and show their history and their relevance for the present-day believer.

Module 5

The Doctrine of the Son of God

1. Explain why the question of the Person of Christ is central to a proper theology.
2. Give an account of one theologian's view of Christ, and debate his conclusions.
3. Prove from Scripture only that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly God.
4. What Scriptural evidence would you show a proponent of the "Jesus Only" theory to reveal that his doctrine is false?

Module 6

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

1. What do you consider to be the Lord's teaching about the Holy Spirit? Do you think that there are any differences from, or additions to, what Jesus taught concerning the Spirit in a) Acts of the Apostles; b) The Epistles?
2. How far do you see the Holy Spirit at work in the life of the Church today? How do you think present activity compares with that of Apostolic times?
3. The Holy Spirit is the Executive Officer of the Trinity. Discuss this.
4. How do you understand the phrase that describes the Lord Jesus was "a man full of the Holy Spirit". Do you think this in any way detracts from His Deity?
5. It has been said that the Holy Spirit is the neglected Member of the Trinity. State whether you agree with this view, and give your arguments as to how He might be accorded what is due recognition. To what degree is it possible to over-emphasize the ministry of the Spirit, if at all?

Module 7

The Westminster Confession

1. Outline the areas of conflict amongst evangelicals on the question of Inspiration, and argue the case from your own view.
2. To what lengths should the idea of "accommodation" be carried? Give reasons for what you say.
3. Examine the chapters on Padian (Infant) Baptism and Election in the Westminster Confession. Do you consider that there are Scriptural grounds for the particular stand taken on these subjects? Give Scriptural reasons for or against each of these.

Module 8

Church History - Part 1

1. What is meant by the term "Church" in the phrase "The Church of Jesus Christ"?
2. What do you understand by the words "Church History"?
3. Where do we find a record of the birth and baptism of the Church? Explain.
4. Please answer this four-point question:
 - a) With whom did the first persecution of the Church originate?
 - b) Who was the first Christian martyr?
 - c) Where shall we find an allusion to the first Gentile Christian Community?
 - d) What do you know about the earliest Church controversy and council?
5. Concerning the evangelisation of the Gentiles, who were the two apostles with whom this great work was specially associated? Write a brief description of their work.
6. Some theologians teach that the apostolic age has closed. Argue for or against this particular theory.
7. Give a threefold division of heretical belief in the apostolic age.

8. What is the key to the New Testament and the creeds of the Early Church?
9. Answer the following two-part question.
 - a) Where shall we find the first Apostles' Creed?
 - b) Briefly comment on each statement found in the Apostles' Creed.
10. How many ordinances are prescribed in the New Testament, and what are they?
11. According to the New Testament, two offices only are recognised in the Christian Church. Name them?
12. Who was the first "Christian Emperor"? Do you believe that he deserved this title?
13. To whom does the phrase "The Morning Star of the Reformation" apply?

Module 9

Church History - Part 2

1. Prove a critical estimation of the influence of John Wycliffe or John Hus on the Reformation in England?
2. Describe the importance of Erasmus in the field of Biblical Translation.
3. What do you know of the Renaissance? Where do you see its influence in the spiritual field?
4. Construct a short biography of Martin Luther.
5. Write full notes on Zwingli or The Diet of Worms.
6. What do you understand by the term "Calvin' s Institutes". Describe these as fully as you can, and show their importance for today, as well as in the time of John Calvin.
7. How far do you think the Reformation under Henry VIII was
 - (1) Politically or personally motivated
 - (2) Spiritually motivated.
8. Provide four concise illustrations to support the view that the second Book of Common Prayer (1552) was influenced by the Continental Reformers.
9. Indicate something of the part played by Henry VIII in making the Scriptures available in England.

10. Show something of the way in which Puritan feeling was expressed in England at the time of the Civil War, giving attention to the role of Oliver Cromwell.

11. Provide a picture of Church life in England during the Commonwealth.

12. Write fully about the conditions in England at the time referred to as "The Evangelical Revival."

13. Write full biographical notes on one of the following:

- a) John Wesley
- b) Charles Wesley
- c) George Whitefield
- d) D. L. Moody

14. How do you account for the rise of the great Christian Societies that came into being as a result of the Evangelical Revival? Provide a fully detailed account of one of these, showing its foundation, principles, prominent figures and continuing achievement.

15. What do you understand by the term "Oxford Movement"?

16. Write an assessment of two of the following:

- a) Lambeth Conference
- b) The Group Movement
- c) The Salvation Army
- d) World Council of Churches

Thesis

You are now required to submit a 30,000 word thesis. Your thesis must be typed not handwritten. It is advisable to make print a second copy of your work. Please discuss the subject of your thesis with your tutor.

The structure of a thesis

Title Page.

Title (including subtitle), author, institution, date.

Table of Contents.

List all headings and subheadings with page numbers.

indent subheadings.

Chapter headings and sub-headings if necessary.

Paragraphs should be double-spaced (as used in this booklet).

Introduction

You can't write a good introduction until you know what the body of the paper says. Consider writing the introductory section(s) after you have completed the rest of the paper, rather than before.

Be sure to include a hook at the beginning of the introduction. This is a statement of something sufficiently interesting to motivate your reader to read the rest of the paper, it is an important /interesting scientific problem that your paper either solves or addresses. You should draw the reader in and make them want to read the rest of the paper.

What else belongs in the introductory section(s) of your paper?

- * A statement of the goal of the paper: why the study was undertaken, or why the paper was written.

- * Sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand the context and significance of the question you are trying to address. Explain the scope of your work, what will and will not be included.

- * A verbal "road map" or verbal "table of contents" guiding the reader to what lies ahead.

Conclusion

What is the strongest and most important statement that you can make from your observations?

If you met the reader at a meeting six months from now, what do you want them to remember about your paper?

Include the broader implications of your results.

Do not repeat word for word the introduction or discussion.

References

Cite all ideas, concepts, text, data that are not your own as footnotes on each page. Please use the small number e.g. 1,2,3 to identify footnotes.

All references cited in the text must be listed

cite single-author references by the surname of the author (followed by date of the publication in parenthesis)

... Seduction of Christianity, Pg.54, Dave Hunt, Harvest House (1994)

... If your quote is from a web site add the address, e.g. www.goodnews/gospel.htm.

With the completion of this paper you will have covered the whole Licentiate Certificate Course. Your certificate will be forwarded to you as soon as possible after you receive your marks from your tutor. We hope that you have been blessed and enriched by your study of the Word of God.

Bibliography

After your conclusion add, in alphabetical order, the sources you quote from using the title, author, page, publisher and date format.

Recommended Book List

A History of Christianity, K. S. Latourette, Prince Press
Believer' s Bible Commentary, William MacDonald, Nelson
Bible Doctrine, Wayne Gruden, IVP
Boyd' s Bible Handbook, Robert Boyd, Harvest House
Christian Theology, Alister McGrath, IVP
Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, Walter Elwell, Baker
History of the Reformation, J. H. Merle d' Aubigne, Baker
In Defence of the Faith, Dave Hunt, Harvest House
Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin, Collins
New Bible Dictionary, IVP
New Dictionary of Theology, IVP
New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, R. F. Youngblood, Nelson
Old Testament History, Charles F. Pfeiffer, Baker
Outline of Theology, A.A. Hodge, Banner of Truth
Systematic Theology, A. H. Strong, Pickering and Inglis
Systematic Theology, Wayne Gruden, IVP
Systematic Theology, John Miley, Hendricksons
The Fundamentals for the Twenty-First Century, Couch, Kregal
The Other Side of Calvinism, Laurence M. Vance, Vance
Publications
The Pilgrim Church, E. H. Broadbent, Gospel Folio Press
The Reformation, Will Durant, MJF Books
The Westminster Confession, G. I. Williamson, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing
Co
Thompson' s Chain Reference Bible, Kirkbride
Today' s Handbook of Bible Characters, E. M. Blaiklock,
Bethany Publishing House
What Love is This?, Dave Hunt, Loyal