

The heart behind this study of the THEOLOGY

Just like a medical doctor must know the science of medicine in order to do the work that a doctor must do, all true shepherds— whether they be pastors, elders, church planters, ministry leaders or well-equipped laymen must know the Scripture in order to do the work that God calls them to do ... every shepherd must be a **DOCTOR OF THE BOOK, for Jesus is the Word of God and the One who helps and heals.**

It is the goal of this course to challenge the follower of Christ to greater service to our Lord Jesus Christ through a comprehensive study [2 Timothy 2:15] and memorization [Psalms 119:11] of the Scripture as we work through courses such as Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Practical Theology, and Shepherding which make up the entire Training Center program. If studied faithfully with diligence, this training will ready the disciple of Christ in the Word of God for the work of ministry.

The goal of the course on Practical Theology is to prepare the servant of God to understand each theology or doctrine **in its basic form**. Please note: EVERY POSITION THAT THIS COURSE TAKES DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THAT OF ALL THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH, but is a reflection of an honest attempt to allow the Bible to speak for itself. Also recognize this is merely one approach to becoming familiar with theology, an attempt to give you a skeleton of the whole body of theology, so that you may spend the rest of your life filling in the rest... — this is not the final word. We will not come to “the conclusion” of many of these topics. However, if we come to the end of ourselves, and see God for the incomprehensible God He is, and us as nothing in comparison, then we will have accomplished the most important objective of the program.

The course of study should be self-explanatory. You will be asked to study a theological/doctrinal topic one at a time, SECTION by SECTION. Included in the outline, you will find the sections you will be studying. For each section in the Practical Theology section, there will be **Basic Questions** that will be given to you the week prior to the course discussion. You should research these questions and respond to each of them in writing PRIOR TO class. Come ready to discuss them during the class time. You will also do a weekly **Reflection Paper**, centered around the week's topic addressing how this theological truth is applied to, and has made a difference in, your life, and how it will help you shepherd others.

Do whatever must be done to understand and treasure the material. Make up cards for review; make your own recordings to quiz yourself in your car while driving, have your wife quiz you at home, have a Theology Bowl with your family, make up acrostics for easy memory. But most of all, enjoy the process. **The goal of our course in theology is to understand and KNOW God and be biblically accurate with sound/healthy doctrine.** It is my prayer this study will aid you in becoming more like Jesus Christ and more effective for the work of His Kingdom.