

COURSE SYLLABUS

CA204: Ten Reasons to Believe in Life After Death

An Our Daily Bread Ministries *Day of Discovery* Study

Course Description

What happens after we die? Is it the end of our existence or the beginning of another journey? In this course, *Ten Reasons to Believe in Life After Death*, students will examine what the Bible says about life after death and will gain a deeper understanding of how an individual's view of death radically affects how he lives.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the basic fundamentals of the Christian faith
- To provide scholarly and historical evidence for the validity of Christianity
- To encourage logical thinking in evaluating the authenticity of the teachings of Jesus and of the Bible

Accessibility

If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

Academic Honesty

At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

Plagiarism: If a student's work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar's Office at registrar@cugn.org or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- **Video-based teaching**
If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Multisensory learning**
For students who wish to use a medium other than video, we provide the option of reading the lesson from a transcript of the teaching video (found in the Class Time section). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.
- **Readings and other media**
Students should have a copy of the Bible available in order to read the sections of the Bible assigned in each lesson. In addition, Scripture passages are linked to online Bible tools for convenience. These online resources also provide an opportunity for students for whom English is a second language to read the Bible passages in one of numerous international translations available.

For all other required reading assignments, CUGN provides the texts for this course in a downloadable Adobe® PDF format.

Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

Response Time

This forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors; students are also encouraged to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

Personal Reflection Journal

Students will be asked to record their thoughts in a Personal Reflection Journal. These entries can be viewed only by the student and by the site administrator, and are not graded.

Lesson Objectives

At the end of each lesson, students should be able to accomplish the objectives listed below.

Lesson 1: The Injustices of Life

- Explain why injustices in this life provide a rationale for life after death
- Discuss common cultural trends that point to a common yearning for life after death
- Answer legitimate questions about the goodness of God when innocent people suffer
- Cite key Bible passages that argue for the righteous judgment of God after death
- Recall fundamental observations about God, Satan, and human suffering as reflected in the book of Job

Lesson 2: Beauty and Balance

- Explain why the relationship between nature's beauty and balance leads to the belief in life after death
- Discuss the Genesis account of creation and God's cycles of life and death in nature
- Explain King Solomon's teaching that eternity is put into the heart of man
- Argue for the reality of life after death by using the analogy Jesus used about the dying seed giving life
- Recall key arguments for being good stewards of the natural resources of this earth Provide key biblical arguments for the existence of God

Lesson 3: Near-Death Experiences

- Explain various kinds of near-death experiences and provide basic explanations for their source
- Recall the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus and the summarize truths it reveals about the afterlife
- Review Paul's testimony of being caught up into the third heaven and explain its meaning to a view of the afterlife
- Cite key Bible verses concerning the afterlife
- Identify ways by which people attempt to know something of life after death

Lesson 4: Universal Beliefs

- Give examples of cultures that perpetuate the belief in life after death
- Counter the argument of atheists who deny the validity of the nearly universal belief in life after death
- Explain ways in which the apostle Paul affirmed diverse religious beliefs while still pointing adherents to the God of the Bible
- Discuss how diverse religious views are evidence of the human race turning from the one true God and creating substitute deities
- Demonstrate familiarity with the biblical view of life after death

Lesson 5: An Eternal God

- Cite several biblical texts which support the truth of God's eternal existence
- Be able to explain from Scripture the immortality of human beings
- Discuss the concept of faith in Christ relating to being in God's presence forever
- Expound the major theme of the Bible by telling its overarching story

Lesson 6: A Place in the Heart

- Defend the idea that the desire for life after death argues for its existence
- Explain the biblical relationship between fellowship with God in this life and in the afterlife
- Tell about Jesus' promise to prepare a place for believers and return for them
- Cite key Bible passages in support of life after death

Lesson 7: Old Testament Predictions

- Explain why the truth of the resurrection is not fully developed in the Old Testament
- Discuss the concept of progressive revelation from the Old Testament to the New Testament
- Cite key Bible passages from the Old Testament that support the concept of life after death
- Display a basic understanding of what we can know of God through His revelation in the Old Testament

Lesson 8: The Quotes of Christ

- Explain why it is invalid to claim Jesus was a great moral teacher while ignoring His teaching on hell
- Discuss C. S. Lewis' concept that one must decide whether Jesus is a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord
- Understand what the word Gehenna teaches us about punishment after death
- Cite key Bible passages concerning the soul, the judgment of sin, eternal punishment, and the assurance of salvation
- Recite important understandings of the biblical doctrine of hell

Lesson 9: The Resurrection of Christ

- Explain the biblical evidences for the historic resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Understand why Christ's resurrection is the key to gaining certainty about life after death
- Cite key Bible passages that record how Christ's resurrection caused His disciples to believe
- Give several key biblical evidences for life continuing after death

Lesson 10: The Practical Effects

- Describe the confident hope that believers in Christ have in the existence of heaven
- Explain how not believing in life after death affects the way a person lives his or her life on earth
- Cite key Bible passages that explain the doctrines of the rapture and of heaven
- Discuss several key ideas about heaven that can be learned from the Bible

Course Requirements

In order to receive credit, the student must complete the course requirements within a 90-day period. Course requirements include:

- Viewing the Class Time lectures for each lesson
- Completing the Reading Assignment for each lesson
- Composing adequate responses to all questions in the Response Time forums (see below for details)
- Reading the material in the Further Study section
- Keeping a Personal Reflection Journal in response to reflection questions
- Taking each lesson quiz and a final examination, scoring a 70% or higher average

Additional information about these requirements is provided below.

CLASS TIME

Each of the lessons in this course contains a lecture of approximately four to ten minutes in length. These instructional videos are required viewing, and can be watched as many times as needed. The same content is available in an audio file and a text file (PDF) for students who can benefit from these alternative media. This course includes the following Class Time lectures:

- The Injustices of Life
- Beauty and Balance
- Near-Death Experiences
- Universal Beliefs
- An Eternal God
- A Place in the Heart
- Old Testament Predictions

- The Quotes of Christ
- The Resurrection of Christ
- The Practical Effects

READING ASSIGNMENT

Complete all readings listed in the Reading Assignment section of each lesson.

RESPONSE TIME

Participants will interact with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded forum of several course topics in each lesson.

In order to get the fullest benefit from the Response Time forum, students should complete the assignment after they have completed the Class Time lecture. Then they should return to the Response Time forum after finishing the lesson to see how others respond. The following steps are instructions to the students for completing the assignment:

- Enter Response Time
- Read the instructions and click the Discussion Question you wish to respond to first.
- Read the Discussion Question and share your thoughts with others.
- Repeat for each Discussion Question.
- Take the time to read other students' postings.

CUGN requires that students' discussion forum posts consist of at least 2 to 3 well-developed paragraphs. Think of posts as mini-essays, where you present an idea and support that idea with details, examples, personal experiences, etc.

Objective: to develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

FURTHER STUDY

The Bible reading or study assignments covered in the Further Study section should be read completely at least once and responses to questions are to be recorded in the students' Personal Reflection Journals.

QUIZZES AND EXAM

The quizzes and exam will cover the material from the Class Time lectures, Reading Assignment, and Further Study.

Course Grading and Requirements

QUIZZES AND EXAM

Quizzes	40% of Course Grade
Final Exam	60% of Course Grade

OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before credit is awarded to any student.

Notes Regarding This Syllabus

This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. Specific assignments are contained in each lesson.

Individuals taking the class for academic credit are responsible for the syllabus requirements of the specific institution through which the course is offered. Each individual institution has reserved the right to add additional reading requirements and to alter the syllabus to meet their accreditation requirements. Students seeking academic credit should check with their academic institution for details.