

COURSE SYLLABUS

He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

Course Lecturer: Richard L. Pratt, Jr., ThD
President of Third Millennium Ministries

Course Description

Evangelical Christians affirm the Scriptures as God's inerrant word, but we still disagree sometimes over the meaning of particular verses or passages, and these differences can influence our Christian doctrine and practice. One reason for these disagreements is that there are many different approaches to interpreting the Bible. But how do we know which approach to interpretation is the most responsible? This course will help answer that question. It is based on the lecture series, *He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr. with contributions from a variety of professors.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the fundamental principles of biblical interpretation, including the terminology and history of hermeneutics, the biblical approach to meaning, the unique nature of the Scriptures, and the proper way to discover the original meaning of a passage and apply it to our modern context.
- Grow in your desire to study the Scriptures carefully and to discover the best approach to interpret them.
- Apply the guidelines of this course to develop appropriate habits of biblical interpretation.

Course Lecturer



Richard L. Pratt, Jr., ThD

Education:

- Harvard University, ThD
- Union Theological Seminary, MDiv

Teaching Career:

- Old Testament Department Chair at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL

Other Career Highlights:

- President and founder of Third Millennium Ministries

Publications:

- *Every Thought Captive, Pray With Your Eyes Open, He Gave Us Stories, and Designed for Dignity*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning.

Johnson, Dennis E. *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Co., 2007.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

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:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. 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.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, activities, etc. that students may use to supplement their learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
 - **Lectures:** 45-60 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.

- **Further Study:** Suggested further study that will help you dig deeper into the material.
2. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.