

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Letter to the Hebrews

Course Lecturer: J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., PhD, DD
Former President of Wheaton College and Shelton College, and Dean of Covenant Theological Seminary

Course Description

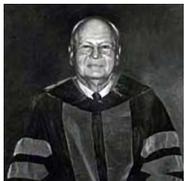
From the earliest days of the church, believers have wrestled with the relationship between the old and new covenants. Humanity's inability to fulfill the Law clearly showed the need for forgiveness, and God's elaborate sacrificial system demonstrated sin's consequences. Yet how were Jewish believers to view Jesus? What were the implications of the Messiah being the Great High Priest? In this course, students wrestle with these and other theological questions as they probe Christ's death and resurrection. Buswell helps learners understand the book's message while challenging today's "great cloud of witnesses" to have complete faith in a sovereign and loving God.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Grasp the message of the letter to the Hebrews.
- Understand the theological implications of the book.
- Articulate the christological and soteriological truths about the incarnation.
- Express the importance of having complete faith and trust in Christ, the Great High Priest.
- Apply the book's message to life and ministry.
- Recognize God's amazing love in sending His Son as the perfect atonement.

Course Lecturer



J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., PhD, DD (1895-1977)

Education:

- Houghton College, LLD (honorary degree)
- Dallas Theological Seminary, DD (honorary degree)
- New York University, PhD
- University of Chicago, MA
- McCormick Theological Seminary, BD
- University of Minnesota, AB

Teaching Career:

- Dean, Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO) (1956-1970)
- President, Shelton College (New York City, NY) (1941-1955)
- President, Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL) (1926-1940)
- Professor of Apologetics and Systematic Theology, Faith Seminary
- Professor of Theology and Philosophy, National Bible Institute of New York City (now Shelton College)
- Professor of Systematic Theology, Covenant Theological Seminary

Other Career Highlights:

- Served on the 1965 Fraternal Relations Committee that formed the Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Evangelical Synod
- In the 1930s, as churches shifted their doctrine, Drs. Buswell, Cornelius Van Til, Harold S. Laird, and Rev. C. J. Gresham Machen, among others, refused to comply and sought to curb the rise of liberalism. The result was the formation of a new Presbyterian denomination. Dr. Buswell would later be elected as the moderator of various General Synods on three separate occasions (1936, 1944, and 1956).
- Ordained as a Presbyterian minister, pastoring churches in Wisconsin and New York
- Military chaplain during World War I, winning both a Purple Heart and a Silver Star
- Served on various missions boards

Publications:

- Contributed 32 articles to various encyclopedias
- Contributed 128 articles to various periodicals including *The Christian Beacon* and *Sunday School Times*
- Penned 11 books including *Behold Him, What Is God?, Sin and Atonement*, and *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion* (which remains a key text used and referenced in seminary classes around the globe to this day)

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

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

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.