

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Evangelism in the Local Church

Course Lecturer: Michael P. Green, PhD  
Former Professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

## Course Description

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Christ's final charge was the Great Commission: to "make disciples of all nations." We fulfill that charge when we take the gospel to the nations and to our own nation through our own local church. In this course, Dr. Green instructs us on how to do evangelism within a local church setting. Building on the biblical mandate for evangelism, he discusses personal and group methods for evangelism in a variety of settings, how to equip laity to witness, the use of apologetics, follow-up methods, and current issues in evangelism. Throughout the course, Dr. Green focuses on practical application and workable solutions for evangelism in local church and parachurch ministries.

## Course Objectives

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

- Know the essential content of the gospel message, at least one method for communicating this message, and criteria for evaluating presentations of the gospel with respect to accuracy and effectiveness.
- Explain the function of apologetics in evangelistic work.
- List important issues that contemporary apologetics can address, and know resources that can be used for this.
- Describe how an effective evangelistic program could be integrated into the total program of a local church structurally and systemically.
- Describe how to synthesize relevant biblical and secular source material into an effective evangelistic sermon or message and analyze a sermon or message to determine how to conclude it with an evangelistic appeal.
- List the essential content of a follow-up program and be familiar with at least two methods for communicating it.
- Define discipleship and describe resources available to the local church for discipling
- Identify and discuss some of the current issues and heresies in evangelism such as eternal damnation (hell), lordship salvation, friendship or initiative methods, the use of figurative language in gospel presentations, liberation theology, ministries to special

groups, the role of social involvement and urban ministry in evangelism and witness ministry, and so forth.

## Course Lecturer

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*Michael P. Green, PhD*

**Education:**

- University of North Texas, PhD
- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM
- State University of New York at Buffalo, BS

**Teaching Career:**

- Professor, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (1995-2002)
- Director of Supervised Ministries, responsible for the Field Education and Internship program, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Professor, Moody Bible Institute (1991-1995)
- Supervisor of Master of Ministry Field Projects, Moody Bible Institute
- Professor, Dallas Theological Seminary (1982-1992) – oversaw the Doctor of Ministry Program
- Adjunct professor, Singapore Bible College (2000)
- Professor, International Christian Graduate University (summer 1983)
- Lecturer at international schools

**Other Career Highlights:**

- Ordained pastor with a special focus on Chinese congregations
- Extensive experience in counseling, discipleship, and preaching
- Pastor of two separate Chinese congregations in Illinois where he worked with both Cantonese and Mandarin believers
- Campus Crusade for Christ (1973-1982)
- Member of the Evangelical Association of Theological Field Educators
- Trainer for the Billy Graham Advanced School of Evangelism
- Consultant for numerous institutions, including Beeson Divinity School, Fuller Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Talbot Seminary, University of North Texas, and Westminster Theological Seminary
- Member of numerous professional societies, including the Evangelical Theological Society and the Chinese Pastors Association
- Regular presenter at seminars across the United States and abroad

**Publications:**

- Numerous books, including *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching* and *Green's Filing Systems: For Pastor's and Christian Workers*
- Numerous journal articles
- Contributor to the *Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology, Volume II*

## Recommended Reading

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

Campus Crusade's Step 1, "The Christian Adventure," in the *Ten Basic Steps To Christian Maturity* series (available online)

"Discovery Group Student Guide" in *The Discipleship Series* and its Leader's Guide Navigator's "Lessons On Assurance" in the *Growing In Christ Follow-Up Series*

McCloskey, Mark. *Tell It Often—Tell It Well: Making the Most of Witnessing Opportunities*. Here's Life Publishers, 1985.

Little, Paul. *How to Give Away Your Faith*. InterVarsity Press, 1988.

Petersen, Jim. *Living Proof*. Nav Press, 1989.

Aldrich, Joseph C. *Life-Style Evangelism*. Multnomah Press, 1981.

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

## Course Methods

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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

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

1. Listening to all 23 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.