

ME-5001 FOUNDATIONS OF EVANGELISM

Fall, 2019, Mondays, 5:30-8:15pm

Instructor: Pastor Jay Halley, DMin

The Chapel, Sandusky/Norwalk/Port Clinton, Ohio

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COURSE SYLLABUS

A. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the biblical/theological foundations of evangelism.
2. To understand the gospel and how to represent and communicate the gospel confidently.
3. To consider the role of the local church and the church leader in evangelism.
4. To exit the class with a healthy mindset and timeless principles for personal practice of evangelism and related church leadership.

B. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of this course, the student will be: 1) Exposed to the nature of God's mission and the consequent mission of the local church and individual believer;
2) Prepared to critically participate with an unchurched culture; 3) Equipped to communicate clearly and compassionately the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

C. METHOD OF STUDY

1. Discussion-oriented classroom presentations.
2. Reading of the Bible, articles, book excerpts and books on evangelism/mission.
3. In the field, "learn by doing" experiences.

D. READING

1. Required:

Dodson, Jonathan K. 2014. *The unbelievable gospel: say something worth believing*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Koukl, Gregory. 2009. *Tactics: a game plan for discussing your Christian convictions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Pollock, Doug. 2009. *God space: where spiritual conversations happen naturally*. Loveland: Group.

Sauls, Scott. 2015. *Jesus outside the lines: a way forward for those who are tired of taking sides*. Carol Stream: Tyndale.

Stott, John. 2012. *Basic Christianity*. Downers Grove: IVP.

And, various book excerpts and articles distributed in class.

2. Other good reading but not required:

- Allberry, Sam. 2018. *Is God anti-gay? And other questions about homosexuality, the Bible and same-sex attraction*. The Good Book Company.
- Carson, D.A. (ed) 2000. *Telling the truth: Evangelizing postmoderns*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan.
- _____. 1996. *The gagging of God: Christianity confronts pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- _____. 2010. *The God who is there: finding your place in God's story*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Chamberlain, Paul. 1996. *Can we be good without God?* Downers Grove: IVP.
- Chapman, John. 2002. *Know and tell the gospel*. Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media.
- Clark, Mark. 2017. *The problem with God: answering a skeptic's challenges to Christianity*. Zon.
- Dever, Mark. 2007. *The gospel and personal evangelism*. Wheaton: Crossway. (128 pages)
- Dickson, John. 2002. *If I were God, I'd end all the pain: struggling with evil, suffering and faith*. Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media. (70 pages)
- Dickson, John. 2002. *If I were God, I'd make myself clearer: searching for clarity in a world full of claims*. Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media. (83 page)
- Downs, Tim. 1999. *Finding common ground: How to communicate with those outside the Christian community--while we still can*. Chicago: Moody Press.
- Evans, C. Stephen. 1996. *Why believe? Reason and mystery as pointers to God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Erickson, Millard J. 1996. *How shall they be saved? The destiny of those who do not hear of Jesus*. Baker.
- Geisler, Norman and David Geisler. 2009. *Conversational evangelism: how to listen and speak so you can be heard*. Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House. (211 pages)
- Green, Michael. 1987. *Evangelism in the early church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Hull, Bill. 1990. *The disciple making church*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company.
- Hunter, George G. 2000. *The Celtic way of evangelism: how Christianity can reach the west...again*. Abingdon Press.
- Jacks, Bob and Betty Jacks. 1986. *Your home, A lighthouse*. Colorado Springs: NavPress.
- Keller, Timothy. 2012. *Every good endeavor: connecting your work to God's work*. New York: Dutton.
- _____. 2012. *Center church: doing balanced, Gospel-centered ministry in your city*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- _____. 1997. *Ministries of mercy: the call of the Jericho road*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R.
- _____. 2009. *Reason for God; belief in an age of skepticism*. Penguin. 2009.
- Kimball, Dan. 2007. *They like Jesus but not the church: insights from emerging generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (272 pages)
- Koukl, Gregory. 2009. *Tactics: a game plan for discussing your Christian convictions*. Zondervan.
- Larimore, Walt and William Carr Peel. 2003. *Going public with your faith: becoming a spiritual influence at work*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Mittelberg, Mark. 2000. *Becoming a contagious church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Newman, Randy. 2004. *Questioning evangelism: engaging people's hearts the way Jesus did*. Grand Rapids: Kregel.
- Packer, J.I. 1981. *Evangelism and the sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Payne, J.D. 2011. *Evangelism: a biblical response to today's questions*. Colorado Springs: Biblica.
- Pollard, Nick. 1997. *Evangelism made slightly less difficult*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Petersen, Jim. 1993. *Evangelism as a lifestyle*. Colorado Springs: NavPress.
- _____. *Lifestyle discipleship*. Colorado Springs: NavPress.

- Petersen, Jim and Mike Shamy. 2003. *The insider: Bringing the kingdom of God into your every day world*. Colorado Springs: NavPress.
- Pippert, Rebecca Manley. 1979. *Out of the saltshaker and into the world*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Pritchard, Ray. 2000. *An anchor for the soul: help for the present, hope for the future*. Chicago: Moody.
- Rainer, Thom S. 2003. *The unchurched next door*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson. 2004. *The externally focused church*. Loveland, CO: Group.
- Stanley, Andy. 2003. *How good is good enough?* Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers.
- Sjogren, Steve/Dave Ping/Doug Pollock. 2004. *Irresistible evangelism: natural ways to open others to Jesus*. Loveland, Colorado: Group.
- Stearns, Richard. 2010. *The hole in the gospel: what does God expect of us?* Thomas Nelson.
- Stott, John R. W. 1964. *Basic christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- _____. 1975. *Christian mission in the modern world*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- _____. 1969. *Our guilty silence*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Strobel, Lee. 1993. *Inside the mind of unchurched Harry and Mary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- _____. 1998. *The case for Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- _____. 2000. *The case for faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Swanson, Eric. *The externally focused quest: becoming the best church for the community*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Tice, Ricco. 2015. *Honest evangelism: how to talk about Jesus even when it's tough*. United Kingdom: TheGood Book Company.
- Willard, Dallas. 2016. *The allure of gentleness: defending the faith in the manner of Jesus*. Harper One.
- White, James Emory. 2014. *The rise of the nones: understanding and reaching the religiously unaffiliated*. Baker Books.
- Yuan, Christopher and Angela Yuan. 2011. *Out of a far country: a gay son's journey to God, a broken mother's search for hope*. Waterbrook.

E. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Evangelistic efforts. (20%)

To be explained in class.

2. Class attendance and participation. (10%)

Because of the nature of this class and the way it is structured, the student must come to class ready to participate in discussions. The best way to make this happen is for the student to come with all reading and evangelism assignments fully accomplished. Notation will be made of each student's full attendance and thoughtful interaction.

Added note on attendance:

Students are required to attend each and every session throughout the entire course period. Due to the nature of Extension classes, attendance at all sessions is especially important with weekend courses. Missing even an hour of a weekend class means a significant portion of the required contact with the instructor and learning community has been lost. For this reason, students missing any portion (hours) of an Extension course can result in a grade reduction; missing more than one weekend class session will result in a grade reduction and possibly failing

the course.

In the case of extreme emergency or unforeseen circumstances (family emergencies, death, etc.) the student should contact the instructor and secure the necessary permission to miss time in a class and make up the missed class time and assignments. Vacations, ministry responsibilities and travel plans are not considered emergencies and such requests will be denied. As the schedule for the Extension courses is set ahead of time, students should plan ahead to be sure they will be able to make it to all class sessions before they register. If the emergency necessitates a longer absence the student should contact the Dean of Students to request an extension of time, or in rare instances a withdrawal from the class without penalty

3. Personal story. (5%)

We live in a culture that loves a good story. Combining a personal story with God's story is a powerful sharing tool. The student will be asked to prepare and present a personal story according to guidelines provided in class. The story should be written primarily for those who apparently do not yet follow Christ. Write it out according to guidelines given—*then time yourself*.

4. Final exam covering concepts and methods. (15%)

5. Book critiques. (50%)

Note: Books will be read in order as listed below....for those who want to get started early. Each critique should be *double-spaced and 12 pt font*.

Book Critiques*: (EACH BOOK CRITIQUE MUST HAVE ON THE FRONT PAGE % OF BOOK READ.)

Stott (5pts)

What element(s) of this book were most helpful to you in your grasp of God's story line....both personally and for ministry? (2 pages)

Pollock (10pts)

Interact with three chapters that influenced you the most and explain why. How could these chapters change the way you represent Christ and the gospel? (2 pages)

Dodson (15pts)

How does this book inform and enhance your view of evangelism? What is compelling, clarifying, convicting, etc? (2-3 pages)

Sauls (10pts)

Give examples from the book of what advanced your understanding of the mood and spirit by which you should interact with your culture and lead your church. (2 pages)

Koukl (10pts)

Present four or five ideas you gained from this book in terms of what to say and how to say it. (2 pages)

*** a book critique is not book content summary. Rather, it is interacting with concepts/points from the book. In a critique, you identify with, argue with, agree with, reject, embrace, etc. the ideas of the author as they relate to you at a personal and/or professional level.**

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time, email or phone, with questions or concerns.

