

The Bible: Canon, Inspiration, and Hermeneutics

Course Syllabus

Orpheus J. Heyward

Course Description: This course examines the entirety of the Scriptures, giving an overview of the Bible, explaining and defending inspiration, describing the origins of the Scriptures, and teaching principles of interpretation.

Course objectives:

- Gain a general understanding of what's in the Bible.
- Get a sense of what each book of the Bible teaches.
- Understand the inspiration of the Scriptures.
- Learn how the Bible came together.
- Acquire principles for interpreting the Bible.
- Develop confidence that the Bible possesses authority as the very Word of God.

Lecture Series:

- Lesson One: Inspiration of the Bible, Heyward Introduction and chapter 5, memorize 2 verses
- Lesson Two: Overview of the books of the Bible, Heyward chapter 2, memorize 2 verses
- Lesson Three: In Introduction to Hermeneutics, Heyward chapter 4, memorize 2 verses
- Lesson Four: The Bible's Continuity and Study Tools, no reading, memorize 2 verses
- Lesson Five: How to think about the Old Testament, Heyward chapter 1, memorize 2 verses
- Lesson Six: The History and Theology of the Canon, Heyward chapter 3, practice memory verses

Course requirements:

- Watching the course lectures (there are 6 course lectures)
- Attendance in cohort discussions (there are 2 cohort discussion meetings)
- Read Orpheus J. Heyward, *God's Word: The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture (Real Life Theology Series)*
- Memorize ten verses
- Pass final exam

Memory Verses:

- Joshua 1:8
- Psalm 119:105
- Isaiah 40:8
- John 6:63
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Hebrews 4:12
- 2 Peter 1:20-21

Digging Deeper--Recommended Readings (These are not required for the course):

- Neil Lightfoot, *How We Got the Bible*
- Craig Blomberg, *Can We Still Believe the Bible?*
- John Stott, *The Authority of the Bible*

- Michael Kruger, *Canon Revisited*
- Fee and Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*
- Duvall and Hayes, *Grasping God's Word*
- Young and Young, *The Apocrypha and the Book of Enoch* (Renew ebook)
- David Platt, *How to Read the Bible*
- Titus Kennedy, *Excavating the Evidence for Jesus*
- Orpheus Heyward, "Bible Interpretation is Closer than You Think" Renew.org

Digging Deeper--Recommended Videos:

- R. C. Sproul on Inspiration, Infallibility, and Inerrancy, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHGwLA9bq0E>
- Southern Seminary, How we got the Bible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEAPWac19a4>
- James White, How we got our Bible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTeLO-61FAA>
- John Whitaker, Bible Study Skills (1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbU9Yohwmr0>