

Jesus Christ and the Gospels

Course Syllabus

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Course Description: This course will examine the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded in the four Gospels. Attention will be paid to the literary, theological, and historical backgrounds of each Gospel as well as of Jesus himself, and the significance of each of these discussed.

Course objectives:

- Learn an overview of each Gospel and its background material.
- Gain confidence in the reliability of the Gospels.
- Learn how to read the Gospels individually and synoptically.
- Discover who Jesus was in his historical and theological context.
- Develop a healthy Christology.
- Learn why Jesus matters to the world.

Lecture Series:

- Lesson One: The World of Jesus and the Gospels
- Lesson Two: Critical Introduction to and Reliability of the Gospels
- Lesson Three: The Synoptic Gospels
- Lesson Four: The Gospel of John
- Lesson Five: An introduction to Christology
- Lesson Six: Jesus and His Impact on the World

Course requirements:

- Watching the course lectures (there are 6 course lectures)
- Attendance in cohort discussions (there are 2 cohort discussion meetings)
- Read Mark L. Strauss, *Introducing Jesus: A Short Guide to the Gospel's History and Messages*
- Memorize ten verses
- Pass final exam

Memory Verses:

- Mark 12:30-31
- Matthew 28:19-20
- John 3:5
- Mark 10:45
- Luke 4:18-19
- Matthew 6:33
- John 13:34

Digging Deeper--Recommended Readings:

- Craig Keener, *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels*
- Mark L. Strauss, *Four Portraits, One Jesus*
- Craig Blomberg, *Jesus and the Gospels*
- Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eye Witnesses*
- Patrick Schreiner, *The Four Gospels: Jesus, the Hope of the World*

- David Young and Michael Strickland, *The Rhetoric of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*
- David Young, *Extreme Discipleship: Following Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*
- Titus Kennedy, *Excavating the Evidence for Jesus*
- James Jeffers, *Greco-Roman World of the New Testament*
- F.F. Bruce, *New Testament History*
- Bruce Metzger, *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*
- Bruce Metzger, *The Canon of the New Testament*
- Norman Geisler, *A Popular Survey of the New Testament*

Digging Deeper--Recommended Videos:

- Wm Lane Craig on the historical Jesus, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUKW2Bm5P2k>
- Wm Lane Craig, Who was the historical Jesus? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNfJL-yGpNM>
- Craig Keener, Reliability of the Gospels,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jejjJ8bDM&list=PLnNXzYjQerJidshPWCq2OrdQ4V3rjgDc3>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF5qABUSI-g&list=PLnNXzYjQerJidshPWCq2OrdQ4V3rjgDc3&index=2>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cywq3e9bLhM&list=PLnNXzYjQerJidshPWCq2OrdQ4V3rjgDc3&index=3>
- Timothy McGrew, Who wrote the Gospels, etc.,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gldvim1yjYM&list=PLMqCPZpkjEcT_pvjy51b-3gSWycBLgijr&index=1
- Charles Quarles, Introduction to the Gospels and Acts
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/introduction-to-the-gospels-and-acts/>