



SCS 502 Bible History: Christian Scripture
3 Credits 4 CEUs

Instructor Name	Rev. Thomas W. Shepherd, D.Min.
Office Hours	Online
Telephone	Office-816-347-5529 C-816-572-1906 (Before 10 pm US Central.)
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Required Texts	Ehrman, B. D. <i>The New Testament, A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings</i> . (3 rd Ed.) New York: Oxford University Press. 2004 Shepherd, Thomas. <i>Jesus 2.1: An Upgrade for the 21st Century</i> . Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 2010. Stone, Howard and J.O Duke. <i>How to Think Theologically</i> , Second Edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2006.
Other Required Reading	PowerPoint Sessions + provided handouts.
Recommended Reading	Borg, Marcus J. and Wright, N.T. <i>The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions</i> . San Francisco: HarperOne, 2007.

Course Description

This class presents an introduction to the writings of the Christian Scripture. It covers the timing of the writing, and the primary authors. The reasons for the differences in each of the Gospels portrayal of Jesus are explored. Pauline and non-Pauline writings are covered from the standpoint of their relationship to the early Christian Church.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of how the Christian Bible as we know it came into being and relate the sequence of writing of the books in the Christian Bible
2. Assess the differences among the Gospel writers in the portrayal of Jesus
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the events that followed the death of Jesus as recorded in the Book of Acts
4. Compare and contrast the teachings of Paul as evidenced in his letters
5. Explain the purpose of the Book of Revelation and its relationship to present day times.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity and Diploma in Ministry:

MD-4

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Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
2 Exams	30 %	1 - 4
1 Book Report	30 %	1-4
1 Research Paper 20 pages	40 %	3 or 4

Discussion Forum participation	Pass/Fail	1-4
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Important Note: By the first day of the course, read pp. 1-40, *How to Think Theologically* by Stone & Duke (Introduction through the end of Chapter 2).

Selected Bibliography

- Borg, Marcus J. and Wright, N.T. *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2007.
- Ehrman, Bart D. Ehrman, B. D. *The New Testament, A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. (3rd Ed.) New York: Oxford University Press. 2004
- _____. *Misquoting Jesus*. San Francisco: Harper, 2005.
- _____. *Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (And Why We Don't Know About Them)*. HarperOne, 2010.
- Frye, N. *The Great Code*. San Diego: Harvest Books, 1982.
- Funk, R. Hoover, R and the Jesus Seminar. *The Five Gospels*. Santa Rosa, CA: Polebridge Press, 1993.
- Mack, B. *The Lost Gospel, the Book of Q*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1994.
- _____. *Who Wrote the New Testament*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1996.
- O'Dell, D. *How the Bible Became the Bible*. West Conshohocken, PA: Infinity Publishing, 2006.
- Saunders, E. P. *Paul A Very Short Introduction*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Shepherd, Thomas. *Jesus 2.1: An Upgrade for the 21st Century*. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 2010.
- Spong, John Shelby. *Jesus for the Non-Religious*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2008.
- _____. *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2011.
- _____. *The Sins of Scripture*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2005.
- _____. *This Hebrew Lord*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 1993.
- White, L. M. *From Jesus to Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2004