



WSBM 206 PRAYING THE PSALMS (PART 1)

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Winter 2023

January 26 – March 16

2 credit hours

Thursdays, 7 – 9 PM

Room: **TBD**

WSBM exists to equip Willingdon Church – head, heart and hands – to be more biblically literate and to serve more effectively in church and related ministry.

I. Special Notes

Classes will be in-person. However, due to the instructor's health, it may be necessary to have some classes through Zoom.

II. Course Description

For well over 2,000 years, the Book of Psalms has shaped the individual prayer lives of Jews and Christians, as well as corporate prayer in the synagogues and churches (serving as both an instruction manual and a prayer book). This course will introduce students to the practice of praying the psalms—using the psalms to express praise, lament, thanksgiving, trust, joy and anger. The course will also explore the contexts and poetic composition of some psalms.

III. Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, students should...

- **To know** the composition and context of the psalms, including forms of Hebrew poetry and various expressions of prayer.
- **To be** spiritually shaped by the psalmists, discovering our own thoughts, feelings and circumstances through their words.
- **To practice** using the psalms in individual and corporate dialogue with God.

IV. Required Text

- Taylor, W. David O. *Open and Unafraid: The Psalms as a Guide to Life*. Nelson Books, 2020.
- Course workbook will be provided.

V. Course Outline

January 26	Introduction to the Psalms Praying our Trust: Psalm 23
February 2	Praying our Brevity: Psalm 90 Structure of the Psalms
February 9	Praying our Sadness: Psalm 142
February 16	Praying in the King: Psalm 110 Reading Perspectives
February 23	Praying Judgement: Psalm 3
March 2	Praying our Sin: Psalm 32
March 9	Praying our Wonder: Psalm 8 Creation and Prayer
March 16	Praying our Praise: Psalm 146 Movement from Lament to Praise

VI. Course Requirements

1. **Psalms Reading (20%)**

Read all 150 psalms over the duration of the term. Send the course instructor an email indicating you have completed the readings.

Due Date: March 16, 2023.

2. **Psalms Studies (20%)**

Complete the Psalm Study Chart (provided in class) to observe, interpret and apply Psalms 57 and 90. An example will be uploaded to the course Moodle site.

Due Date: March 16, 2023.

3. **Memorization (20%)**

Choose one psalm to memorize from the following: 3, 5, 13, 16, 51, 65, 84, 90, 103, 121, 139 or 146 (Permission must be obtained from the instructor if the student wishes to memorize a psalm not listed here). Students should contact the instructor to schedule a time to recite the psalm, either in person or through Zoom.

Due Date: Before or by March 16, 2023.

4. **Textbook Summary & Reflection (40%)**

Write a 1,000-word response to any chapter of the textbook. The response should summarize the main idea of the chapter, and give one or two personal examples on how it is helpful for the student's prayer life.

Due Date: March 16, 2023.

VII. Recommended Texts

- Peterson, Eugene. *Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer*. HarperCollins, 1989.
- Lewis, C. S. *Reflection on the Psalms*, HarperOne, 2017.
- Wright, N. T. *The Case for the Psalms*. HarperOne, 2013.

VIII. Academic Policies

1. Course Attendance

Students are expected to attend all the scheduled classes. If, for some reason, students need to miss classes, they will need to contact the instructor ahead of time. Students will be required to catch up on missed classes by listening to the recording. Students are responsible to obtain any missing materials or notes from other students in the class. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to missing an exam.

2. Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to remember that they are in an academic classroom. It is inappropriate to engage in conversations with classmates during class. Cell phones must be turned off. iPods/Tablets/Smart phones are permitted if Bible software and word-processing programs are being used. Otherwise, please do not surf the net or check emails during class. Only students who have registered for a course are to be in attendance. The only exception is an "approved audit." If the class is conducted via Zoom, students should turn the video on unless there is a good reason not to.

3. Assignment Format (Citation & Style)

The default format for documentation of sources used and format of presentation for all the papers is *MLA Style*. The format guide is available at Willingdon.org/wsbm.

4. Late Assignments

Without the extension that has been granted already by the instructor, late assignments are subject to reduced grades. The work that is submitted late (from the *time* it was due) will receive a 5% reduction in grades. There will be an additional 5% reduction for every 24 hour period that follows (including the weekend).

Assignments submitted one week after their due dates will *not* be accepted (unless, again, extensions have been approved already by the instructor).

5. Extension Policy

The deadline for an assignment is considered to be part of the course requirements. Due to the additional workload for the instructor in grading late papers, and due to the school's intention to be fair to students who, often with considerable effort, submit their work on time, extensions for course work will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. A written request with reasons for extension should be directed to the instructor. If granted, the extension deadlines will be clearly established and will be final.

Extensions for course work are granted in cases where the student demonstrates there was an unforeseeable and unavoidable emergency. Emergencies considered as grounds for an extension typically include:

- Personal sickness or injury which prevents one from working
- Sickness, injury or death in the family which requires the student's attention
- Emotional or psychological crisis for which the student has sought professional help
- Unexpected increase in job responsibilities

6. Academic Integrity

All students at WSBM are expected to hold to *uncompromised* academic integrity.

Plagiarism, whether intended or accidental, is an academic offense. In academic work, students are certainly expected to refer to and evaluate other people's works. Plagiarism unfortunately occurs when students' assignments fail to give credit to those from whom the students got certain *ideas*. In other words, students submitted the idea of another without reference to him/her (effectively claiming the credit that is due someone else and getting a grade for someone else's effort).

Therefore, whether students (1) *directly quotes* a source (i.e., "word for word" in its entirety or in its part), or (2) *paraphrase in their own words* the idea of another, they must keep track and provide a *clear reference* to the original source that they are indebted to (e.g., via footnotes).

Again, whether it was intended or not, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students are therefore expected to develop and exercise *proper citation*, a skill that is truly critical in academic work (please refer to the format guide at Willingdon.org/wsbm).

Using unauthorized aids of any sort in exams or assignments, completing work in unauthorized collaboration with others, or the unauthorized use of class recordings are all breaches of academic integrity.

The penalty for a lack of academic integrity may include a failing grade either in the assignment, examination or course, depending on the severity of the offense.

7. Academic Standards

Students must achieve at least a 60% grade to successfully complete a course. In order to graduate with the Certificate, any course taken and not completed must be repeated. Registration policies and procedures apply.

Students may appeal to the instructor if a course is not successfully completed, and at the discretion of the instructor, students may be granted the opportunity to re-submit a particular assignment.

8. Report Cards

Report cards are issued (usually by email) in a reasonable amount of time following the completion of each course. Due to faculty schedules, there may be delays in the time frame for issuing grade reports.

Students are responsible to appeal any error in grades and to bring to the WSBM Administrative Assistant's attention within one month following the issued report card. Grade changes are allowable for computational recording errors and must be corrected no later than one month after the date the report card was issued.