

WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.

COURSE: WSBM 281 Book of Hebrews

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. J. Bryan Born (wsbm@willingdon.org)

DATE: Feb 27-28, Mar 1, 2025 | Thursday, Friday | 7:00pm-9:00pm | Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This study of the Book of Hebrews highlights its Christ-centered theology as well as its practical application for Christian life and mission. The glory of God as revealed in Jesus Christ is the gravitational center of Hebrews. It was written to help a first-century Christian community in a time of crisis, equipping them to stay faithful as they faced suffering and persecution. Drawing on Old Testament themes and images, and employing encouraging words, firm warnings, and vivid examples, the author calls the reader to respond to Jesus in obedience and worship.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the basic content of each section of the letter to the Hebrews.
- Understand the letter to the Hebrews in terms of its relationship to history and faith.
- Demonstrate their appreciation for how the letter to the Hebrews contributes to the key issues of Christian theology, leadership and discipleship.
- Practice the life of faith as outlined in the book of Hebrews by focusing on 'Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.'

REQUIRED READING

The Holy Bible (in any quality translation – ESV, NIV, NRSV, NLT)

Lane, William. *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment*. Regent Publishing, 2004

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
February 27 (a)	Introduction: Son of God	Hebrews Reading & Outline
February 27 (b)	Superior to Angels	
February 28 (a)	Superior to Moses	
February 28 (b)	Superior to the High Priest	
March 1 (a)	Hold Fast to the Hope	
March 1 (b)	Superior Sacrifice	
March 1 (c)	Call to Faithfulness	
March 1 (d)	Call to Jesus, Author of Faith	

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

1. Book of Hebrews Reading and Outline (20%)

Prior to the beginning of the course, students will read the Book of Hebrews in a language of their choice. Create an outline of the book, providing a title for each section. For example: I. Introduction (1:1-3). Some sections will likely contain 2-3 sub-sections. The outline should not be longer than 1 single-spaced page and will not necessarily use the topics of the course program.

Due: Upload to the class site by 12 noon on February 27, 2025

2. Textbook Review (20%)

Write a 500-700 word review of Lane's *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment*. Summarize the author's main points (300-400 words), and include a personal response to the book (200-300 words). Consider: How does Lane's book help a student understand the theology of Hebrews? How is this book useful/not useful? Would the student recommend this book? Why/why not? How has the material in the book most affected the student?

Due: Upload to the class site by March 10, 2025

3. Reflection Paper and Presentation (30%)

Submit a 750-word reflection paper discussing how to apply Hebrews to a particular Christian practice. Example topics include: how to motivate faithfulness to Christ, how to teach effectively, how to design worship services, how to read Scripture, how to relate Christ to culture, how to pray, etc. Use of commentaries and secondary sources is not required. Engaging the text of Hebrews and relating the letter to the topic at hand with specific applications is most important.

Due: Upload to the class site by March 17, 2025

4. Bible Study Application Project (30%)

Select a passage from the book of Hebrews and prepare a Bible study that you can use in a Life Group setting. Reference the age group you are ministering to, and clearly state which passage you will be studying.

- A. Provide a clearly written walkthrough and explanation of the passage (1-2 pages).
- B. Provide a list of study questions (at least 6), along with your responses to the questions, that will allow your study group to interact with your lesson.

- C. Be sure to include at least 2 additional questions that focus on practical application of the biblical material.

Anticipate questions you may receive from your target group, and try to fashion your explanation and questions to address those possible questions. Structure your Bible Study so that it will require approximately 30 minutes for your group to work through.

Due: Upload to the class site by March 24, 2025

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED READING

Attridge, Harold W. *Hebrews: A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the God of Israel: God Crucified and Other Studies on the New Testament's Christology of Divine Identity*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 2008.

Beale, G. K, and D. A Carson. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Brown, Raymond. *The Message of Hebrews: Christ Above All*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1982

Bruce, F.F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Gundry, Robert H. *Commentary on Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Guthrie, George H. "Hebrews' Use of the Old Testament: Recent Trends in Research," *Currents in Biblical Research* 1.2 (April 2003): 271-94.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Hebrews: A Commentary*. London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.

Lindars, Barnabas. *The Theology of the Letter to the Hebrews*. Cambridge UP, 1991.

Mohler, R. Albert. *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews* (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary). Holman Bible Publishers, 2017.

Morris, Leon. *Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.

O'Brien, Peter T. *God has Spoken in his Son: A Biblical Theology of Hebrews*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2016.