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# WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

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*Training Laborers for His Harvest*

## **BI 532 – Psalms** ***Online Syllabus***

**Course Instructor: Mr. J. Michael Lester**

### **I. Course Description:**

This class is an in-depth look at the Psalter, the Hebrew hymnbook. It is within the pages of this book that we see the Lord exalted to His rightful place; where we see man as the sinner that he truly is; and where we find deliverance in the only place of refuge – Christ Himself. These songs of worship reveal the humanity of man along with the majesty of God. While not a “doctrinal” book *per se*, you will nevertheless learn doctrinal content from the prayers of Old Testament Saints.

### **II. Course Objectives:**

- A. To equip each student with a working knowledge of this book.
- B. To develop an insatiable hunger within each student to know not only the Word of God, but also more importantly the God of the Word.
- C. To develop a greater appreciation for the historical context of each psalm, the pictures that they paint of Christ, and the multiple times that the psalms are quoted in the New Testament.
- D. To gain an understanding of the theological implications of this book.
- E. To be able to see each student be able to outline this book as a teaching series.
- F. To be able to see each student successfully pass a comprehensive exam at the end of the course.
- G. To be able to see each student learn how to apply the principles from these Old Testament hymns to our present New Testament age.

### **III. Course Requirements:**

- A. Keep a comprehensive notebook (3-ring binder) of notes, charts and handouts. The notes are **REQUIRED** typed. They will not be accepted any other way. Your notebook should contain a title page with your name on it, this syllabus, notes taken from lectures, and anything that has been handed back to you.
- B. Be ready for online quizzes after about every 4 lectures.



- C. **Reading Assignments:** The Book of Psalms contains 150 chapters. You will read each of them by the end of this class. Your textbook is rather lengthy, but it must be read before the Final Exam. **Failure to read the Psalms results in a failure to pass the class; failure to read the textbooks will count as a reduction of your final grade.**
1. Textbook 1: *Exploring the Psalms* – John Phillips
    - a. Write out 50 questions from the text of these volumes as well as their answers. This would be, in effect, a study guide you could use should you ever teach this book to someone else.
  2. Textbook 2: *Treasury of David* – Charles Spurgeon
    - a. Write out 50 questions from each of these volumes as well as their answers. This would be, in effect, a study guide you could use should you ever teach this book to someone else.
- D. **Memorization:** Choose any two psalms (with at least eight verses each) and memorize them for the final exam. Why? Because David hid the Word of God in his heart so that he would not sin against God! Question: What part of God’s Word did David have to choose from to memorize?
- E. **Outline:** Develop a simple outline for every psalm. Some psalms may be less than three “points” while others (Psalm 119) might be longer. These outlines are to be designed so that you can “teach” them to others. The format to be followed should look something like this:
1. **Main Point #1**
    - a. Supporting verse, phrase, or sub-point.
    - b. Ditto
  2. **Main Point #2**
    - a. Supporting verse, phrase, or sub-point.
    - b. Ditto
  3. **Main Point #3**
    - a. Supporting verse, phrase, or sub-point.
    - b. Ditto
- F. **Projects:**
1. As you read the Bible passages, take note on how many references there are to the Word of God. This project will be in your notebook; be sure to note synonyms (precepts; statutes; laws, etc.) for God’s Word in the psalms as well.
  2. Write a brief summary statement of each psalm. This can be included at the bottom of each teaching outline.
  3. Pick one psalm that you would consider to be “life-changing” either because of personal experience or conviction and write a one-page summary of that psalm. This may be one of the psalms that you memorize.
  4. All projects that are completed with the intent to turn in are placed in your notebook and due the week of Finals. These will not be accepted late, but will be accepted early.
- G. **Final Reminders:** There are not many reports or other assignments for this class. This class is an accumulation of “little tools” that will be used in the big picture later. The two biggest “time-takers” will be the reading of the Scriptures and the texts, as well as the memorization. Plan now how you can best accomplish the goal. **Remember, all projects are to be turned in before the final can be taken.**



#### **IV. Grading Factors:**

A. Tests / Quizzes	25%
B. Projects	25%
C. Notebook	25%
D. Exams	25%

#### **V. Course Accountability**

This section is to encourage the student to realize that in order to pass this course he must fulfill the requirements and assignments given in this syllabus. The assignments are carefully selected so it will reinforce and complement the class material.

I hope you enjoy this course as much as I enjoy teaching it. If you have a question, I encourage you to contact me via email.

