



Truett McConnell

U N I V E R S I T Y

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**GRADUATE
ACADEMIC CATALOG**

2016 - 2017

A Georgia Baptist University ◀

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear TMU Students,

An Anabaptist Vision: Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

The Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20) is a costly commandment. It requires our life (Matthew 16:24-25). For the Gospel is the heartbeat of Christianity (Romans 1:16-17), the focus of each local church founded upon the Scriptures (Matthew 16:18) and the centrality of who we are as Truett McConnell University.

Here at Truett McConnell, we stand on the shoulders of giants, men and women from centuries past that have literally given their lives for the Gospel. These heroes, nicknamed Anabaptists, point us to a simple and biblical Christianity based solely on His Word and sustained solely by His grace.

This rich heritage is also our future. Our Graduate program honors our past by equipping a new generation, both theologically and practically, to invest their lives for His sake, and for the sake of a generation yet to hear the Gospel (Acts 2:40-41).

Welcome to Truett McConnell University. Welcome home.

Truth is Immortal,

Dr. Emir Caner,
President

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Mission Statement

The mission of Truett McConnell University is to equip students to fulfill the Great Commission by fostering a Christian worldview through a Biblically-centered education.

Historical Sketch

Although Truett McConnell University is a comparatively young institution, its roots extend far back into the educational history of Georgia. George W. Truett and Fernando C. McConnell, cousins for whom the University is named, were men of faith and vision whose work and influence as joint pioneers in Christian education became well known. In 1887, George W. Truett established a private Christian academy at Hiawassee, Georgia. Fernando C. McConnell joined him in his educational endeavors, which led to the creation of the public school system in Towns County, Georgia. Changing conditions eventually led to the closing of the original academy, but Georgia Baptists established a College in Cleveland, Georgia, to carry on the same high educational standards instituted by these two Baptist pioneers. On July 23, 1946, ceremonies at Cleveland, Georgia, heralded the establishment of the new College. Truett-McConnell College, operating in temporary quarters, first opened its doors to students in September 1947, when it enrolled a class of fifty-five. Before long, construction began on the present campus, and the first building became available for use in September 1956. Since that time, the campus has seen much construction and landscaping. Additions to the campus now include seven residence halls, an apartment complex, gymnasium, dining hall, chapel, library, recreational complex, maintenance complex, president's home and office, institutional advancement office, academic enrichment center, and student center. Truett McConnell was a junior college until 2003 when it gained accreditation to grant bachelor degrees as a four year institution. In 2014 it was granted accreditation to begin its first Master's degree program and on May 14, 2016 it became Truett McConnell University. Truett McConnell continues to expand to meet the needs of a growing student body and to equip each generation to meet the challenges of presuming their calling in the real world.

Institutional Identity

Truett McConnell University is a private Christian liberal arts and sciences University, operated under the auspices of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia and controlled by a Board of Trustees elected by the Convention.

Core Values

World Mission Emphasis

The Great Commission is the guiding principle of Truett McConnell University. The University has an underlying vision to make it possible for every student to go on an evangelistic world mission trip, the University declares itself committed to equipping students to fulfill the Great Commission.

Scripture VerseMatthew 28:18-20

Christian Worldview

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) of Truett McConnell University is entitled, "Fostering a Christian Worldview at Truett McConnell University." A Christian Worldview is the foundation for the entire curriculum and student life of the University and is its *raison d'être*. It is at the core of everything the University does in education, athletics, and student activities. The University seeks to infuse every aspect of its ministry with a Christ-centered and Biblically-based worldview that will challenge any and all secular and/or post-modern worldviews which students face.

Scripture Verse.....Acts 17:23-31

Biblically-Centered Education

The University is a growing Christian community dedicated toward merging the finest traditions of higher education with the growing demands for Christian professionals embodied in a curriculum that is Biblically-centered. Since Scripture is authoritative, it is the yardstick against which every course and program of studies is measured. Truett McConnell University is limited by the "authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists." (The Baptist Faith and Message, Article XII).

Scripture Verse.....2 Timothy 3:16



Love the Lord



Love the Word



Love the Church



Love the Lost

The University

Accreditation

Truett McConnell University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor degrees and master degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Truett McConnell University.

Truett McConnell University is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Truett McConnell University's Bachelor of Science in Education degree is approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Truett McConnell University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing is accredited by the Georgia Board of Nursing and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Compliance

In compliance with federal law, including provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Truett McConnell University does not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its administration of education policies, programs, or activities; admissions policies; or employment. The University fully reserves all rights and exemptions under federal law.

The provisions and information set forth in this publication are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. Thus, this publication is not intended, and shall not be construed, to constitute a contract between Truett McConnell University and any student, prospective student, or any other person or legal entity of any and every nature whatsoever. Truett McConnell University hereby reserves and retains the right to amend, alter, change, delete, or modify any of the provisions of this publication at any time, and from time to time, without notice, in any manner that the Board of Trustees or the administration deems to be in the best interests of Truett McConnell University.

All Truett McConnell University students must follow the policies and procedures outlined in this catalog; however, students who enrolled in a course of study at Truett McConnell University prior to the fall semester of this catalog have the option of graduating under the degree requirements of the catalog current at the time of their admission to the University or under the requirements of this catalog, provided all requirements are completed within five years from the date of enrollment in the first class taken at the University.

Location

Cleveland is the county seat of White County and is located at the southern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Nearby are the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River and Lake Sidney Lanier. Gainesville is 25 miles to the south, and Atlanta is 90 miles to the southwest.



FALL SEMESTER 2016

Payment Deadline for Returning Students	August 4
Classes begin	August 17
Convocation	August 23
Labor Day Holiday (staff holiday – classes meet*)	September 5
Spiritual Emphasis Week	August 30-September 1
Constitution /Citizenship Day	September 16
Fall Break (no classes)	October 3 - 7
Last day Graduate Student to drop w/o penalty	October 12
Fall enrollment reporting date	October 31
Advising and registration for spring (current students only)	October 17-November 4
Deadline for graduation application	November 15
Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)	November 21-25
Classes end	December 6
Dead day	December 7
Final exams	December 8, 9, 12, 13

SPRING SEMESTER 2017

New student advising and registration	January 9
IE Day	January 10
Classes begin	January 11
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (staff holiday –classes meet*)	January 16
Late registration and drop/add	January 11-17
Spring break (no classes)	March 6-10
Last day Graduate Students to drop w/o penalty	March 8
Advising and registration for summer/fall (current students only)	March 13 – 31
Spring enrollment reporting date	March 31
Easter Week (no classes)	April 10 - 14
Staff Easter Holiday-Good Friday	April 14
Honors Chapel	April 25
Classes end	May 2
Dead day	May 3
Final exams	May 4, 5 8, 9
Graduation	May 13

* Professor's discretion on class

NOTE: Any or all of these schedules are subject to change; please consult the Registrar prior to any term to confirm schedule.

Admissions

General Graduate Admission Requirements

Applicants should meet the following minimum requirements for full admission to the graduate program:

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants must submit the following as a part of the general admission requirements:

- Official application for admission form.
- Official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate coursework. The transcript from the institution granting the bachelor's degree is necessary for all applicants. If the degree program is incomplete when the application is filed, a transcript of work to that date must be submitted, and after graduation, a final official transcript must be furnished indicating the degree received.

For further assistance and/or to submit application please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions, Truett McConnell University, 100 Alumni Drive, Cleveland, GA 30528, 706-865-2134, ext. 2130 or gradadmissions@truett.edu.

Transient Student Policy

Students seeking admission to the graduate program as a transient student must follow the following procedures:

- Complete a Graduate Application for Admission to Truett McConnell for Non-Degree Seeking Students.
- Submit a letter of transient permission or an official statement from an appropriate official of the institution last attended, recommending the applicant's admission and granting him or her permission to enroll as a transient student at Truett McConnell University.
- A student who wishes to register for a subsequent semester must submit another letter of transient permission. There will only be two transient semesters allowed. If the student wishes to attend beyond two semesters, then they would need to follow the procedures for a Degree Seeking Transfer Student.

Re-Admission to Truett McConnell University

Truett McConnell University defines a re-admit student as a student who was once enrolled at TMU but withdrew from the institution.

A student whose enrollment at Truett McConnell University has been interrupted for any reason for two or more semesters (excluding summer term) must apply for readmission. The application for readmission must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions for the appropriate semester. If a student had enrolled in any other college or university during their absence from Truett McConnell University, they must also submit official transcripts from each institution. The student must also advise the Office of Graduate Admissions of any life changes (marriage, divorce, new job, etc.) that occurred during the break in enrollment.

The paper records of nonregistered students, including transcripts and transcripts submitted for transfer credit, are retained by the Registrar's Office for five academic years after the last registered term. If a student applies for readmission after an absence of more than 5 years and has attended any other college or university, they must submit official transcripts from all institutions attended.

Submit application for readmission and all transcripts to:

Office of Graduate Admissions
Truett McConnell University
100 Alumni Drive
Cleveland, GA 30528

Upon receipt of the application for readmission, the Office of Graduate Admissions will check for any departmental holds from the Business Office, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid Office, Academic Services Office, Student Services Office, Library, and Bookstore. All matters must be resolved and the hold removed before the student can be approved for readmission. Any department indicating a hold will be contacted by the Office of Graduate Admissions to determine how the hold can be lifted. If the hold requires action by the student in order to be lifted, the student will be notified in writing with instructions on how to proceed with clearing the hold.

When a student has no departmental holds and has provided all transcripts of work attempted at other colleges or universities since attending Truett McConnell, the file will be forwarded to the Office of Graduate Admissions for updating and the issuance of a letter of acceptance for the appropriate semester.

A student who sought readmission but was subsequently denied readmission to the University will be notified in writing that their readmission has been denied. Further information will not be provided to the student regarding the reason for denial.

Graduate Tuition and Fees

M.A.T. Program	Per credit hour	\$325
Campus fee	Per semester	\$280
Student activity fee	Per semester	\$ 50
Parking fee	Per semester	\$ 50

Refund Policies

Institutional Refund Policies

The following pertains to all refund policies applied by the University unless specifically stated otherwise.

Truett McConnell University, like most universities, must make commitments in advance for faculty, staff, equipment, supplies, utilities and other operating expenses for the entire year. Therefore, the University policy considers the acceptance of registration as a contract-binding student and parents for charges for the entire semester.

The Federal Refund Policy states, up through the 60% point in each payment period or period of enrollment, a pro-rata schedule is used to determine the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned at the time of withdrawal. After the 60% point the payment period or period of enrollment, a student has earned 100% of the Title IV funds he or she was scheduled to receive during the period. Students may owe a repayment of Federal Funds to the government or funds to the institution.

Students suspended or expelled from the Institute for any reason forfeit their right to a refund of any credit balance on their student account.

In the event of a complete withdrawal, the institution will calculate a refund through the 60% point of the semester, with the exception of the online program. After 60% of the semester has been completed, there will be no refund of tuition. A refund is calculated by dividing the date of withdrawal by the number of federally defined days in the semester. Board fees will be refunded on a pro-rata basis. There is no refund of room after the fifth day of class. Refunds for students receiving federal aid will be calculated using the current federal policy.

In the event of a complete withdrawal from the online program, the institution will calculate a refund based on the weeks of completion. A 100% refund is available if the student has not logged in by the 1st day of classes. A 50% refund is available through the fifth day of instruction. There is no refund after the fifth day of instruction.

Important Notes

All students should check with the Business Office and Financial Aid before withdrawing to verify any financial implications.

- This schedule is independent of financial aid. Grants and scholarships may be lost due to drops or withdrawals. Students **MUST** contact Financial Aid for specific advice. All students should check with the Business Office and Financial Aid before withdrawing to verify any financial implications.
- No adjustments to tuition charges will be made for students dropping coursework (but not withdrawing), after the last published day of drop/add.

Student accounts are reviewed when federal funds are posted to determine if a refund is necessary. Federal funds that create a credit balance greater than allowable cost must be refunded to student within 14 days of receipt. If it is determined that a refund is necessary, then it will be processed. Checks are either mailed to student or held for pick-up in the Business Office. If the refund is due to a parent loan, then a refund check will be mailed to the parent with address provided from the financial aid office; unless parent advises otherwise. Credit balances unrelated to federal funds that are created within an academic year can carry from semester to semester to cover a balance. When reviewing a student account you must never use a credit from one academic year to cover the balance of a previous academic year.

Students may request a refund by going to www.truett.edu; select refund request under admissions and follow the steps. The Business Office will follow the request of the student to either mail or pick up the check at the Business Office. Students picking up their refund check must show ID and sign for the check.

Return of Title IV Funds

If a student receiving Title IV financial aid (Pell Grant, SEOG, Stafford Loans, or PLUS loans) or state aid withdraws, some portion of the aid may be considered unearned by regulation. The University *and* the student may be responsible for returning unearned federal aid.

The Office of Financial Aid supports the mission of Truett McConnell University by helping students obtain funds for graduate educational expenses by promoting loan opportunities through the federal government. The responsibility for meeting graduate school costs ultimately lies with the student and his or her family.

Financial aid awards made to students from funds received from the federal government may be revised if those funds cannot be obtained. All financial aid award disbursements are contingent upon the University's receipt of the funds. Applications for financial aid should be submitted as soon as possible after January 1st of each year. Financial aid award letters are sent to students beginning March 1st, as soon as necessary documentation is received by the Office of Financial Aid.

Eligibility

To receive financial assistance, a student must be enrolled in a degree granting course of study, fully accepted by the University, be in good standing, making satisfactory academic progress (as defined later in this catalog), and not be in default or delinquent on any loan plan with the University, state, or federal government. Also the student must not owe a refund on grants previously received under the Pell Grant or the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).

Application Process

For a student enrolling in a graduate program, the type of aid available is Unsubsidized Stafford loans (non-need based loan) and Grad PLUS loans (credit based) through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Direct Loans are offered at relatively low interest rates and with good repayment arrangements. Before you take out a loan, be sure to develop a budget to make sure you borrow only what you need. For more student loan information (interest rates, repayment and more), visit the Department of Education at www.studentloans.gov.

To receive loans, the student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The school code for Truett McConnell University is 001597 and must be entered on the FAFSA for the school to receive an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). The student will need an FSA user ID and password to electronically sign the FAFSA which can be requested online at www.fsaaid.ed.gov. The FAFSA must be renewed for each academic year in which the student wishes to receive federal aid.

*NOTE: If access to a computer is not available, a paper FAFSA may be obtained from the Truett McConnell University Financial Aid Office. Assistance in completing the FAFSA is provided by both the US Department of Education via their help line at 1-800-433-3243 and the staff of the TMU Office of Financial Aid.

If a student has not previously received loans through the federal government, the student will need to complete Loan Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note for the Stafford loans. These applications can be found online at www.studentloans.gov. The student will need his or her FSA user ID and password to sign in to the system.

Additionally, the Truett McConnell Financial Aid Office requires students to submit an application for Financial Aid (found on the NetPartner student financial aid portal); loan request form; signed award letter and any verification documents needed if the student's application for federal aid has been flagged by the Department of Education.

Delivery of Federal Loan Funds

All loan funds are provided to the student by crediting the student's account. Funds will be credited to student's accounts no earlier than ten business days before the first day of classes. Enrollment verifications will be done before aid can be disbursed.

Types of Loans

Unsubsidized Loan

The unsubsidized loan is a non-need based loan. If you are awarded an unsubsidized loan, you will be responsible for the interest at 5.31%. You will receive quarterly interest statements on your unsubsidized loan from your lender. It is recommended that you pay interest every quarter. If you do not, the interest will be added to your loan amount, which will result in your paying interest upon interest.

Financial Aid

Repayment: You must begin repayment of your student loan, once you:

- * Withdraw from school
- * Drop below half-time status (fewer than 6 hours during a semester)
- * Graduate

Aggregate Loan Limits For Unsubsidized

The Aggregate Maximum Loan Limit restricts the amount of federal student loans that may be borrowed over a student's university career. For additional information about federal student loans including aggregate loan limits and interest rates please visit: www.studentloans.gov.

Graduate and Professional Unsubsidized Loans	
Annual Loan Limit	\$20,500.00
Aggregate Loan Limit	\$138,500.00

Graduate PLUS Loan Program

The Graduate PLUS Loan Program may be of interest to you as a graduate student needing additional assistance to cover educational costs after all other federal loans have been exhausted. The program offers a non-need based federal loan with a fixed 6.31% interest rate. Grad PLUS Loans allow you as a graduate student to borrow up to the full cost of attendance minus any other financial aid you are receiving. We encourage you to consider your options before accruing additional loan debt.

Loan eligibility and the loan limits are not based on demonstrated financial need. They are also not based on income levels, debt-to-income ratios or credit scores. No collateral is required. Federal Grad PLUS loan borrowers do, however, have to pass a simple credit check, which requires the borrower not to have an adverse credit history. (Note that if a Federal Grad PLUS loan borrower is denied a Federal Grad PLUS loan because of an adverse credit history, the borrower does not become eligible for increased unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan limits, unlike the increase in an undergraduate student's unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan limits that occurs with a Federal Parent PLUS loan denial.)

Books

Students who are loan recipients may be eligible to receive funds to pay for books and supplies if the total federal aid exceeds the student's cost of attendance and creates a credit on the student's account. Students must have all financial aid documents submitted to the Financial Aid Office no later than 10 days prior to the first day of the semester. Students can request a book voucher via email at www.truett.edu/book-voucher-request.html or in person 10 days prior to the beginning of each semester. The Business Office will review requests and grant a book voucher if students are eligible for one. Students can opt out of getting a book voucher by informing the Financial Aid Office or not requesting a voucher.

Financial Aid and Academic Load

Truett McConnell University considers a graduate student taking 9 or more hours per semester a full-time student. A student taking an academic load of 6 through 8 semester hours is classified as a half-time student. A student taking 1 through 5 semester hours is considered a less-than-half-time student. A student must take at least 6 semester hours to be eligible for loans through the federal government.

The University applies its satisfactory academic progress policy consistently to all graduate students receiving federal aid. Students should consult the policies on withdrawal from the University and dropping coursework.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Truett McConnell has adopted the following Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy according to federal and state mandates. Both Federal statutes and the U.S. Department of Education regulations require institutions of higher education to establish minimum standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for students receiving federal aid. In addition, all State of Georgia financial aid program regulations require students to meet SAP criteria established for federal student aid.

The Truett McConnell University Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy measures a student's performance in the following areas: completion rate, maximum time frame, and cumulative grade point average (CGPA). The intent of this policy is to ensure that students who are receiving federal and state financial aid are making measurable progress toward completion of a degree program within a reasonable time frame. All students receiving any federal and state student financial aid must adhere to the University's SAP policy. Satisfactory progress is the minimum requirement for a student to receive federal, state, and institutional financial aid. Some financial aid programs have requirements that are more rigorous.

SAP consists of two types of measurement: quantitative (pace) and qualitative (GPA). To accurately measure a student's progress in a program, more than a qualitative (GPA) standard is needed. A student who is maintaining a high GPA by withdrawing from attempted courses may meet a qualitative standard, but may not be progressing towards graduation. While grades for prior attempts (repeats) may be excluded when calculating a student's GPA, credits from all attempts must be included when assessing the quantitative SAP standard.

The Office of Financial Aid monitors the SAP of all financial aid recipients by reviewing a student's academic record after grades are posted at the end of each fall, spring, and summer semester. The completion rate calculation and maximum time frame calculation (quantitative measurement), as well as the GPA calculation (qualitative measurement), are reviewed using grades and hours from the student's total academic record.

Failure to meet the standards in any on the three calculations may result in the cancellation of a student's awards. The SAP components of measurement for Truett McConnell University are summarized as follows.

Completion Rate Example	
Total attempted hours	30 Hours
Earned hours needed	30 hours x 67% = 20.1 or 21 hours (the minimum number of earned hours required to maintain the quantitative standard for Satisfactory Academic Progress)

Returning student's academic record — the federal government requires the Office of Financial Aid to track a student's academic progress from the first date of enrollment, whether or not financial aid was received. Students returning to the University after a break in enrollment should consult the Office of Financial Aid on how their university history will affect their eligibility for financial aid. A student that completely withdraws from school during a semester and receives W, WF, or WP grades in all courses, will generally return to school not meeting the SAP requirements.

Maximum Time Frame. Financial aid recipients must complete their program of study without having attempted more than 150 percent of the credit hours required to complete their curriculum. This provides up to 189 attempted semester hours for student financial aid recipients to complete a 126 semester hour program.

Students who change majors or degree programs should do so early in their academic career so as not to jeopardize eligibility for student financial aid. Students can risk exceeding 150% maximum allowable number of attempted semester hours before obtaining a degree. Students taking an excessive number of elective courses may have their financial aid revoked as these do not contribute to making satisfactory progress toward earning a degree.

Students pursuing a subsequent bachelor's degree may be eligible for up to 90 additional semester hours of federal loans after earning their first degree. Students must have remaining undergraduate loan limit eligibility. The 67% annual completion standard still applies. Students desiring a double major must still meet the 150% standard for completing their degree. The 150% is calculated from the degree which requires the most hours.

Financial Aid

Qualitative Measurement (GPA)

SAP is also evaluated according to a required cumulative grade point average (GPA) scale determined by the cumulative credit hours attempted at the conclusion of each semester. The minimum required GPA for Graduate students at the end of each semester is 2.5.

The University bases classification of transfer students on hours attempted at Truett McConnell University in addition to hours accepted by Truett McConnell University from transferring institutions.

The following grades are used in computing a cumulative GPA: A, B, C, D, F, and WF. Grades of AU, S, U, W, and WP will not impact the cumulative GPA. Withdrawals (W, WF, or WP) and repeats will be included in the cumulative attempted hours to determine the benchmark. Course incompletes will not impact the GPA determination of the qualitative standard of satisfactory academic progress, but will be included to determine completion rate and the attempted hour's benchmark, and must be completed as soon as possible.

Financial Aid Warning and Suspension

A student failing to meet SAP standards (either measurement) for the first time at the end of any semester will be placed on financial aid warning for the following semester, during which time the student remains eligible to receive student financial aid. After being placed on financial aid warning, if the student is still not meeting SAP at the end of the following semester, the student will be placed on financial aid suspension and will NOT be eligible to receive federal, state, and institutional financial aid for the subsequent semesters until the student achieves satisfactory academic progress. This means the student will have to bear the full cost of attendance without financial aid until the student achieves satisfactory academic progress. A student not meeting the SAP requirements must meet with his or her advisor to determine whether courses need to be repeated and /or the course load needs to be reduced.

At the end of the semester of financial aid warning, if a student is placed on financial aid suspension for not achieving Satisfactory Academic Progress due to extenuating circumstances, the student may appeal in writing to the Office of Financial Aid for an additional semester of financial aid probation (see Appeals Process).

Appeals Process

If a student fails to meet the requirements for the grade point average and/or percentage completion rate, and loses financial aid, due to an extenuating circumstance beyond his or her control, such as serious injury, illness or mental health condition involving the student or immediate family, or death of an immediate family member, the student may appeal in writing explaining his or her circumstances, to the Office of Financial Aid. The student must provide a one to two page personal statement and submit documentation that confirms the circumstances. An SAP Appeals Form must be completed and submitted with the statement.

Student statement of appeal should include the following information:

- Outline the circumstances that prevented meeting standard Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- State why it is possible to improve upon past academic performance.
- Explain the corrective action taken.
- Include attached documents that verify the statement. All documentation must include the student's name and ID number, and relate to the specific period during which the student's academic performance was affected.

Examples of acceptable documentation include:

- Birth/death certificates, obituaries, funeral programs of immediate family members (i.e. parents, grandparents, spouses, children, brothers, sisters).
- Medical records on physician's or hospital's letter head with the appropriate signatures that confirm illness and length of recuperation.
- Court documents.
- Statements from physicians, counselors, clergy or social workers on company letterhead with the appropriate signatures.

If a student has exceeded the maximum attempted hours (150 percent rule), he or she must:

- Provide a personal statement explaining why accumulated attempted hours exceed current degree requirements.
- Attach documents that verify statement (see above for acceptable documentation)
- Obtain a Degree Audit from the Registrar's Office listing the remaining requirements for current degree program and a projected completion date. (Timeliness of degree audit requests is essential for appeal. Last minute requests for degree audits could delay and jeopardize an appeal. It is strongly recommended that students obtain and review a copy of their unofficial transcript before submitting an appeal.)

The inclusion of supporting documentation as outlined above does not guarantee that an appeal will be granted. Each case will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and students may be granted financial aid probation for one semester. Appeal letters submitted without supporting documentation will not be considered.

The need for more than one appeal generally indicates a serious problem. Only one appeal will be accepted per Academic Year, unless the appeal is to set up an academic plan following a semester of probation. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will review the appeal. The student will be advised in writing of the final decision, generally within 15 working days of receipt of the financial aid appeal.

Re-Establishing Satisfactory Academic Process

Other than when an appeal is granted for unusual or mitigating circumstances, a student can re-establish eligibility only by taking action that brings the student into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of this policy.

- Quantitative Standard—67% of cumulative attempted hours must be passed.
- Qualitative Standard—Meet the GPA requirement per GPA scale for hours attempted.

Community Conduct Expectations for Institutional Financial Aid

The following institutional aid is available to graduate students at TMU:

- TMU Graduate Student Grant; \$90 per credit hour for students in the Residential Graduate Program.
- TMU Online Master's Scholarship; \$1,000 per year (\$500 per semester) for full-time (9+ hours/semester) students in the Online Graduate Program.
- TMU Pioneer Scholarship; \$125 per 3 hour class for students in the Online Graduate Program.

A Georgia Baptist Ministerial Scholarship of \$60 per credit hour (up to 12 hours) is available to graduate students who are in full-time ministry as a vocation and are members of a Georgia Baptist Convention church that contributes to the Cooperative Program.

To receive institutional financial aid a student must complete the TMU Financial Aid application found online at the Net Partner student portal.

Institutional aid is offered to students with the expectation that the student upon enrolling at Truett McConnell University will abide by the stated rules and community guidelines of the University and keep a clean discipline record with the Office of Student Development.

A student who is placed on probation or suspension by the Office of Student Development for behavioral conduct immediately forfeits any and all Institutional Financial Aid for the remainder of the current semester and the subsequent semester of enrollment. The award will be prorated for the semester according to the catalog policy in determining the amount of aid forfeited.

Institutional aid will be renewed if the student has maintained satisfactory progress and maintained the appropriate GPA for the TMU scholarship the student was initially eligible for. This standard is consistent with the development of Christian scholars and therefore more rigorous than the standard for receiving federal or state funded aid.

Academic Standards

Transfer of Credit

Admitted students may request acceptance of transfer hours provided:

- The student has achieved full admission into the University and program.
- The hours are deemed equivalent to courses in the selected graduate program by the degree program coordinator.
- Grades earned are at least "B" or higher.

Degree programs may have specific policies for the maximum number of hours that can be transferred.

The Registrar's Office determines transfer credit based on comparison of course descriptions. If questions arise regarding course equivalency, the Dean and/or Degree Program Coordinator are consulted. In some cases a transfer student may be required to provide a course syllabus if transferability cannot be determined from the course description alone.

For all other non-regionally accredited institutions, students may submit a request for transfer of credit if the institution is accredited by an agency recognized by the U. S. Department of Education. The form, "Request for Transfer Credit from a Non-Regionally Accredited Institution", should be submitted to the Registrar's Office. The appropriate Dean and/or Degree Program Coordinator along with the Registrar will analyze such courses in terms of level, content, quality, comparability, and relevance to the graduate degree program.

In addition, the Registrar, Dean and/or Degree Program Coordinator must receive information on the course instructor's academic credentials. A course syllabus may be required. Transfer credits will only be awarded for courses in which the student obtained a grade of "B" or higher and which apply to the course of study. Transfer credits will be awarded at the level the course is offered at TMU if the course content is equivalent. At least one-third of the 60 semester hours in the Master of Arts in Theology must be earned through instruction at TMU.

Probation and Dismissals

Students who fail to maintain a minimum of a 2.50 GPA will be placed on probation and will have one semester to raise the GPA. Following that semester, failure to regain a minimum of a 2.50 GPA will result in dismissal from the program.

Any student who makes a "D" in a course must retake the course. The grade from the retaken course will replace the prior grade. The student will only be allowed one retake during the student's program.

Any student receiving a "D" in two courses not eligible for replacement will be dismissed from the program.

Any student receiving an "F" will be dismissed from the program.

Students may be readmitted into the graduate program based on a recommendation from the admissions committee for extenuating circumstances. Students readmitted will continue on Academic Probation and will be required to maintain a 3.0 GPA each semester until they are able to reestablish a 2.5 GPA, at which time they will be removed from Academic Probation.

Academic Grievance Appeal Policy

An academic grievance appeal pertains only to student initiated grievances against faculty regarding academic issues other than grades. A request for review of an academic grievance may be considered only for grievances from the current or previous semester. Grievances related to summer courses may be reviewed during the fall semester.

Procedures:

- The student must meet with the course instructor and seek to resolve the issue. (If TMU no longer employs the instructor, the student should go directly to the appropriate Dean)

- The student may appeal in writing to the Dean if efforts to resolve the issue prove to be unsatisfactory to the student. The student may obtain a copy of the academic grievance appeal form from the office of the Vice President for Academic Services.
- If the Dean is unable to resolve the issue, the case may be appealed to the Vice President for Academic Services (VPAS).
- The Vice President for Academic Services must be supplied copies of all materials submitted previously and either party may augment these materials as desired. Also, the Dean will provide to the VPAS the written record of the meeting held with the student and faculty member, in addition to a summary account of his or her conclusions and recommendations.
- The conclusion and recommendation of the VPAS is binding upon the parties of the appeal.

Academic Grade Appeal Policy

Request for review of an academic grade pertains only to grades from the previous semester of study. Grade appeals related to summer courses may be reviewed during the fall semester. Appeals based on grades earned as a result of an Incomplete (I) will be reviewed in a timely manner.

Procedures:

- Student should meet with the course instructor and seek to resolve the grade issue.
- If the course instructor denies the request and the student is not satisfied with the reasons for denial of the request, the student may obtain a copy of the *Academic Grade Appeals* form from the office of the Vice President for Academic Services (VPAS).
- The student should complete the form and give it to the Dean. The Dean will make a decision on the grade and file the form with the office of the VPAS.
- The student may appeal the decision of the Dean to the VPAS.
- The conclusion and recommendation of the VPAS is binding upon the parties of the appeal.

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of an approved program of study with a minimum 2.50 GPA (specific degree programs may have a higher GPA requirement – please consult the graduate catalog area for your specific degree).
- At least one-third of the total semester hours must be earned through instruction at Truett McConnell University (specific degree programs may have more specific residency requirements – consult the graduate catalog area for your specific degree).
- Submission of an application for degree candidacy to the Registrar's Office no later than the published annually approved date.
- Approval by the faculty for graduation.
- Discharge of all financial obligations to the University.
- Applicants who apply for graduation and fail to meet the above requirements and deadline must reapply.
- Participation in commencement (absence requires permission from the Vice President for Academic Services).

Academic Standards

Auditing a Course

Persons desiring to audit classes may do so with the approval of the Registrar and the instructor of the course. The University reserves the right to refuse to allow an individual to register as an auditor in courses in which the predominant mode of instruction makes the course inappropriate for auditors. Auditors are “listeners” in the class. They do not take examinations and do not receive credit. They may participate in class discussion with the approval of the instructor. Auditors must receive admission to the University to be eligible to audit a course. Credit courses may not be changed to audit status or vice versa once the drop/add period is over. Courses taken for audit credit cannot be used for financial aid, Social Security benefits, Veterans Administration benefits, athletic eligibility, or to meet program requirements.

Academic Load

Full-time status for graduate students is defined as 9 semester hours.

Three-quarter time status for graduate students is defined as 7 semester hours.

Half-time status for graduate students is defined as 6 semester hours.

Maximum academic load is 15 hours per semester. Hours above 15 require *Permission for Academic Overload* form approved by the Vice President for Academic Services.

Attendance Policy

The University has adopted the following policy for monitoring student attendance for determining a withdrawal date. A student who misses, for any reason, more than any of the following may be dismissed from the class at the instructor's discretion:

- 6 absences for a 4 meeting per week class (lab courses)
- 5 absences for a 3 meeting per week class
- 3 absences for a 2 meeting per week class
- 2 absences for a 1 meeting per week class

If a student enrolls in a course after the term has begun, the number of classes the student missed before enrolling reduces the number of absences that make the student eligible for dismissal. If a student enrolls in a course after a session has begun, then the number of absences allowed is reduced by the number of class periods that already occurred before adding the course. For example, if a student adds a course that meets 4 times per week after the class has already met twice, the number of absences allowed would be reduced from 6 to 4. The instructor must complete a dismissal form and a course withdrawal form indicating the last day of attendance. In an accelerated session (i.e. summer school), a student may miss no more than ten percent of allotted class time.

Student Conduct

In accordance with the general regulations for admission and enrollment, Truett McConnell University encourages positive values of human development and individual freedom in accordance with its commitment to the teachings of the Christian faith. Students are expected to behave responsibly, to recognize the worth of each individual, including persons who are different in cultural background, attitude, and opinion and to demonstrate mutual respect for one another, faculty, and staff. Please refer to the Student Handbook for specific policy and standards.

Penalty for Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating (giving or receiving aid not approved by the instructor) will be handled directly by the faculty member concerned. However, if a student cheats or plagiarizes, the faculty member must report the incident to the Vice President for Academic Services.

The minimal penalty for a first offense is failure of the assignment; the minimal penalty for a second offense is failure of the course; the minimal penalty for a third offense is removal from school. The incidents will be cumulative from all courses and all previous semester/years at TMU.

The Office of Academic Services will keep records of all offenses.

The following items have been identified as the more common forms of cheating and/or plagiarizing; however, other forms of cheating and/or plagiarizing may be identified by the individual instructors.

1. Asking for information from another student during a test situation.
2. Copying answers from another's paper during a test situation.
3. Knowingly allowing someone to copy from one's paper during a test situation.
4. Using sources other than those permitted by the instructor in a test situation.
5. Copying material exactly or essentially or paraphrasing from outside sources and omitting appropriate documentation and punctuation (plagiarism).
6. Copying or falsifying a report for a laboratory, clinical project, or assignment without doing the required work.
7. Changing answers on a returned, graded test or assignment in order to have the grade revised.
8. Obtaining in any manner a copy, in part or in whole, of a test which has not yet been released or given by an instructor.
9. Not stopping as instructed in a timed test or writing situation.
10. Submitting work actually prepared outside class as work required to be done during class time.

Process for Drop/Add and Withdrawal

The drop/add period is the first five days of Fall and Spring semesters, the first two days of Summer semesters, and the first day of class for online classes. During the drop/add period students make schedule changes online via Self-Service. No student may change courses after the published last date for drop/add (see current academic calendar).

A. Process for Voluntary Withdrawal from a Course after Drop/Add Period

A student desiring to voluntarily withdraw from a course during Fall or Spring semester must do so no later than 8 weeks after classes begin. Corresponding voluntary withdrawal dates for summer and online sessions are no later than 4 weeks after classes begin.

The student must obtain a course drop/add form from the Registrar's Office and secure signatures from the advisor and the instructor (the instructor must fill in the last date of class attendance on the form) before submitting it to the Registrar's Office. Class absences will continue to accrue until the process is completed. Voluntary withdrawal from a course does not supersede involuntary withdrawal from a course. Upon completion of the process, the student will receive the grade of "W".

B. Process for Involuntary Withdrawal from a course after Drop/Add Period

The Instructor will assign a grade of "WF" or "WP" for any student who is involuntarily withdrawn from a course for violation of the attendance policy or for disciplinary reasons. An appeal of a grade of "WF" due to involuntary withdrawal must include appropriate emergency/medical documentation and must have the support of the faculty member. (See Academic Grade Appeal).

Academic Standards

C. Process for Requesting an Incomplete

A Student may receive an "I" (incomplete) for extenuating circumstances with the approval from the Instructor and the Vice President for Academic Services. *The Request for Grade of "I"* form should be submitted by the faculty member for consideration by the Vice President for Academic Services. The student is allowed one month after the last published final exam day of the semester to complete the course requirements and remove the "I" from his or her record; failure to do so will change the "I" to "F" at the end of the allotted one month period.

D. Process for Withdrawal from College

If for any reason a student withdraws voluntarily in good standing from the University during a semester, the student must obtain a *Withdrawal* form from the Registrar's Office in order to declare intent to voluntarily withdraw from the University.

The *Withdrawal* form must be approved by the financial aid designate, student development designate, library designate and the business office designate in order to complete the voluntary course withdrawal process. The student must clear all accounts before completing withdrawal from the University. Official transcripts may be withheld if a student does not complete all steps of the withdrawal process. The date of withdrawal from the University will be the date that the Registrar's Office receives the completed *Withdrawal* form.

The decision to withdraw from the University is extremely serious. The student is encouraged to converse with an academic advisor, student services personnel, and appropriate academic personnel before making the final decision.

Withdrawal for Military Service

Students called to active military service during any given semester shall be credited the full amount of any tuition. Room and board shall be prorated. In these instances, financial aid received shall be returned to the provider. Student must provide proof of active military status along with a completed withdrawal form to the Registrar's Office.

Academic Advising

Upon enrolling at TMU, students are assigned academic advisors who assist them in choosing a course of study. However, the ultimate responsibility for academic progress is the student's. Each semester, before registration, students should meet with their advisor to review progress, evaluate goals, and choose classes. The advisor is available by appointment throughout the year to assist in many ways.

Independent Study

1. Under special circumstances, a student may receive credit for some courses by studying independently under the close supervision of a regular faculty member.
2. The student must secure an independent study registration form from the Registrar's Office, complete it, secure the signatures of the instructor and the Dean, and file it in the Registrar's Office.
3. Independent study paperwork must be submitted and approved by the end of the drop/add period for the semester in which the student will be registered for the independent study course.

Credit Hour Policy

Truett McConnell University professors create their courses according to the principle widely accepted in academia that one semester hour of classroom instruction requires two out-of-class hours of student effort. Therefore, Truett McConnell University considers one semester hour of University credit to entail 37 1/2 educational hours (made up of a combination of class meetings and out-of-class work; usually involving 12 1/2 hours of class time or their equivalent, the rest as out-of-class work). Similarly, two semester credit hours represent 75 educational hours, and three semester credit hours encompass 112 1/2 educational hours.

Academic Credit and Instructional Time in Non-Traditional Courses

Fully online courses at the University are taught asynchronously and as such have no face to face instructional component. Students in online classes are assigned work that equates with 37.5 hours of out-of-class work per semester hour. A significant portion of this work involves interaction with the instructor and student peers through discussion boards, tests, written projects, email, and group work.

Evaluating Learning Outcomes in Non-Traditional Courses

The University considers traditional semester and non-traditional courses to be equivalent if there is parity between their learning outcomes. The University measures the learning outcomes for accelerated, hybrid, and online courses and compares those outcomes with traditional semester versions of those courses in order to maintain this equivalency.

Transcript and Grade Information

Institutional Credit

Institutional credit is that credit earned in certain courses designated in the University catalog as offering “institutional credit only.” This credit is nontransferable and will not count towards graduation; however, the grades earned for these courses are used in the calculation of students’ grade point averages.

Transcripts

If a student wishes to secure a transcript of grades or requests the University to send such a transcript to any individual or institution, application in writing must be made to the Registrar’s Office.

System of Grades and Quality Points

All work is evaluated according to the following chart:

Letter Grade	Meaning	Quality Points per Hour of Credit
A 90-100	Superior	4.0
B 80-89	Above Average	3.0
C 70-79	Average	2.0
D 60-69	Below Average	1.0
F Below 60	Failing	0
WP	Withdrawal Passing	Not Applicable
WF	Withdrawal Failing	0
AU	Audit, non-credit	Not Applicable
S	Satisfactory	Not Applicable
U	Unsatisfactory	Not Applicable

In addition to the previous grades, the following symbols are also used:

I = Incomplete — indicates that the student was doing satisfactory work at the end of the semester, but was unable to complete all of the course due to illness or other circumstances beyond their control. An incomplete is not given as a substitute for a failing grade. An incomplete is not based solely on a student’s failure to submit work or as a means of raising his or her grade by doing additional work after the grade report time. It is the student’s responsibility to make appropriate arrangements with the instructor to complete the course. An “I” may be entered on the student’s record only after a *Request for Grade of “I”* form has been made by the faculty member to the Vice President for Academic Services.

Academic Standards

The student is allowed one month after the last published final exam day of the semester to complete the course requirements and remove the "I" from his or her record; failure to do so will change the "I" to "F" at the end of the succeeding semester.

W = Withdrawal — indicates that the student withdrew from class during the appropriate portion of the semester and received no grade.

Grade-Point Average (GPA)

The grade-point average is determined by adding all quality points received and dividing by the total number of semester hours attempted. The total number of semester hours attempted shall include every course taken, except those courses receiving grades of AU, I, W, WP, S, or U.

Change of Grades

When a grade other than an I has been reported to the Registrar, it can be changed by the instructor's submission of change of grade form.

Privacy Rights Regarding Student Records (FERPA)

Records Kept by Office of the Registrar

Current federal law is designed to protect the privacy of students and parents by providing safeguards on the maintenance and release of student records. A student who attends Truett McConnell University has the right to inspect his or her University records. The Registrar maintains student records that may contain identifying data, academic work attempted and completed, level of achievement reached, scores on placement tests and standardized tests, and family background information. The Registrar is available to explain and interpret these records.

All professional staff and selected clerical staff of the University have access to student records only when there is legitimate educational need. A student has the right to view his or her records. A student may have a copy upon written request. The following information has been designated as "directory information." This information is available to the public unless the University receives from the student a written statement indicating objection to the release of the information: student's name, address, email address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized collegiate activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, honors and awards received, and previous educational institution attended.

Any student has the right to challenge the accuracy of his or her record or the protection of the privacy of his or her record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). The student may implement the following procedures for such a challenge:

1. The student must submit a written request to the Registrar for an informal meeting regarding his or her records. A meeting date convenient to the student will be set within a reasonable period of time.
2. If, after the meeting with the Registrar, the student is not satisfied, he or she may then file a request with the Vice President for Academic Services for a hearing by a special review committee, composed of the Registrar, the Director of Graduate Admissions, the Associate Vice President of Academic Services, and the Vice President of Academic Services. The review committee will deliver to the student its decision in writing, with a copy kept in the student's file in the Registrar's Office.
3. If, after the hearing with the special review committee, the student is not satisfied, an appeal may be made to the Department of Education in Washington, DC.

No information concerning a student's educational record may be disclosed over the telephone to anyone, even to the student. The University will release no official transcript of a student's record unless the student's account with the University is clear. A written, dated request must be obtained from the student before the University releases such a record.

The Balthasar Hubmaier School of Theology and Missions

The School of Theology & Missions is rooted firmly in a strong Christian and Liberal Arts tradition committed to the inerrancy, infallibility and authority of the Bible (God's Holy Word) and to the task of carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. The Master of Arts in Theology is developed with these foundations in mind. The program focuses on the authoritative Word of God as the source for ministry and missions, and seeks to train students to implement that vision in the local churches and mission fields both domestic and internationally.

The Balthasar Hubmaier School of Theology and Missions

Admission Requirements for the Master of Arts in Theology

Full admission to the Master of Arts in Theology may be granted to applicants who meet the University's minimum graduate admission criteria and the following qualifications:

1. A Statement of Call and Commitment to Christian Ministry. The written statement should document:
 - Conversion experience
 - Family background
 - Spiritual development
 - Call to ministry
 - Vocational/ministry goals
 - Educational Goals
2. Spouse/Fiancé Information Form. This form, completed by the spouse or fiancé of the applicant, asks for biographical information as well as a description of present Christian service and understanding of the commitment to vocational Christian ministry.
3. Church Endorsement Form. This form, completed by the church where the applicant is currently a member, gives evidence of the applicant's sincere commitment to Christian ministry. The current pastor should provide reference information on the church endorsement form. If the endorsement covers a period of membership for less than one year, an additional church endorsement from a second church may be required by the Admissions Committee.
4. Personal Recommendation Forms. Two personal references are required from persons other than relatives who have known the applicant personally for at least two years.

Any additional information as requested by the Admissions Committee.

Admission Requirements for the Master of Arts in Theology (Advanced Track)

The Master of Arts in Theology (Advanced Track) is designed for the student who has had significant undergraduate preparation in biblical and theological studies, culminating in the attainment of a baccalaureate degree in Christian Studies, Missions, or the equivalent from Truett McConnell University, or an accredited institution of like-minded theological persuasion.

Specific Master of Arts in Theology (Advanced Track) Application Requirements:

1. Baccalaureate degree in Christian Studies or Missions (or equivalent) from Truett McConnell University or an accredited institution of like-minded theological persuasion. In the case of a student applying from another institution, Academic Services will determine whether a particular accredited institution is of like-minded.
2. Demonstration of proficiency on an entrance exam that covers four areas: Baptist History, Apologetics, Hebrew and Greek. A student must demonstrate proficiency in at least **two** areas in order to be considered for admission to the Master of Arts in Theology (Advanced Track). Sufficient proficiency in Hebrew and/or Greek is a score of 70%. Sufficient proficiency in Baptist History and/or Apologetics is a score of 80%. The Dean, along with input from Christian Studies, Missions and Biblical Language faculty, will determine each student's level of acumen across each of the four areas, based upon the student's performance on the entrance exam. A student who does not demonstrate sufficient proficiency in at least **two** areas may be admitted to the traditional Master of Arts in Theology degree program.
3. All other admission requirements for the traditional Master of Arts in Theology.

Graduate Transfer Policies for the Master of Arts in Theology

Truett McConnell College may accept up to 40 semester hours of transfer credit from any of the following:

- Regionally accredited institutions.
- Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredited institutions.
- Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) accredited institutions.



Truett McConnell University
Master of Arts in Theology Checklist

Student: _____ **ID#:** _____ **Advisor:** _____

<u>Class</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester</u>
Required Courses (60 Hours)			
CS 501 Hermeneutics	3	_____	_____
CS 530 Baptist History	3	_____	_____
CS 532 Christian Theology I	3	_____	_____
CS 533 Christian Theology II	3	_____	_____
CS 534 Doctrine of Revelation	3	_____	_____
CS 535 Ecclesiology	3	_____	_____
CS 551 Ministry Administration & Leadership	3	_____	_____
CS 626 Ethics in Ministry	3	_____	_____
CS 632 Contemporary Apologetics	3	_____	_____
CS 640 Biblical Exposition	3	_____	_____
CS 641 Preaching Lab	3	_____	_____
CS 699 Local Church Internship	3	_____	_____
GK 501 Foundations of Biblical Greek	3	_____	_____
GK 601 New Testament Exposition in Greek	3	_____	_____
HB 501 Foundations of Biblical Hebrew	3	_____	_____
HB 601 Old Testament Exposition in Hebrew	3	_____	_____
MI 501 Evangelism, Discipleship, & Church Planting	3	_____	_____
MI 601 Cross-Cultural Ministries Practicum	3	_____	_____
PH 501 Logic & Critical Thinking	3	_____	_____
PY 601 Biblical Counseling	3	_____	_____

Total Hours 60



Truett McConnell University
Master of Arts in Theology Checklist
(Advanced Track)

Student: _____ **ID#:** _____ **Advisor:** _____

A student accepted into the Master of Arts in Theology (Advanced Track) will earn exemption credit for two, three, or four of these courses (6-12* credit hours of exemption credit possible).

<u>Class</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester</u>
Possible Exemption Courses (12 Hours)			
CS 530 Baptist History	3	_____	_____
CS 632 Contemporary Apologetics	3	_____	_____
GK 501 Foundations of Biblical Greek	3	_____	_____
HB 501 Foundations of Biblical Hebrew	3	_____	_____
Required Courses (48 Hours)			
CS 501 Hermeneutics	3	_____	_____
CS 532 Christian Theology I	3	_____	_____
CS 533 Christian Theology II	3	_____	_____
CS 534 Doctrine of Revelation	3	_____	_____
CS 535 Ecclesiology	3	_____	_____
CS 551 Ministry Administration & Leadership	3	_____	_____
CS 626 Ethics in Ministry	3	_____	_____
CS 640 Biblical Exposition	3	_____	_____
CS 641 Preaching Lab	3	_____	_____
CS 699 Local Church Internship	3	_____	_____
GK 601 New Testament Exposition in Greek	3	_____	_____
HB 601 Old Testament Exposition in Hebrew	3	_____	_____
MI 501 Evangelism, Discipleship, & Church Planting	3	_____	_____
MI 601 Cross-Cultural Ministries Practicum	3	_____	_____
PH 501 Logic & Critical Thinking	3	_____	_____
PY 601 Biblical Counseling	3	_____	_____

*Total earned exemption credit hours will depend upon the student's performance on an entrance exam.

Total Hours 60

Christian Studies

CS 501: Hermeneutics 3 Hours

Introduces the grammatical-historical method of interpretation with a focus on author-centered interpretation. Attention will be given to practical methodology and we will examine genre, figures of speech, historical backgrounds, word studies, grammar and syntax, and resources for Bible study.

CS 530: Baptist History 3 Hours

Baptist history to the present. Development of basic doctrine and polity will be discussed, as well as historically important Baptist men and women.

CS 532: Christian Theology I 3 Hours

A systematic study of the biblical doctrines of Revelation, God, and Man.

CS 533: Christian Theology II 3 Hours

A systematic study of the biblical doctrines of Christ, Salvation, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Last Things.

CS 534: Doctrine of Revelation 3 Hours

A systematic study of the doctrine of revelation, focusing on the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of Scripture.

CS 535: Ecclesiology 3 Hours

Addresses the theology of the Free Church tradition, especially its relationship to the state, congregational polity, revivalism, and public invitations.

CS 551: Ministry Administration & Leadership 3 Hours

Surveys the principles of effective business administration in ministry, the elements of a business meeting, Roberts Rules of Order, tax and legal issues, leadership principles, and conflict resolution.

CS 626: Ethics in Ministry 3 Hours

Gives attention to decision-making in ministry in regard to current moral issues including those regarding the family, sexuality, pornography, the consumption of alcohol, and obscenity.

CS 632: Global Apologetics 3 Hours

Addresses defending Christian doctrines, especially concerning the problem of evil and suffering and various cults.

CS 640: Sermon Preparation 3 Hours

Explores the construction of a biblical sermon.

CS 641: Preaching Lab 3 Hours

Explores the theory and practice of delivering biblical sermons, including a preaching experience with peer critique. Prerequisite: CS 640: Sermon Preparation

CS 699: Local Church Internship 3 Hours

Provides students with ministry experience under the guidance of a qualified supervisor in a local church and assistance in developing their philosophy of ministry.

Greek

GK 501: Foundations of Biblical Greek 3 Hours

An introduction to the fundamentals of New Testament Greek. The course emphasizes vocalization, vocabulary building, recognition of grammatical forms, and morphology of Greek words, basic syntax, basic translation strategies, and use of language software.

GK 601: New Testament Exposition in Greek 3 Hours

A critical and expository study of New Testament texts in Greek emphasizing the proper use of biblical language tools and software. Prerequisite: GK 501: Foundations of Biblical Greek.

Course Descriptions

Hebrew

HB 501: Foundations of Biblical Hebrew..... 3 Hours

An introduction to the fundamentals of Old Testament Hebrew. The course emphasizes vocalization, vocabulary building, recognition of grammatical forms, and morphology of Hebrew words, basic syntax, basic translation strategies, and use of language software.

HB 601: Old Testament Exposition in Hebrew 3 Hours

A critical and expositional study of Old Testament texts in Hebrew emphasizing the proper use of biblical language tools and software. Prerequisite: HB 501: Foundations of Biblical Hebrew.

HB 602: Advanced Hebrew Exegesis 3 Hours

This course examines issues of biblical Hebrew syntax and exegesis, with supervised advanced reading of selected texts in the Hebrew Bible. Prerequisites: HB 501, HB 601, and approval of division chair.

Missions

MI 501: Evangelism, Discipleship & Church Plant..... 3 Hours

Outlines the foundational Biblical patterns and models for expanding the kingdom of God through the local church. Specific attention is given to the New Testament teachings and practices related to evangelism, discipleship and church planting with a view to application in the student's current local church experience.

MI 601: Cross-Cultural Ministries Practicum..... 3 Hours

Provides the student guidance with developing and/or participating in a selected ministry in a cross-cultural context either locally, nationally or internationally. Oversight will be provided in order to increase the student's skills and understandings essential for fruitful cross cultural ministry.

Philosophy

PH 501: Logic and Critical Thinking..... 3 Hours

Introduces principles of correct reasoning and their application to research and writing. The course emphasizes theories of meaning, language, critical thinking, reading skills, common causes of confusion and error in thought and argument, methods of analyzing and evaluating arguments objectively, and methods of constructing sound arguments based on relevant evidence.

Psychology

PY 601: Biblical Counseling..... 3 Hours

Outlines the various types of therapies used in biblical counseling and the theoretical frameworks guiding these therapies. Additionally, students will explore current debates about the validity and the use of these therapies.

Dr. Emir Caner - President

President, Professor of History and Christian Studies

- ◆ Ph.D., University of Texas at Arlington
- ◆ M.Div., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- ◆ B.A., Criswell College

Dr. Mael Disseau

Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies

- ◆ Ph.D., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- ◆ M.Div., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- ◆ Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology
- ◆ MS, Georgia Institute of Technology
- ◆ BS, Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr. Gary Fangmann

Associate Professor of Business

- ◆ Ed.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
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I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

Baptist Faith and Message

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2:3; 21:2-3.

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

Baptist Faith and Message

VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

Baptist Faith and Message

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.



From **THE VERY FIRST VERSE** To **THE VERY LAST TRIBE.**