

January 2016

Dear Friends,

“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.”

Isaiah 42:1-10

In the beginning of a new year, our thoughts often turn to making resolutions that that may improve our lives. The new year affords us a second chance to break old habits that are bad for us and develop new habit for our well-being. While these efforts can occasionally be somewhat fruitful, many of us become discouraged when we cannot live up to those new resolutions. We set goals that are unreasonable or we make promises that we cannot keep. Oftentimes, we fail because we rely upon our own wisdom or strength to overcome our weaknesses. It is our fallen, sinful nature that deceives us into thinking that it is both possible and beneficial to take control of our own lives.

In the Holy Scriptures, God challenges us to look at life differently. This is what repentance is truly about. God changing our minds to see things from His perspective, not ours. God reveals Himself to us in such a way so that we might see that He alone is best equipped to determine what is best for us. Through the prophet Isaiah, God tells His people that He is declaring new things to His people. God will do so by sending His servant and Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. No longer will we have to live in fear, because Christ has come to conquer sin, death and the devil by way of the cross. Through His shed blood, Christ has granted us the forgiveness of sins, new life and salvation. God did not merely send His Son to give us a second chance, but to give us new life. ***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation...”***

In 2016, may God grant us grace to trust in the One who has resolved to love us with an everlasting love. May God grant us faith to believe in the promises that cannot fail, and in Jesus Christ, who has made all things new. Have a blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Donations Received...



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Spring 2016 Classes Offered

Condensed Classes Offered:

Romans and Anthropology & Christology will be offered from January 4-22, 2016 at the Vine Community Church, 4373 Wade Hampton Blvd, Taylors, South Carolina.

Anthropology & Christology (Monday-Friday 10AM-Noon) - An investigation of what it means to be human, especially in light of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Romans (Monday-Friday 7PM-9PM) - Exegesis and interpretation of portions of the epistle emphasizing its doctrinal content and theology.

The material fee is \$50 per person unless you are taking the class for credit and then you will need to contact the seminary to register. (Note – the fee may be waived if you are experiencing a hardship.)

Daily Schedule

Regular daily classes begin Monday, January 25, 2016. If you are interested in enrolling in any of the daily classes listed below, please contact the seminary at 906-482-3337 or email cilseminary@ilseminary.com.

History of the Medieval Church (3 credits) - A historical analysis of the Church of the Middle Ages and the Reformation Era.

New Testament Introduction (2 credits) - An introductory study of the origin, authorship, purpose and reliability of the New Testament writings with special attention devoted to their literary design and individual and corporate unity.

Eschatology (2 credits) - An analysis of the last things focusing on the debate surrounding current views of the subject and what the Scripture says regarding this controversial topic.

Churches, Sects & Isms (3 credits) - An overview of the teachings and practices of the most prevalent Christian denominations, sectarian groups and others.

Ephesians/Colossians (1 credit) - An exegetical study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the congregations in Ephesus, Colossae.

Christian Dogmatics I (3 credits) - Lectures, readings and discussion of various Christian Doctrines including an in-depth look at the prolegomena for doing any study of systematic theology.

Joshua (1 credit) - A study of the Book of Joshua considering its historical and spiritual significance and its practical application in the contemporary world. The course is based on determining and evaluating the significant acts of God in this book.

Corinthian Epistles-Monday night class (2 credits) - An exegetical study of Apostle Paul's letters to the congregation in Corinth.

Patristic Greek Readings (1 credit) - The reading and translation of selected passages from the Greek Church Fathers.