



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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July 2023

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite quotes in all of historical literature is that provided by Lt. Frank Haskell of the Union army concerning the battle of Gettysburg in which he was a participant; "...of this battle greater than Waterloo, a history, just, comprehensive, complete, will never be written. By and by, out of the chaos of trash and falsehood that newspapers hold, out of the disjointed mass of reports, out of the traditions and tales that come from the field, some eye that never saw the battle will select and some pen will write what will be named *the history*. With that the world will be—and if we are alive we must be—content." Such is the lot of fallen human history, sadly not long after completing his work on Gettysburg, Haskell himself become part of the history of another battle at Cold Harbor, VA where he was killed. Haskell was prescient in that the recollections of human beings are by default fraught with inaccuracies and misstatements simply because we can't help it, we're fallen. We are not of the truth; we are self-guided observers who see only what we choose to see. From that point of view, we don't simply distort some things we distort everything. We cannot be of the truth as a matter of fact the truth is not in us, as Jesus told the religious leaders of His time in John 8:32-47.

"Truth" as it is used in the New Testament is not fully understood as we use the term in contemporary English. The word often translated from Greek as truth isn't simply speaking of true as opposed to false but real as opposed to unreal. The fallen human being can only have an idea; a perception, of what is real. Therefore, even its sense of real is tainted with unreality. That's perfectly understandable as long as we're honest with ourselves and admit we don't fully understand (1Cor. 13:12). However, when we arrogantly assert that according to our partial knowledge we now "know", we show that we have been deceived and we are not of the reality.

Jesus came to bring us to the truth, the real (John 8:32). He gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth (John 16:13) for He testifies to the one who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). There is no truth, no reality, outside of the person of Jesus Christ; so we must be reborn in Jesus Christ Himself. Only in this way can we know what is real. Only here can we be truly free, liberated from our sense of reality and given to live in the real through Jesus Christ. For this reason, we don't place our trust in any of the half-truths of human understanding. We want to know nothing but the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We know God only as He reveals Himself in His Word and we aren't content with any substitute. We would see Jesus! (John 12:9) For this reason we are dedicated to the study of God's Word as the only source and norm for all real knowledge of God. That is the core of our whole curriculum. In human understanding we have to be content with half-truth and unreality as Haskell points out, in God's Word we have the whole truth. Thank you for your support of the truth!

The material above is a reprint of an article I wrote in 2016. The words were fitting then and more now. In an age when social media and media in general have become the arbiters of truth and the concept of truth hangs on the verge of meaninglessness, we desperately need a return to God's Word to find "the truth." Thank you for helping us to instruct our students in the truth found in the incarnation of God's Son, Jesus the Christ, and provided for us in the Holy Scripture.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



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Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family



FALL CLASS SCHEDULE - If you are interested in taking classes or have questions, feel free to email cilseminary@ilseminary.com or call 906-482-3337.

Daily classes begin Sept. 6th Monday night class begins Sept.11th	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8:30a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	Post Reformation History	Pastoral Work & Administration	Post Reformation History	Pastoral Work & Administration	Post Reformation History
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Christian Dogmatics I	Pastoral Work & Administration	Christian Dogmatics I	Churches, Sects & Isms	Christian Dogmatics I
11:00 - 11:50p.m.	Eschatology	Churches, Sects & Isms	Eschatology	Churches, Sects & Isms	Koine Greek Readings
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Genesis				

Class Descriptions:

History of the Church: Reformation to the Present Day (3 credits)

The history of the church from the Reformation to the present.

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.

Eschatology (2 credits)

An analysis of the last things focusing on the debate surrounding current views of the subject and what Scripture says regarding this controversial topic.

Pastoral Work and Administration (3 credits)

A thorough study and discussion of pastoral theology and its application in the office of the ministry.

Churches, Sects & Isms (3 credits)

An overview of the teachings and practices of the most prevalent Christian denominations, sectarian groups and others.

Koine Greek Readings (1 credit – New Testament Greek prerequisite)

A course designed to apply the principles learned in New Testament Greek and facilitate the mastery of the language of the New Testament through reading selected portions of its text.

Genesis (2 credits) Monday Night Class

A study of the origin, thought and doctrinal content of the book of Genesis.



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We would love to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support. Although the seminary still needs the financial ongoing regular contributions of our supporters, please consider the endowment fund for your planned giving needs. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 821-8574 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.

ANOTHER OPTION FOR GIVING – PayPal

Online giving is as easy as clicking the DONATE button on our website: <https://ilseminary.org>. Simply go to the *How to Contribute* tab and tap the yellow *DONATE* button to begin. There are options for credit and debit card donations and even the option to help the seminary cover the PayPal processing fee. (Note we are charged 1.99% + \$.49/transaction fee). As always, we are thankful for your continued support!