



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

September 2023

Dear Friends,

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh. (Eccl. 12:12 KJV)

This verse, separated from its context, has been used by some people to discourage study of any sort. However, within its context, nothing could be further from the truth. The context tells a very different story.

The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and *that which was* written *was* upright, *even* words of truth. ¹¹ The words of the wise *are* as goads, and as nails fastened *by* the masters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd. (Eccl. 12:10-11 KJV)

The reality is that this section of Ecclesiastes encourages education. The author refers to the work of the Preacher in assembling the Proverbs. He calls them acceptable (delightful), upright and true. These are the things that one is to study and to know. They are like goads and firmly fixed nails coming forth from the Shepherd. The use of goads means that they stimulate the mind to exertion and the nails refer to the fixing of these ideas in one's thought. The entire collection of wise sayings of the wise men or "master of assemblies" come forth from one Shepherd, that is God. God gave the wisdom to the wise and God had them written down to be studied and learned. Verse 12 simply says to try to go beyond (further) these, is not healthy. There is an endless stream of other writings and if one gets caught up in the rush of them it only leads to weariness. The study of the Scriptures is of the greatest benefit. Ecclesiastes doesn't seek to stop that at all. It only warns of going too far off the course God has prescribed into areas He has not and that may be full of foolishness and even evil. This fits perfectly with how Ecclesiastes ends.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil. (Eccl. 12:13-14 KJV)

The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that it is our duty to study God's Word, to know what He commands and reverence Him in doing so. We encourage you to join us in that study. It is never wearisome or destructive. To the contrary, it is the greatest thing a human being can do to be filled with understanding and wisdom through the Holy Spirit inspired Scripture. We offer many classes designed to facilitate that task and would be very pleased should you wish to take any of them. We also thank the many of you who support us in doing this work that God has called us to do. Your financial help and your prayers are what, by God's grace, keep us going. Please continue to be mindful of us in both of these areas as we begin our new school year. You have our deepest gratitude.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



DONATIONS RECEIVED

In memory of Elmer & Ruth Liimatta
from Neal & Cheryl Hendrickson

In memory of Ross, Kent & Kris Wolfe
from Fayth Wolfe



2023 FALL SEMESTER

A complete description of the classes is available online.
Go to <https://ilseminary.org/acadinfo.htm>
To sign up for a class or if you have any questions, please 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 - 11:50a.m.	Eschatology	Churches, Sects & Isms	Eschatology	Churches, Sects & Isms	Koine Greek Readings
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	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.

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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!