



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas Citv. MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: BI332D/ND 1 Corinthians (blended*)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2026 (Session 1)
Time: 1:00–2:20 P.M. Monday and Wednesday, August 17–October 9
Location: Calvary University, EEd 116 and Online Classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Th.M.
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I. DESCRIPTION

This strategic church epistle is studied in order to understand Paul's description of church order, structure, government, and problems. Spiritual gifts are seen in the light of the Spirit's purpose in promoting the effectiveness of the local church.

** This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

II. OBJECTIVES

The basic goal of this course is not knowledge, but knowhow. “Knowledge is not knowhow until you understand the underlying principles at work and can fit them together into a structure larger than the sum of its parts. Knowhow is learning that enables you to *go do*.”¹ When you have knowhow, you are ready to explore the implications of the book of Genesis for yourself. Growth in knowhow is a lifelong process and thus beyond the scope of this course. You can, however, make progress toward it in all three skill areas.

A. *Knowledge of Basic Facts.* You can’t distinguish what’s relevant from what’s not unless you know the basic facts associated with the book. To help you achieve this awareness, you are expected to be able to specify all the following by the end of the semester: (PLO’s: 1, 2) (Assignments: Readings, Quizzes, Examinations, Argument Paper)

1. The basic facts about the book—its author, recipients, date, occasion, theme, purpose, and structure.
2. The basic facts within the book—the chapter from which selected basic statements come.

¹Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* (Cambridge, MA and London: Belknap Press, 2014), 158. (The italics belong to the text quoted.)

- B. *Solving of Knotty Problems.*** Only a reliable procedure can consistently provide reliable solutions when you confront an interpretive problem. Toward this end, you will demonstrate your ability to do all the following: (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignments: Readings, Quizzes, Examinations, Personal Studies, Argument Paper)
1. Explain why selected interpretive problems need to be solved.
 2. Evaluate the relative strength of the solutions proposed for these problems.
 3. Derive and justify your own tentative solutions to these problems.
- C. *Insight into the Argument.*** You don't really understand a book until you see how all its parts work together to make its point and accomplish its purpose. (The whole really is greater than the sum of its parts.) To show that you have made progress toward this level of understanding, you should be able to do all the following: (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignments: Readings, Quizzes, Examinations, Argument Paper)
1. Discover the basic questions that the book addresses and the answers it provides.
 2. Discern the overall structure of the book's argument.
 3. Develop practical—and interpretively sound—applications of the basic message of the book.

III. TEXTBOOKS

- A. *Holy Bible.*** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask me if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. *Other Textbooks.*

Taylor, Mark. *1 Corinthians: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*. New American Commentary, volume 28. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. [ISBN: 978-0-8054-0128-8, \$34.99 for hardback, 9.99 for Kindle eBook]

- C. *Class Notes.*** I will make class notes and other aids available as needed during the semester.

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

It is my conviction that most of the learning and the best learning for this class will come through the assignments you do. Although I will use them to calculate your course grade, the primary purpose of the assignments is to help you develop knowhow, the ability to extract truth from God's word and infuse it into your life. Knowhow doesn't just happen; you must cultivate it. So, take out your shovel and hoe; the process begins now.

- A. Reading (200 points).** Knowhow cannot develop without data. Therefore, your first responsibility is to fill your mind with the fundamental facts found in the epistle of 1 Corinthians. Focused reading is the most efficient way for you to gain this information. Therefore, you will perform two types of reading this semester: the reading of the book of Genesis itself supplemented by that of Taylor's commentary. You will submit reading reports the week before each of the four major examinations. You will receive no credit unless the reading is complete, but you may complete it late for half credit.

I will grade each reading according to the following scale: reading of the entire book of 1 Corinthians (10 points), completion of the project associated with it (30 points), reading of the assigned portions of the commentary (3 points), and completion of the project associated with it (7 points).

- B. Quizzes (84 points).** Each Week, I will post a quiz in Canvas to help you retain what you have learned. These quizzes will be cumulative and may cover material from any previous class session. In general, however, each will focus on the material covered since the previous quiz. Understanding, rather than rote memorization is the best way to receive a good grade. You may not make up a missed quiz.

- C. Examinations (480 points).** During the semester, you will take four online examinations. In these, you will demonstrate your competency in all three categories of course objectives, but particularly in the last two. Each exam will consist of five to seven questions. The first question will always ask you to state the theme and purpose of the book of 1 Corinthians and trace the major stages in its development (along with the references for each). The remainder of the exam will consist of essay questions that require you to explain or apply material covered in class.

Each exam will be cumulative, but the emphasis will always be on the material studied since the previous exam. Ordinarily, I will not allow you to take any exam late; however, if you know that you will have to miss an exam (for a valid reason), you may make arrangements with me beforehand.

- D. Personal Studies (150 points).** While knowhow does require a body of basic facts, facts alone are not enough. You also need skill in interpreting, correlating, and applying those facts. In short, you need to be able to see the big picture. To gain this perspective, you will need to solve interpretive and practical problems, and the personal studies are designed to help you understand the overall message of the book far better than sitting in class.

One of the most frustrating realities in Bible study is that godly men often disagree about what a passage means or how it should be applied. Sometimes, these disagreements can (and should) be ignored. More often, however, they cannot. In such cases, it is up to you to decide for yourself which explanation is correct. Five times this semester, you will confront such a disagreement and respond to it in a two-page study. While the specifics will vary from study to study, each will require you to identify why the problem matters and to justify your own solution—no matter how tentative it may be.

Each study will be graded based on your ability to identify which issues are important (10 points), to make those issues clear (10 points), and to suggest viable interpretations and/or applications of the passage (10 points). Personal studies may be

submitted late, but late work receives only half credit.

- E. Argument of 1 Corinthians** (*86 points and pass/fail*). In the seventh week of class, you will submit a ten-page, double-spaced summary of the argument of 1 Corinthians using the non-research paper format. In it, you will identify the core idea developed by the book, Paul's purpose in writing it, and how each major section and subsection contributes to the theme and the purpose. It is this assignment, more than any other, that will demonstrate your knowhow. Therefore, to pass the course, ***you must complete this project***. You may submit it late (for half-credit), but I must have it by the Friday after the last week of classes—***or else you will fail the course***.

Done properly, this paper will be one of the most difficult assignments you will do at Calvary—and one of the most profitable. It requires you to do more than rehash the arguments Paul uses in the book; you must also explain why Paul uses them and why he expresses them in the manner and order he does. The process is simple, but it takes both time and effort. Therefore, plan on devoting much of the semester to completing this assignment.

The grade for your project will be based on the following four criteria: accuracy (30 points), adequacy (25 points), clarity (20 points), and mechanics (11 points). In other words, to get the best possible grade, you will need to get your facts straight, have enough of them to justify your conclusions, express your thoughts clearly, and use proper spelling, grammar, and form.

Specific Assignments Due Each Week

Week 1 (0 points)

Week 2 (92 points)

Quiz #1	12 points
Personal Study #1	30 points
Reading #1	50 points

Week 3 (162 points)

Quiz #2	12 points
Personal Study #2	30 points
Examination #1	120 points

Week 4 (92 points)

Quiz #3	12 points
Personal Study #3	30 points
Reading #2	50 points

Week 5 (162 points)

Quiz #4	12 points
Personal Study #4	30 points
Examination #2	120 points

Week 6 (92 points)

Quiz #5	12 points
Personal Study #5	30 points
Reading #3	50 points

Week 7 (218 points)

Quiz #6	12 points	
Examination #3	120 points	
Argument Paper	86 points	(pass-fail assignment)

Week 8 (182 points)

Quiz #7	12 points
Reading #4	50 points
Final Examination	120 points

V. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. **Lecture.** I will devote much of each class period to lecturing (often flavored with “sermonizing”), so come to class prepared to take notes. (Studies have shown that students that take notes by hand learn more and get better grades.)
2. **Question and Answer.** Notes are no substitute for learning. If you do not understand something, ask me to clarify it.
3. **Discussion.** Several deep and controversial issues complicate the exposition of Genesis. I will allow a limited amount of class time for the inevitable disagreement and debate; however, I reserve the right to referee and terminate discussion. If you wish to continue the discussion (or to instruct the instructor!), you must make an out-of-class appointment.

B. Grading

1. Reading	200 points	
2. Quizzes	84 points	
3. Examinations	480 points	
4. Personal Studies.	150 points	
5. Argument of 1 Corinthians.	<u>86 points</u>	(pass-fail assignment)
Total.	1000 points	

C. Calculating the Final Grade

930–1000 points	A	730–769 points	C
900–929 points	A-	700–729 points	C-
870–899 points	B+	670–699 points	D+
800–829 points	B-	630–669 points	D
770–799 points	C+	0–559 points	F

D. Academic Issues and Support

1. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. **Style.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
3. **Assistance.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
4. **Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.