Triangle Bible Institute Instructor: Rev Jack Bryant

Triangle, Virginia Office Phone: (703) 735-3212

Fall Semester 2014 Cell Phone: (703) 967-5274

Day & Time: Tuesday 7:00 – 9:30 PM Email: jackbryantsr@Me.com

**The Epistle of James**

**Syllabus**

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course is a study on the practical approach of James. The Epistle of James is a sturdy, compact letter on practical religion. For James, the acid test of true religion is in the doing rather than just in the hearing, "believing", or speaking. James exalts genuineness of faith, and is quick to encourage the lowly that God gives grace to the humble (4:6), wisdom to the ignorant (1:5), salvation to the sinner (1:21), and the kingdom to the poor (2:5). He is equally quick to condemn counterfeit religion which would substitute theory for practice. True religion is moral religion and social religion. True religion is doing the right thing in one's everyday affairs. In this respect, James echoes clearly the ethical teachings of Jesus, especially as it is recorded in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the book and articulate its content and message.

2. To analyze and critically reflect on the theological contribution of James.

3. To understand the historical contextual relationship with the entirety of scripture.

4. To develop and refine literary observation and exegetical skills in interpreting scripture.

5. To understand the principles of "Justification" and "Faith".

**GENERAL APPROACH**

Classes will consist of lecture, in-class assignments, take home assignments and exams. Active classroom participation is required as we learn from our work and experiences.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Holy Bible – KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV

Instructor Handouts

Text Book: Exploring The Epistle of James: An Expository Commentary by John Phillips (Kregel Publications: Grand Rapids, MI 2004)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS.** To be successful in this class, students will complete the following:

1. General class participation 10%

2. Literary Observation/Analysis on James Chapter 2 10%

3. Literary Observation/Analysis on James Chapter 3 10%

4. Literary Observation/Analysis on James Chapter 4 10%

5. Literary Observation/Analysis on James Chapter 5 10%

3. Midterm Exam 20%

4. Final Exam 20%

5. Reflection Essay 10%

**ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**

1**. Literary Observations/Analysis**. As part of the exegetical portion of the course, students will be required to make observations and interpretive comments on the assigned biblical texts. The assignments are to be typed and each one will consist of five to seven (5-7) observations, which should be paired with at least two (2) interpretive comments and one specific point of application. From your observation, what general interpretation can be gathered from the reading? What point of life application can be applied from your observation? The literary observation serves as a gateway or entry point into biblical interpretation, but the hope is from this gateway you will begin to explore the treasures in lifting out the meaning of the biblical text.

2. **Midterm/Final Exams.** The exams will consist of ten (10) multiple choice questions covering the material covered in class, the biblical text, text book and handouts. The exams are open book and take home.

3. **Reflection Essay.** The reflecting essay will focus on the theological themes and practical application of James. Students are expected to capitalize on the knowledge gained from the literary observations/analysis assignments, lectures and discussions in the class. Students are expected to use college level written skills to include proper grammar and spelling. The essay will be approximately 500 words typed double spaced in Times New Roman, 12 fonts. Please use a cover page with your full name, course title and date.

All assignments must be submitted by the due date specified according to the course schedule. Late work will be accepted up to seven calendar days beyond the due date, but will be subject to a penalty deduction of ten (10) points. No assignments will be accepted after seven days of the due date. The class schedule will be given separately.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION.** Class participation is essential. Please make every effort to attend each session. In the event of an emergency please contact me or the TBI office as soon as possible if situations prevent you from attending.

**GRADING SCALE**

**Markings Grade Points Grades**

A+ Exceptional Comprehension of subject material and 4.3 100-98

A outstanding resourcefulness in its application. 4.0 97-95

A- 3.7 94-93

B+ Good comprehension of the subject material and 3.3 92-90

B ability to apply it. 3.0 89-87

B- 2.7 86-85

C+ Average understanding of subject material. 2.3 84-82

C 2.0 81-79

C- 1.7 78-77

D+ Limited knowledge of subject but sufficient to pass the 1.3 76-75

D course. 1.0 74-72

D- 0.7 71-70

F Failure (The course must be repeated) 0.0 69-00