

God-Centered Living

EWC School of Ministry – December 6–10, 2011

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The thesis of this course is that a Christian leader must lead from character, and a life of worship, before skill. This course unfolds two key assertions: 1) the God-centeredness of God informs every aspect of the Christian life; 2) the pursuit of God's glory and the pursuit of our joy is the same pursuit. Therefore, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to accomplish specific objectives. The hope for a person who successfully completes this course would be that they would:

- Love Jesus more.
 - What this means is that they would magnify the worth of God in a more meaningful and personal way by treasuring Him in their heart above all else. (We recognize that this, the ultimate objective of the course, is impossible apart from the grace of God in the working of the Holy Spirit)
- Experience personal, spiritual growth and renewal through the transforming power of the Gospel.
- Diagnose and repent from the core idols (sin beneath the sin) that draw our heart's affections away from Christ.
- Understand the Scriptures more fully as a result of searching them diligently throughout their preparation for, and completion of, the course. (Our desire is to encourage each person to be like the Bereans – see Acts 17:11)

BOOKS

- A solid translation (not a paraphrase) of the Bible
 - A couple of suggestions:
 - English Standard Version (ESV)
 - New American Standard (NASB)
- John Piper, *Desiring God*
 - Amazon.com – \$10.19
 - Westminster Bookstore (wtsbooks.com) – \$10.04
 - Christianbook.com – \$9.99

REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Class Work

- Read the Introduction and Chapters 1–10 of *Desiring God* by the first day of class.
 - Class lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have read thoughtfully (not simply skimmed) this book.
- Keep a daily journal of your devotional life for at least 30 days (the hope is that this will become an ongoing practice). Journal entries can include anything that God is speaking to you through your reading of His word, interactions with what you are reading in *Desiring God*, and generally anything you are learning about God or yourself on a day to day basis.
 - Note: These journals are private and you will not be asked to submit any of their contents, but a 2–3 page paper must be submitted, summarizing your experience of journal-keeping.
 - Paper will be due no later than Sunday, **January 8, 2012**.

Post-Class Work

- Write an 8–10 page (double-spaced, 12 point font) class integration paper.
 - This paper should demonstrate your theology of Christian growth and show how the concepts discussed in class lectures (and from our reading) can be applied to your personal life and ministry.
 - How has your vision of God and the Christian life been expanded and enriched by participation in this class?
 - The paper should include a plan for your own continued growth.
 - In what concrete and specific ways will you strive, by God's grace, to live a more God-Centered life?
 - Paper will be due no later than Sunday, **January 8, 2012**.