



2026-2027

Grace Institute of Bible Studies
(GIBS)

œ Online Learning œ

A Ministry of Duluth Bible Church

*Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them,
for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

1 Timothy 4:16

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Duluth Bible Church
201 W. Saint Andrews Street
Duluth, MN 55803, USA
(218) 724-5914
gibs-connected@duluthbible.org
www.duluthbible.org

A Special Welcome to You

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This catalog is designed to give you an introduction and explanation of the Grace Institute of Biblical Studies (otherwise referred to as GIBS) and its online, external studies option called GIBS ConnectED.

It was the desire and prayer of the spiritual leadership of Duluth Bible Church for a number of years to see a ministry of this nature started at Duluth Bible Church. As a result of much prayer and planning, the GIBS began its inaugural class of onsite students in January of 1992. Our intent was then, and always will be, to provide solid biblical and practical teaching and training for those who are desirous and gifted for specialized and sacrificial ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 2:15 instructs believers:

*Study to show yourself approved unto God,
a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Mission Statement

The purpose of GIBS is to be an instrument in God's hand to provide grace-oriented teaching, training, and materials to interested believers in order to further establish, equip, and encourage them to faithfully fulfill the ministries God has given them by His grace.

The Need of the Hour

As we observe the spiritual landscape of our world and the condition of the Church in our day, we cannot help but see the great need to establish and equip believers in Christ. Too often our churches are exposed to unclear or false teaching, leaving believers undernourished at best and misled at worst. We believe that it is God's blueprint for each local church to be effectively preaching the Gospel of grace and teaching the life-changing truths of the Word of God.

Every believer needs to have a sound biblical framework for fulfilling the will of God for his or her life. Each born again child of God should learn to effectively lead someone else to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Each genuine Christian should come to the point of being able to answer many common objections to the faith. Each believer in Christ should also have a solid grasp on Christian life truths and what it means to faith-rest in the Lord and His great and precious promises. Sadly, this is too often not the case today.

For believers to grow in these areas, our preaching must emphasize the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ for salvation from sin's penalty, then from sin's power, and ultimately from sin's presence—all by God's grace and to the glory of God. Unfortunately, too many believers in the USA have lacked sound grace-oriented teaching, and too many pastors and teachers internationally have had either little or no formal training for the ministry God has called them to do. Nor do they have the time needed to stay aware of the false teachings of our day that may be infiltrating their churches. (The US Center for World Missions estimates that 90 percent or over 2 million pastors worldwide have had no formal teaching/training.) With this need in mind, let us introduce you to GIBS.

Why the Grace Institute of Biblical Studies?

We believe the need for a specialized training and equipping ministry of this nature is evident for several reasons:

1. Because the majority of Bible colleges and seminaries in our land deny in doctrine or practice the authority and/or sufficiency of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:15–4:4).
2. Because most institutions of this nature function independent of and apart from the auspices of the local church, which is “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).
3. Because of the evident need and desire to equip men and women with grace-oriented doctrine in a specialized and affordable way for particular avenues of ministry that require specific and practical training (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Who Are We and How Has God Used DBC & GIBS?

Duluth Bible Church is a Bible-believing, Christ-centered church located in Duluth, Minnesota, USA. We have officially been in existence since 1982 and have steadily experienced both qualitative and quantitative spiritual growth by God’s grace. As we have grown in our understanding of the Word of God, we have enjoyed taking God at His Word and doing ministry, His way. Furthermore, the Lord has graciously allowed us to reach out and teach biblical truths to many others all over the world.

Over the years we have sought to faithfully preach the Word of God verse by verse and book by book. This expository preaching has resulted in the Lord producing a doctrinally strong and discerning body of believers in Christ. The great passion of God’s heart and our pulse at Duluth Bible Church over the years has been to exalt Jesus Christ through the teaching of God’s grace, and then lived out by faith in light of our identification with Him. In addition, we have taken very seriously the Great Commission through the words of our Lord, and then of the apostle Paul:

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ...

2 Timothy 2:1-2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Furthermore, we have been strongly convinced by the Scriptures that the local church is to be primarily and integrally involved in the equipping of the saints to do the work of ministry to the edifying of the Body of Christ—both locally and worldwide as the Lord leads us. This has resulted in:

- concentrated ministry in various forms locally in the Duluth, Minnesota area
- the establishment of GIBS since 1992

- the planting of churches in Minnesota & Wisconsin
- a world-wide outreach since 1998 via the Grace Family Journal
- doing missionary work and conducting Bible training institutes for pastors and teachers in various countries since A.D. 2000
- fair evangelism in 4 different states
- over 1 million downloads on our website
- Bible Conferences taught in 10 countries (El Salvador, Nicaragua, Myanmar, Zambia, Kenya, The Gambia, India, Peru, Mexico, and Kazakhstan)
- the establishment of our own publishing company—Grace Gospel Press in 2012
- a Pastors and Missionaries' Conference every year at Duluth Bible Church for several years which attracts pastors and teachers from around the USA and even other countries
- vital fellowship and ministry with other local churches of like-precious faith in the USA and beyond.

While we rejoice wherever the Gospel is preached in clarity and truth, God has been very gracious and faithful to us as He desires His Word to go forth more than we do. To God be the glory!

Investing in the teaching or training of men and women in our local church and beyond our church has been a high priority in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord, whether with GIBS in Duluth, or with our sister churches, or with Grace Training International Bible Institutes presently in 6 countries (El Salvador, Nicaragua, Zambia, Kenya, Myanmar, and The Gambia).

What Are Our Objectives in GIBS?

GIBS is very focused. Our purposes relate completely to ministry for our Lord in and through the local church.

1. **Ultimately**, GIBS is designed to glorify God through equipping believers to be faithful servants and teachers of the Gospel of grace through the faithful exposition of His Word for the building up of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 4:2).
2. **Ministry-wise**, a graduate of GIBS should be able to:
 - a. Teach with clarity and scriptural authority. (Titus 2:15)
 - b. Serve with love and effectiveness in and through his/her local church. (Galatians 5:13; 1 Timothy 3:15)
 - c. Defend, and contend for, the faith. (1 Timothy 6:20-21; Jude 3)
 - d. Be used by God to equip other believers to also teach others the Word of God. (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - e. Lead with conviction and example. (1 Corinthians 11:1)
3. **Personally**, our focus in GIBS will be on:
 - a. Biblical understanding. (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - b. Personal growth. (2 Peter 3:18)
 - c. Ministry preparation. (Ephesians 4:12-16)

There are no superfluous classes in GIBS as each one is designed with these objectives in view.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Our Emphasis in GIBS

1. Sound Bible teaching involving:

verse-by-verse study. We believe every word of the Bible is inspired by God and should be studied with great care in light of its context, its content, and by comparing Scripture with Scripture. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

maintaining biblical distinctions. The believer is to be “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), thus noting the many biblical distinctions that will lead to further clarification regarding God’s plan and program for the Church during this age of grace.

strong preaching. We seek to teach biblical truths with conviction and authority (Titus 2:15; Acts 19:8). We value preaching with biblical authority, drawing out relevant principles from the text, and making appropriate everyday applications. The Word of God should be practical and meaningful to each believer!

doctrinal understanding. It is very important to not only know exactly what you believe but why you believe it. Biblical doctrine when grasped is very practical and can be taught with relevance and meaning to all who hear. (1 Timothy 4:6, 13, 16)

the ability to navigate through contemporary theological issues. On a regular basis, we are all faced with modern trends and theological issues that require interaction and discernment. How should we perceive the many current issues of our day? (1 Timothy 1:3)

with the design that everything that is taught to our students can be taught then by our students. We seek to design and teach every class with the intent and capability to have its content and material replicated and transferable to the student’s local church, home Bible study, etc. We believe that what is edifying for our students should be communicated to their students in the opportunities and spheres of influence that God has provided for them. (2 Timothy 2:2)

2. A Clear Gospel

We uphold the centrality of the Gospel message (1 Cor. 15:1-4), which has not been designed by God to be a message of good news from God to man that you learn once and then depart from to bigger and better things. Rather, the Gospel is an essential foundation and crucial element throughout all your teaching of God’s Word (Col. 1:28). Even a proper understanding of the Christian life is based on the vital truths of the Gospel (Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 2:20).

We also stress a tremendous need for clarity when it comes to the Gospel message, and the only correct response to it—faith alone in Christ alone (Acts 16:31). An inaccurate presentation of the Gospel is unfortunately very common these days everywhere throughout the world (2 Corinthians 4:4-7), so there needs to be strong contention for the Gospel’s simplicity and accuracy. We teach from the Scriptures not only how a sinner *is* saved by the grace of God but also how a sinner *is not* saved, by clarifying and exposing the many unscriptural conditions and misleading clichés of our day (Acts 13:38-39; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). The Gospel is a powerful message, especially when delivered clearly! (Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 14:8)

3. Grace Teaching for Godly Christian Living

Bible teaching should never stop at merely knowing sound doctrine. Clear Bible teaching should include a rich diet of practical Christian life truths and applications for the local church in general and individuals specifically. We have found three doctrinal truths that need special emphasis when it comes to teaching the Christian life by God’s awesome and amazing grace.

- ***Understanding the three tenses of salvation.*** We are diligent to correctly distinguish between the justification of the sinner before God (Romans 3–5), the progressive sanctification of the saint in time (Romans 6:1–8:16), and the final glorification of the believer in eternity (Romans 8:17-38). This is a crucial truth if a believer is going to rightly divide and accurately teach the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 2:11-14; Romans 13:11-14).
- ***Positional or identification truth.*** It is imperative for believers to know who they are in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and what it means to have Christ living in them (Colossians 1:27). Too many believers lack a proper understanding of their position, possessions, and privileges in Christ. The faith-rest life (Hebrews 4) and abiding in Christ (John 15) is anchored in knowing and appropriating by faith these foundational identification truths (Romans 6–8).
- ***True spirituality vs. fleshly counterfeits.*** The Christian life is never designed to be viewed as a set of rules. Instead, it is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, not a religious performance. It is to be lived in the same way a sinner is justified before God—by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The believer cannot live the Christian life, as God designed it, by his/her own wisdom or strength. It must be by faith in Jesus Christ, Who lives in them and through them. Abiding by faith in Christ as our Life, motivated by the love of God, and empowered by the Spirit of God, resulting in service by the grace of God in the Christian life, is a repeated drumbeat in our teaching.

Who Is GIBS Designed For?

The GIBS is not for everyone. It is for those believers in Christ who have a God-given desire and dedication to study and learn the Word of God, and then minister for our Lord in specific ministries within or through the local church. GIBS has been established based on the need for adequate, further preparation and training for those whom God is leading toward ministry in areas such as the pastorate, missions, youth ministry, teaching, and evangelism.

We do not believe that the GIBS can “manufacture” a pastor, teacher, or evangelist. Only God can gift and enable a believer to serve Him and the Body of Christ in these ways. However, we do believe that a ministry of this nature can and has been used by God to help equip believers in a specialized way and to provide the necessary tools for those whom He has gifted, matured, and led to be used for His glory.

The GIBS is not for glamour-seeking people who want to make a name for themselves, or to merely get a degree to be seen by men or have certain titles and then lose their reward from God (Matthew 6:1-6). Nor is GIBS for those who want to wear their participation as a badge of their own spirituality to impress others as if they have achieved a certain status. This is not consistent with God's grace and results in pride instead of humble service to the Lord and others. Instead, GIBS is for the willing believer whose motivation is the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14-15), and whose heart's passion is the communication of God's truth to precious souls for whom Christ died. It is for those who are willing to sacrifice their lives by investing them in specialized ministry to further the cause and Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, even if they do not know exactly at the beginning of GIBS how exactly God may want to use them in the future (as most students do not know this).

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

The Advantages of GIBS

When you consider the ministry of GIBS, there are several advantages to this approach to pastoral and teacher training. GIBS is:

1. thoroughly Biblical in its explanations, with applications from a pastoral and personal standpoint.
2. grace-oriented in its doctrinal teaching, starting with the Gospel, and continuing in the believer's daily walk.
3. taught by pastors and teachers with years of experience.
4. extremely reasonable in its cost for students in USA and Canada, and even free of charge for international students.
5. is accessible to you in your geographical location, without having to move from your home.
6. all teaching is designed to be transferrable and easily taught in your own local church or home Bible study.
7. this method of training as been tried and tested and is presently being used in several countries of the world.

What to Expect in GIBS ConnectED

From 1992 to 2017, GIBS classes were offered to onsite students in relatively close proximity to Duluth, Minnesota. While onsite classes are still available, the number of students is considerably less than our online student enrollment. Starting in September 2017, we launched the inaugural cohort of GIBS online known as GIBS ConnectED, providing grace-oriented Bible teaching and ministry training to English-speaking students around the world for those who are desirous of pursuing it. Courses in GIBS ConnectED require students to watch previously recorded instructional videos, complete the provided worksheets or assignments for each lesson, and then take the required quizzes or tests. All of this is done through an online learning management system called Moodle. Some classes may also require interaction with a GIBS ConnectED teaching assistant and/or other GIBS students in threaded discussions or forums.

What Courses Does GIBS ConnectED Offer?

We offer courses in GIBS ConnectED in yearly (30-credit) stages. This makes completing different portions or levels of GIBS more attainable if someone does not want to do the entire 5-year program. Below is the 5-year plan at a glance with the number of credits per course in parentheses.

YEAR 1 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #1 (Key Verses to Remember)
- (2) By This Name
- (4) Biblical Distinctions I
- (4) Romans 1–5
- (4) Romans 6–8

YEAR 1 – SPRING

- (1) Pondering the Page #2 (Faith-Rest Life)
- (4) Biblical Distinctions II
- (3) Effective Evangelism & Missions
- (3) Dispensations
- (3) Beginning Bible Study: Living by the Book
- (1) Ministry Practicums

YEAR 2 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #3 (Pleasing the Lord)
- (4) OT Survey I (Genesis – Esther)
- (3) OT Journaling I (Genesis – Esther)
- (4) OT Survey II (Job – Malachi)
- (3) OT Journaling II (Job – Malachi)

YEAR 2 – SPRING

- (1) Pondering the Page #4 (2 Timothy 2 – 7 Truths)
- (4) Bibliology: God’s Amazing Book
- (3) NT Survey I (Matthew – Colossians)
- (2) NT Journaling I (Matthew – Colossians)
- (3) NT Survey II (1 Thessalonians – Revelation)
- (2) NT Journaling II (1 Thessalonians – Revelation)

YEAR 3 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #5 (Abiding in Christ)
- (3) Christology I: We Wish to See Jesus
- (3) Christology II: We Wish to See Jesus
- (4) Book of Acts I
- (4) Book of Acts II

YEAR 3 – SPRING

- (2) Pondering the Page #6 (Colossians)
- (3) Ecclesiology I: The Church God’s Masterpiece
- (3) Ecclesiology II: The Church God’s Masterpiece
- (3) Biblical Hermeneutics
- (4) English Grammar & Diagramming

YEAR 4 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #7 (2 Corinthians 4–5)
- (4) New Testament Greek I
- (4) English Composition
- (4) Book of Revelation I

YEAR 4 – SPRING

- (1) PTP #8 (Power of Prayer & Spir. Leadership #1)
- (4) New Testament Greek II
- (4) Biblical Exegesis I
- (4) Book of Revelation II
- (3) Contemporary Theological Issues

YEAR 5 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #9 (Spiritual Leadership #2)
- (4) Biblical Exegesis II
- (3) Church History
- (3) Biblical Worldview Issues
- (4) Spiritual Gifts & the Local Church

YEAR 5 – SPRING

- (2) Pondering the Page #10 (2 Timothy)
- (3) Expository Preaching
- (3) Cults & Religions
- (3) Romans 9–16
- (5) Final Project or Thesis

YEAR 1: ESTABLISHED IN FOUNDATIONAL SOUND DOCTRINE

- 1. 1001 BY THIS NAME: GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION FROM CREATION TO CHRIST** (2 credits).
- 2. 1011 PONDERING THE PAGE #1: KEY VERSES TO REMEMBER** (1 credit) 20–40-minute devotionals.
- 3. 1012 PONDERING THE PAGE #2: THE FAITH-REST LIFE** (1 credit) 20–40-minute devotionals.
- 4. 1101 ROMANS 1–5 Verse-by-Verse** (4 credits) – An analysis of this great book of the New Testament an examination of man’s condemnation before God, justification by faith, how a sinner is saved and not saved, the eternal security of the believer, and what the believer may forfeit due to sin.
- 5. 1102 ROMANS 6–8 Verse-by-Verse** (4 credits) – These great chapters on the believer’s identification with Christ and freedom from sin, practical sanctification by faith, powerless sanctification by law and self-effort, powerful sanctification by the Holy Spirit, future glorification, and how no one and nothing can separate the believer from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 6. 1103 BIBLICAL DISTINCTIONS I** (4 credits) – Understanding basic principles of Bible interpretation and studying such truths as the 3 tenses of salvation, justification vs. sanctification, good works and salvation, salvation vs. rewards, entering the family of God vs. fellowship in the family, the 7 dispensations, the various ministries of the Holy Spirit, Israel vs. the Church, the Rapture vs. the Revelation.
- 7. 1104 BIBLICAL DISTINCTIONS II** (4 credits) – Discerning and distinguishing from the Scriptures the 7 major judgments, the biblical covenants, the 3 different Hells, 7 baptisms, 7 deaths, the different resurrections, the punishment vs. discipline of God.
- 8. 1105 EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM & MISSIONS** (3 credits) – Students will study the biblical basis for evangelism and various means of how to powerfully present the Gospel in a clear and effective manner to others; answering basic objections to Christianity; a biblical perspective on missions; how to plant a church.
- 9. 1106 DISPENSATIONS** (3 credits) – An understanding of God’s plan of the ages from Genesis to Revelation, along with understanding the various divine economies or dispensations that describe and distinguish man’s responsibilities to God in each age, especially during the Church Age today.
- 10. 1201 MINISTRY PRACTICUMS** (1 credit) – How to teach what you have learned so far, as well as how to teach children; how to start a Sunday School; how to start a youth ministry.
- 11. 1301 BEGINNING BIBLE STUDY: LIVING BY THE BOOK** (3 credits) – An introduction to the process and methods of inductive Bible study from observation of the text of God’s Word, to interpretation, and to application, so that students would learn to be living by the Book.

Objectives of Year 1 – The objective of the first year of GIBS is to become established in foundational scriptural doctrines and so as to be able to communicate these important truths effectively in different teaching settings—a local church class, home Bible study, etc. Remember that everything in GIBS is designed not only to personally benefit the student but to be replicated and taught by the student to others (2 Timothy 2:2).

YEAR 2: EXPANDED IN SOUND DOCTRINE & GENERAL BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

- 1. 2001 PONDERING THE PAGE #3: PLEASING THE LORD** (1 credit) 20–40-minute devotionals.
- 2. 2002 PONDERING THE PAGE #4: 2 TIMOTHY 2** (1 credit) 20–40-minute devotionals.
- 3. 2101 BIBLIOLOGY: GOD’S AMAZING BOOK** (4 credits) – An introduction to the inspiration, inerrancy, authority, canonicity, preservation, translation, sufficiency, perspicuity, interpretation, and application of the Bible. This course utilizes the textbook *From God to Us* by Norman Geisler.
- 4. 2501 OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY I: GENESIS – ESTHER** (4 credits) – Students are taught the key theme, verse(s), features, and outline of each book of the Old Testament from the Pentateuch through the Historical books, so as to be able to think through the flow of God’s revelation book by book.
- 5. 2502 OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY II: JOB – MALACHI** (4 credits) – Students are taught the key theme, verse(s), features, and outline of each book of the Old Testament from the Poetic books through the Major and Minor Prophets, so as to be able to think through the flow of God’s revelation book by book.
- 6. 2503 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY I: MATTHEW – COLOSSIANS** (3 credits) – The student will be taught the key theme, verse(s), features, and outline of each book of the New Testament from Matthew through Colossians, so as to be able to think through the flow of God’s revelation in Scripture.
- 7. 2504 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY II: 1 THESSALONIANS – REVELATION** (3 credits) – The student will be taught the key theme, verse(s), features, and outline of each book of the New Testament from 1 Thessalonians through Revelation, so as to be able to think through the flow of God’s revelation in Scripture.
- 8. 2505 OLD TESTAMENT JOURNALING I: GENESIS – ESTHER** (3 credits) – Students are required to read each book of the Old Testament from Genesis to Esther and submit a journal, briefly summarizing each chapter.
- 9. 2506 OLD TESTAMENT JOURNALING II: JOB – MALACHI** (3 credits) – Students are required to read each book of the Old Testament from Job to Malachi and submit a journal, briefly summarizing each chapter.
- 10. 2507 NEW TESTAMENT JOURNALING I: MATTHEW – COLOSSIANS** (2 credits) – Students read each book of the New Testament from Matthew to Colossians and submit a journal, briefly summarizing each chapter.
- 11. 2508 NEW TESTAMENT JOURNALING II: 1 THESSALONIANS – REVELATION** (2 credits) – Students read each book of the New Testament from 1 Thessalonians through Revelation and submit a journal, briefly summarizing each chapter.

Objectives of Year 2 – The second year of GIBS is devoted to understanding and appreciating how God gave to mankind the Bible, His amazing book, and to increasing one’s broad knowledge of the entire scope of God’s revelation through each book of the Old and New Testaments. By the end of year 2, the student should be able to think through each book and major section of the Bible and should be equipped to teach a Sunday School or bible class.

YEAR 3: KNOWING CHRIST, HIS CHURCH, & BEGINNING INTERPRETATIVE SKILLS

1. **3001 PONDERING THE PAGE #5: ABIDING IN CHRIST** (1 credit) 20–40-minute devotionals.
2. **3002 PONDERING THE PAGE #6: COLOSSIANS** (2 credits). Expositional survey of Colossians.
3. **3201 CHRISTOLOGY I: WE WISH TO SEE JESUS** (3 credits) – The Person, Life, and Work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, including Old Testament prophecies and predictions of His first coming, His miraculous birth and public ministry up to Passion Week.
4. **3202 CHRISTOLOGY II: WE WISH TO SEE JESUS** (3 credits) – A continuation of the Person, Life, and Work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ from Gethsemane and Calvary to His resurrection, ascension, present ministry, return, and eternal kingdom.
5. **3301 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES I** (4 credits) – An expositional study of Acts 1–12 on the birth and growth of the early Church, covering the transition from the dispensation of Law to Grace, the place of apostleship, prophecy, and sign gifts for the establishment of the Church, persecution, and the role and power of the Holy Spirit and the Gospel.
6. **3302 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES II** (4 credits) – An expositional study of Acts 13–28 on the growth of the early Church, the missionary journeys of Paul, the planting and establishing of local churches, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the advancement of the Gospel of God’s grace despite opposition to it.
7. **3501 ECCLESIOLOGY I: THE CHURCH GOD’S MASTERPIECE** (3 credits) – Since everything in GIBS is designed to be used in and through the local church, this class is a must. Students will study the Bible regarding the meaning, nature, plan, growth, doctrine, service, and gifts of the Church.
8. **3502 ECCLESIOLOGY II: THE CHURCH GOD’S MASTERPIECE** (3 credits) – A continuation of part 1, students will further examine from the Scriptures the qualifications and ministry of a pastor and deacon, how a church is to respond to its spiritual leaders, plus the ordinances, music, missions, separation, and future of the Church.
9. **3601 ENGLISH GRAMMAR & DIAGRAMMING** (4 credits) – Covers each part of speech, rules of grammar and common usage, and sentence diagramming. This is all very helpful and needed for verbal and written communication, personal Bible study, and is foundational for studying Greek. This course is especially important for students in countries who may only have access to an English Bible.
10. **3602 BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS** (3 credits) – This course covers the history of biblical interpretation and the role of culture, grammar, figures of speech, types, symbols, parables, allegories, prophecy, use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, and faithful application of God’s Word following accurate interpretation. This course utilizes Roy Zuck’s textbook *Basic Bible Interpretation*.

Objectives of Year 3 – The third year of GIBS focuses on the person, life, and work of the Lord Jesus, along with a thorough understanding of the book of Acts and the dispensational transition from Law to Grace, plus a thorough, practical grasp of God’s program for the Church in the present age. This is intended to deepen the student’s personal relationship with the Savior as well as instruct and equip him or her for more effective service within the body of Christ. This year of GIBS provides further foundational preparation toward the process of becoming a more accurate Bible interpreter and effective expositor, which is the focus of years 4–5.

YEAR 4: BUILDING OBSERVATIONAL & EXEGETICAL SKILLS & GAINING DISCERNMENT

1. **4001 PONDERING THE PAGE #7: 2 CORINTHIANS 4–5** (1 credit) – Verse-by-verse exposition of 2 Corinthians 4–5.
2. **4002 PONDERING THE PAGE #8: PRAYER & PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP** (1 credit) – 20–40-minute devotionals.
3. **4101 ENGLISH COMPOSITION** (4 credits) – This valuable class moves students from basic English grammar to learning how to effectively communicate God’s truths in written form, which will be needed in ministry for writing tracts, letters, articles, booklets and books.
4. **4401 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGICAL ISSUES** (3 credits) – Important theological and soteriological issues of our day are examined under the searchlight of Scripture, such as Free Grace theology, Reformed theology, Lordship Salvation, Calvinism, Arminianism, and Open Theism.
5. **4501 BOOK OF REVELATION I** (4 credits) – An exciting, verse-by-verse expositional study of Revelation to know God’s plan for the future and application to the Christian life today.
6. **4502 BOOK OF REVELATION II** (4 credits) – A continued exciting, verse-by-verse expositional study of Revelation to know God’s plan for the future and application to the Christian life today.
7. **4601 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK I** (4 credits) – This introductory course on the original language of the New Testament is designed to get students familiar with the basics of Koine Greek vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure, focusing on nouns, pronouns, adjectives, conjunctions, and the present and imperfect-tense, indicative-mood forms of verbs.
8. **4602 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II** (4 credits) – A continuation of the basics of Koine Greek vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, learning the remaining verb tenses and moods, participles, infinitives, and the article, leading to the translation of 1 John, with the goal of becoming an accurate exegete.
9. **4701 BIBLICAL EXEGESIS I** (4 credits) – This course exposes students to the first 8 steps of a 20-step process from exegesis to expository preaching. In doing so, the student will begin exegeting the Greek text of Colossians to learn the process of studying a passage’s context and background, diagramming a passage accurately, discovering the central ideas and purpose of a passage, addressing any interpretative problems that surface, and “principle-izing” the text for contemporary relevance.

Objectives of Year 4 – By the end of the fourth year of GIBS, the student should be able to competently exegete the Scriptures (from Greek for the NT). In addition, he or she should have a good grasp of God’s plan for the family and a growing doctrinal discernment about current theological issues of our day, including prophecy from the Book of Revelation.

YEAR 5: MOVING FROM EXEGESIS TO EXPOSITION & GAINING DISCERNMENT

1. **5001 PONDERING THE PAGE #9: PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP 2** (1 credit) – 20–40-minute devotionals.
2. **5002 PONDERING THE PAGE #10: 2 TIMOTHY** (2 credits) – Verse-by-verse expositional survey of Paul’s last epistle of 2 Timothy.
3. **5201 SPIRITUAL GIFTS & THE LOCAL CHURCH** (4 credits) – This is a verse-by-verse exposition of 1 Corinthians 12–14, which is the most definitive and expansive passage in the New Testament on the topic of spiritual gifts. Special attention is given to the baptism by the Holy Spirit and the gifts of apostleship, prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. This exposition shows how these gifts were foundational for the early church but have ceased since then, in contrast to the teachings of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements.
4. **5301 ROMANS 9–16** (3 credits) – A verse-by-verse exposition of the second half of the book of Romans covering God’s national election of Israel, His present and future plan for that nation, and practical instruction in righteousness for the Church.
5. **5401 BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW ISSUES** (3 credits) – The foundational issues of life according to God’s biblical design are contrasted with their contemporary distortions in our fallen world. Foundational truths from Genesis 1–11 and other key passages are studied to form a biblical worldview.
6. **5501 CHURCH HISTORY** (3 credits) – A survey of the major spiritual lessons, people, and events of the last 20 centuries of Christendom.
7. **5601 CULTS & RELIGIONS** (3 credits) – This course surveys the major cults, sects, and religions of our world in order to make the student a more discerning and effective witness for Christ.
8. **5701 BIBLICAL EXEGESIS II** (4 credits) – This course continues the 20-step process of exegesis to exposition begun in Biblical Exegesis I, exegeting verse-by-verse the epistle of Colossians in Greek.
9. **5801 EXPOSITORY PREACHING** (3 credits) – This practical course moves from exegesis of Scripture to preparing expository sermons or messages, which includes creating introductions, conclusions, titles, transitions, illustrations, and more. This course is especially valuable for those who wish to become biblical expositors and not merely teachers of curriculum that has been prepared by others.
10. **5901 FINAL PROJECT OR THESIS** (5 credits) – In this capstone of GIBS, students extensively research, write, and present their findings about a particular area of ministry interest or biblical study.

Objectives of Year 5 – By the end of the last year of GIBS, the student should be able to faithfully and individually interpret the Scriptures, discern truth from error based on the Bible, and put together expository messages based on accurate exegesis of the text of Scripture, all by the grace of God and to His glory!

4-Year Non-Greek Plan

We recognize that some students may not be called by God, gifted, or planning to serve in ministry that involves exegesis in the original languages of the Bible. For those students, a 4-year plan is available that does not require the 4th and 5th year courses on New Testament Greek, Biblical Exegesis, Expository Preaching, and the Final Project that are an integral part of the traditional 5-year plan. For students opting for the 4-year non-Greek plan, they will still be required to complete a total of 120 credits minimum for a Bachelor's degree. Below is the 4-year plan at a glance with the number of credits per course in parentheses.

YEAR 1 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #1 (Key Verses to Remember)
- (2) By This Name
- (4) Biblical Distinctions I
- (4) Romans 1–5
- (4) Romans 6–8

YEAR 1 – SPRING

- (1) Pondering the Page #2 (Faith-Rest Life)
- (4) Biblical Distinctions II
- (3) Effective Evangelism & Missions
- (3) Dispensations
- (3) Beginning Bible Study: Living by the Book
- (1) Ministry Practicum

YEAR 2 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #3 (Pleasing the Lord)
- (4) OT Survey I (Genesis – Esther)
- (3) OT Journaling I (Genesis – Esther)
- (4) OT Survey II (Job – Malachi)
- (3) OT Journaling II (Job – Malachi)

YEAR 2 – SPRING

- (1) Pondering the Page #4 (2 Timothy 2 – 7 Truths)
- (4) Bibliology: God's Amazing Book
- (3) NT Survey I (Matthew – Colossians)
- (2) NT Journaling I (Matthew – Colossians)
- (3) NT Survey II (1 Thessalonians – Revelation)
- (2) NT Journaling II (1 Thessalonians – Revelation)

YEAR 3 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #5 (Abiding in Christ)
- (3) Christology I: We Wish to See Jesus
- (3) Christology II: We Wish to See Jesus
- (4) Book of Acts I
- (4) Book of Acts II

YEAR 3 – SPRING

- (2) Pondering the Page #6 (Colossians)
- (3) Ecclesiology I: The Church God's Masterpiece
- (3) Ecclesiology II: The Church God's Masterpiece
- (3) Biblical Hermeneutics
- (4) English Grammar & Diagramming

YEAR 4 – FALL

- (1) Pondering the Page #7 (2 Corinthians 4–5)
- (4) English Composition
- (4) Book of Revelation I
- (3) Church History
- (3) Romans 9–16

YEAR 4 – SPRING

- (1) PTP #8 (Power of Prayer & Spir. Leadership #1)
- (4) Spiritual Gifts & the Local Church
- (4) Book of Revelation II
- (3) Contemporary Theological Issues
- (3) Biblical Worldview Issues

GIBS ConnectED General Information

- The required GIBS courses build upon each other, and therefore they are designed to be taken sequentially in order. All students take the same courses per semester as the rest of their cohort/yearly class. At this time, GIBS ConnectED does not offer courses that may be taken as individual electives or on a self-paced basis.
- All classes are taught in English and are approximately 60 minutes long (except for the Pondering the Page devotionals that run about 20–40 minutes).
- All students must have a personal computer (not just a cellphone) with reliable high-speed internet connection. Students must also be able to type assignments in Microsoft Word and save and send them as PDFs.

What Does GIBS ConnectED Cost?

Tuition & Fees: There is no tuition for GIBS courses since we desire to make them available to all who are serious about learning the Word of God and being prepared for service to the Lord and Christ's body, the Church. Though there is no tuition expense for students, they are still required to be faithful and responsible in taking and completing these courses (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Book Fees: Some courses have reading assignments that will require students to purchase reading materials at their own expense; however, we consciously strive to keep these extra student expenses to a minimum. Students outside the USA should be advised that some of the required textbooks and workbooks, beginning with courses in Year 2, may be difficult to purchase in their own countries. Thus, students should try to find these materials first as e-books, or in the case of hardcopies, be prepared for longer overseas shipping times and extra shipping expenses if hardcopies can only be purchased outside of one's country.

Is GIBS ConnectED Accredited?

GIBS is not accredited by any secular or governmental agency. Our credits may transfer to other Christian schools, but students concerned about transferability should consult with their prospective institution. Since GIBS is a Bible institute whose sole purpose is to educate and equip students for Christian ministry, the State of Minnesota (MN Statute 141.37) recognizes the prerogative of GIBS to grant solely faith-based degrees. We believe our accreditation ultimately comes from the Lord and is reflected in the spiritual growth of our graduates and their preparation for Christ-honoring ministry. *“Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. And we have such trust through Christ toward God”* (2 Corinthians 3:1-4).

What Degrees Are Offered in GIBS?

While we believe that there is great intrinsic value in learning the Word of God (if personally applied and shared with others) regardless of receiving a degree, the student will receive a degree for successfully completing the following levels of GIBS.

- ☞ Year 2 (60 credits): Associate of Applied Biblical Studies
- ☞ Year 4 (120 credits): Bachelor of Applied Biblical Studies
- ☞ Year 5 (150 credits): Master of Applied Biblical Studies



What Are the Application Requirements for GIBS?

1. You must be at least 18 years of age.
2. You must write out your salvation testimony for the initial application.
3. You must have a willingness to be a faithful and teachable student as unto the Lord.

Application Process for GIBS ConnectED?

If you are interested in applying for GIBS ConnectED:

1. Make this a matter of diligent prayer.
2. Fill out the GIBS Application Form and email it to the address below.
3. Give the Pastoral Reference Form* to your pastor or pastoral staff member who knows you well. Ask him to complete the form and mail or email it to us at:

GIBS ConnectED
201 W. Saint Andrews St.
Duluth, MN 55803
USA

gibs-connected@duluthbible.org

* If you do not have a pastor or are not connected to a local church, please state this and explain why.

Academic Standing & Policy for GIBS ConnectED

GIBS ConnectED is more than an academic institution. We are committed to the spiritual growth and development of each student into Christlike character and conduct, which should be the goal of all biblical teaching and sound doctrine (Ephesians 4:12-16; Colossians 3:10; 1 Timothy 1:3, 5). As a result, students agree, by virtue of their acceptance and enrollment into GIBS, to be diligent in their studies (2 Timothy 2:15) and responsible to meet assignment and test deadlines for each course. GIBS is not an independent studies program where students may study and complete courses at their own pace. Without prior written approval from an instructor, students who miss more than two assignment or test deadlines per semester may receive a failing course grade or be unenrolled from GIBS. We also seek to uphold high ethical standards for academic honesty and integrity in order to reflect the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Truth (John 14:6; Ephesians 4:21-25; Titus 2:7). Consequently, instances of plagiarism or presenting another person's work as one's own will automatically be considered grounds for assignment, test, or course failure and possibly immediate dismissal from the institute.

The Local Church Advantage

It is our studied conviction from the Scriptures that the local church is God's primary context and focal point for the equipping of the saints for their work of ministry to our Lord in this present age. And though we are grateful for any Bible college or seminary where the Word of God from a grace-perspective is taught in truth, it is by participating in a Bible-believing, Christ-exalting local church where a believer should be:

- established in sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:1-4).
- equipped for ministry with training and oversight (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- exercising their spiritual gifts and learning the one-anothers of a healthy body-life concept (1 Cor. 12).

The local church is to be the primary context for the believer's teaching and training for spiritual ministry and the proving ground of an individual's spirituality, spiritual growth, submission, and spiritual giftedness.

The local church advantage is far more than just physically housing a seminary class in a local church building. It involves reaping the benefits of a real-life ministry context under spiritual leadership and oversight with doctrinal and practical preparation for more specialized ministry for our Lord and to His Church. If it does not work in an individual's life in the local church, do not export it somewhere else! Yet, unfortunately many individual believers do not have access to a doctrinally sound, grace-oriented local church in their area, nor the opportunity to study the Scriptures as offered in GIBS. We understand that, and by God's grace we would love to change that in both aspects. Perhaps God will use you to accomplish that very worthy objective. Will you let Him?

Concluding Comments

The Lord Jesus Christ observed, "The harvest truly is plentiful but the laborers are few." The solution? "*Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*" (Matthew 9:37-38). While each believer is an ambassador for Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), some need more equipping and preparation than others. If you sense the leading of God for specialized ministry in your life, perhaps GIBS is for you!

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

Support Staff and Instructors

Support Staff

William “Poochie” Jones
Moodle Platform Assistant
AAS, Lake Superior College
BS, Greenville University

Coley Nicholls
Secretary & Moodle Platform Administrator
BS, University of Minnesota Duluth

Instructors

Carol Helland
English Grammar & Composition
MA, College of St. Scholastica
Former Provost & Chief Academic Officer
Mesabi Range College

Wade Lillegard
MD, Uniformed Services University

Dale Pearson
BEng, University of Minnesota
MBA, University of Minnesota Duluth

James Peterson
BS, Faith Baptist Bible College
MA, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary

Dennis Rokser
Appalachian Bible College
MDiv, DMin, Grace Biblical Seminary

Tom Stegall
ABS, Moody Bible Institute
BAS, University of Minnesota Duluth
MDiv, ThM, ThD, Grace Biblical Seminary

Philip Warmanen
BS, University of Minnesota Duluth
MEd, College of St. Scholastica

Student Testimonials

After a long search for a college whose focus was on the free grace of God, I learned about the Grace Institute of Biblical Studies and enrolled in 2017 at the age of 63. I had retired from DeKalb Fire Rescue in greater Atlanta after a long career as a paramedic, but it is my conviction that although you can retire from your vocation, as Christians, we never retire from serving the LORD. With that in mind, I decided that it was not too late for a solid biblical education that would prepare me for ministry. I have attended other Bible colleges in the past, but GIBS, hands down, has offered the most thorough education yet because it is steeped in a grace orientation within a dispensational framework. I would like to encourage you if you are approaching retirement, or if you are currently retired, to prayerfully consider enrolling in GIBS, a biblically sound and the most affordable choice that you will find.

Mike Hall
Georgia, USA

I can't help to see God's hand in directing me to GIBS. I have a full-time secular job and I am part-time in the ministry. The structure of GIBS is perfect for me working full-time and studying part time. Although it is hard work to fit the studies in with a family, job, part-time ministry, etc., it is definitely doable. GIBS is Bible-based, structured and practical. GIBS is more than just a theological institution giving down academic teachings. The GIBS's approach of looking after the spiritual well-being of the students stands out for me. I am very blessed to be able to study at GIBS.

Stefan Labuschagne
South Africa

I have a passion for learning and teaching women the Word of God. GIBS ConnectED, which I started in fall 2019, is giving me the opportunity to obtain a solid biblical education that I can apply to my teaching. The program is presented systematically with foundational building blocks that progress from class to class. GIBS ConnectED is also providing me an affordable program to learn independently from home, while retirement is providing the time needed to invest in God's Word. There are required timelines and tests but I can conveniently schedule them around my needs and my schedule. The application of what I learned in this first year of training has been extremely valuable to my teaching and my life. I am so thankful for the opportunity to grow in my knowledge and application of God's Word.

Sue Field
Minnesota, USA

The Grace Institute of Biblical Studies provides an important foundation for understanding and teaching the word of God. As a pastor-teacher in the mission field, I have found the studies very helpful. The teachers at the institute seek to glorify Jesus Christ, and they fulfill that objective with courses that are rich in Scripture and dispensational in theology.

Blake Bess
Missionary-Pastor
Ecuador

It is my sincere pleasure to share with you just a few of the benefits of the Grace Institute of Biblical Studies. My perspective is not in any way more important than the others you may read, but I do believe it is somewhat unique. You see, I am the pastor of Big Sky Bible Church in Billings, Montana, and I am a student of GIBS. There are many things that drew me to GIBS but there are a few that stand out:

Pastors teaching the Word of God – I believe it is a rare thing to get sound biblical education from pastors who are “in the trenches,” yet this is exactly what you get from GIBS. You get equipped by those who are equipping.

Local church based – The teachers’ heartbeat is God’s heartbeat for this time in history—the local church. This issues in a clear gospel message as well as grace-oriented, dispensational teaching. Not only do I benefit from this biblical focus, but so does the body of believers here at BSBC.

Diligence – Those who teach display the diligence referred to in 2 Timothy 2:15. The “straight cutting” of the Bible is obvious as the Word of God is handled and taught. One of the results is clarity on passages that have stumped many a Bible student because of a misunderstanding of the three tenses of salvation, family vs. fellowship, salvation vs. rewards and the like.

Cost Effective – It has been my desire to continue my education as I pastor this congregation, however as I pursued my master’s degree through a nationally known Christian university, I realized that the cost for me was unsustainable. God knew exactly what I needed and where I could find what I was looking for.

There are many other benefits/blessings that I have enjoyed as a result of being a student of GIBS. Please permit me to share one more. There have been times when I needed direction, a technical question from the Word of God answered that was beyond my ability, or just to talk with an older pastor who has been where I am. Without fail these men will take time with me and take me to the Word of God to answer my question and/or give advice. Their encouragement is not from human viewpoint but is from Divine viewpoint which of course is priceless!

There are a number of regular attenders of BSBC who are currently GIBS students. It has been a lot of fun to learn together, grow together, and fellowship together in the Word of God. If you are looking to further your biblical education without having to leave your local church, in order to be equipped for the work of the ministry in your local church, it is my personal opinion that you don’t need to look any further!

Jared Berg
Pastor
Big Sky Bible Church
Billings, Montana, USA