

SG 101

Salvation and Spiritual Growth

Course Credit: 3 Semester Hours

I. Course Description

This course is a step-by-step development and presentation of the Orthodox Christian answer to our dilemma as human beings descended from Adam, of God's plan for salvation, and our response. It includes an examination of the nature of spiritual combat, the unseen warfare: who our real enemy is, Who God is and Who Christ is, what it means that God forgives our sins, how we are joined to Christ, and where we go from there. It offers suggestions concerning prayer and other vital aspects of the life of a Christian relating the personal to the corporate and especially to the Eucharistic liturgy. It deals especially with the development of holiness and godliness.

II. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Understand the nature of humanity and the nature of God.
- B. Understand the nature of salvation and growth in righteousness, holiness and godliness.
- C. Be guided on the path to greater spiritual growth.

III. Materials Needed

- A. *Divine Energy* by Jon Braun, Conciliar Press, 1991
(available today through Ancient Faith Publishing)
- B. Bible
- C. Biblical Concordance
- D. English Dictionary

IV. Course Content

- Lesson I: The Dilemma
- Lesson II: The Enemies of Righteousness
- Lesson III: Unseen Enemies
- Lesson IV: The Holy Trinity
- Lesson V: The Word Became Flesh
- Lesson VI: Forgiveness of Sins
- Lesson VII: Union With Christ
- Lesson VII: Partakers of the Divine Nature
- Lesson IX: Personal Communion
- Lesson X: Taking Action to Become Victorious in Christ

V. Assignments

For each lesson, write 250-500 words in total for each assignment in each lesson, double-spaced. Each lesson will account for 10% of your grade. Faculty will give substantive commentary on all assignments. Final exam details, if applicable, are explained in the virtual classroom content on moodle.com.

VI. Attendance

We do not have an official attendance policy due to the nature of being a self-paced course (faculty are expected to engage with each student at least once per week through moodle.com).

VII. Participation

All students must engage at least once per week in the asynchronous forum discussion group. Access is made available in the virtual classroom.