

TH 102

The Use of the Holy Scriptures in the Orthodox Church

Course Credit: 3 Semester Hours

I. Course Description

This course is a study of the history of the use of the Scriptures in the Church from ancient days to the present, including an analysis of the relationship between the Scriptures and Tradition. Subjects include: What is the Bible? How did we get the Bible? Doctrine -- what shall we teach and how do we know? How do we interpret the Scriptures? The relationship of history and Tradition; The nature and task of the Church; History of Orthodox Tradition and how to discern between truth and "old error."

II. At the conclusion of this course, students will have:

- A. An historical study of the use of Scripture and Tradition in the Church.
- B. Knowledge of the inseparable relationship of Bible, Church and Tradition throughout the history of the Orthodox Church from the beginning until today.
- C. Proof that this interrelationship mentioned above is done by the intention of God.

III. Materials Needed

- A. *The Bible and the Orthodox Church* by Jack N. Sparks. Required material is provided in the virtual classroom as reading supplements for each lesson.
- B. Bible

C. Biblical Concordance

D. English Dictionary

IV. Course Content

Lesson I: Foundations of Christian Doctrine

Lesson II: Transmission and Interpretation of the Scriptures

Lesson III: The Nature of the Church

Lesson IV: Scripture and Tradition -- Standards

Lesson V: The Body of Christ

Lesson VI: The New Creation

Lesson VII: Fathers and Teachers Use Tradition to Guard the Faith

Lesson VIII: Tradition, Councils and Custom

Lesson IX: The Permanent and Continuous Nature of the Church

Lesson X: The Mind of 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.