

TH 301
Comprehensive Study of the Prologue of John

Course Credit: 3 Semester Hours

I. Course Description

This course is a study of the first eighteen verses of the Gospel of St. John with emphasis on interpretation and application. Effort has been made to center upon the teachings of the Church Fathers, communicating the stream of those teachings and guiding the student to their application to life today. Content thus includes the writings of Church Fathers, and a special feature of the course is a new edition of writings of St. John Chrysostom and St. Cyril of Alexandria on the Prologue -- prepared especially for this course.

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

- A. A grasp of the power and majesty of the Prologue as Scriptural text.
- B. An understanding of the teaching of the Prologue concerning the eternity and deity of the Son and Word of God.
- C. A grasp of the teaching of the Prologue concerning the Incarnation of the Son and Word of God.
- D. A grasp of the role of John the Baptist as set forth in the Prologue.
- E. A preliminary understanding of the meaning of our salvation.

- F. Knowledge of the use of the Prologue in the liturgical services of the Church.
- G. Knowledge of the use of the Prologue by the Church in her apologetic and polemical defense of the Faith against heresy.

III. Materials Needed

- 1. Orthodox Study Bible

IV. Course Content

- Lesson I: John 1:1 -- Christ, The Word and Son, is God, One with The Father
- Lesson II: John 1:2-5 -- The Word is Light and Life, Creator of All
- Lesson III: John 1:6-8 -- Introduction to John the Baptist
- Lesson IV: John 1:9-10 -- The Light of the World
- Lesson V: John 1:11-13 -- Being Born of God
- Lesson VI: John 1:14 -- The Word Became Flesh
- Lesson VII: John 1:15 -- The Witness of John to the Eternity of Christ
- Lesson VIII: John 1:16 -- We Have Received His Fullness
- Lesson IX: John 1:17 -- Christ and Moses
- Lesson X: John 1:18 -- Revealing the Father

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.