

# Course Syllabus

## Description

Further equipping in the principles and practice of active Bible reading focusing on poetic literature with ambition to learn the argument of the book of Psalms by seeking to understand each of the individual psalms not as independent units (i.e. a church hymnal) but rather as closely related to each other and to the book of Psalms as a whole (i.e. a church cantata)

## Textbooks

1. Required
  - a. An English Bible (ESV recommended)
  - b. Class Notes
2. Recommended
  - a. ***The Psalms, A pocket-style English Standard Version* (around \$5.00)**
  - b. ***How to Read The Psalms* by Tremper Longman III (around \$10.00)**
  - c. *The NIV Application Commentary; Psalms Volume 1* by Gerald H. Wilson (around \$32.00)
  - d. *The Psalms; Structure, Content & Message* by Claus Westermann (around \$12.00)
  - e. *Reflections on the Psalms* by C.S. Lewis (around \$10.00)
  - f. *Words of Delight, A literary introduction to the Bible* by Leland Ryken (around \$15.00)
  - g. *The Tyndale Old Testament Commentary; Psalms. volumes 1 and 2* by Derek Kidner (around \$19.00)

## Goals

### With respect to Knowledge

1. to be able to call to mind the overarching purpose and message of the Psalms
2. to be able to outline and understand the flow of thought for no less than six individual psalms
3. to be able to quote no less than five stanzas from Ps.119 or a total of 40 verses

### With respect to Insight

1. to be able to discern the structure and development of the Psalter with its five book division 3 months after the conclusion of the class
2. to be able to differentiate between post-exilic cultural issues and present day applications
3. to be able to “see” the LORD of glory in the Psalter correctly and convincingly

**With respect to Attitude**

1. to develop a stronger appreciation for how poetry reads
2. to be enthusiastic about active Bible reading & prayer
3. to feel about God and His kingdom in ways fitting to the book of Psalms
4. to desire to use the Psalms in personal growth and ministry

**With respect to Skill**

1. to follow the four strategies of active Bible reading in your own ongoing active Bible reading

# Course Compass

- ❖ Week 1
  - Things to anticipate in taking the class
    - Description, Books, Goals and Format
- ❖ Week 2
  - Things to look for in reading biblical poetry
    - Parallelism, Figure of Speech and why it's important
- ❖ Weeks 3-4
  - Things to be aware of when reading the Psalms
    - General Observations, Types and the purpose of the Book of Psalms
- ❖ Week 5
  - Charting the Course
    - A look at the shape & implications of the Psalms
- ❖ Week 6
  - The Introduction – Psalm One
    - A look at the themes of the Psalter
    - A look at Christ and us in the Psalter
- ❖ Weeks 7-24
  - Part One – Psalms Two through Eighty Nine
    - Discovering Book One – Psalms 2-41
      - A look at pain and suffering
      - A look into five individual or groups of consecutive psalms
    - Discovering Book Two – Psalms 42-72
      - A look at pleas for deliverance
      - A look into five individual or combined psalms
    - Discovering Book Three – Psalms 73-89
      - A look at hopes dashed in earthly kings
      - A look into five individual or groups of consecutive psalms
- ❖ Weeks 25-35
  - Part Two – Psalms Ninety through One Hundred Forty Five
    - Discovering Book Four – Psalms 90-106
      - A look at praise as the ultimate goal
      - A look into five individual or groups of consecutive psalms
    - Discovering Book Five – Psalms 107-145

- A look at Yahweh's kingship that brings forth this ultimate goal
- A look into five individual or groups of consecutive psalms

❖ Week 36

- The Conclusion – Psalms One Hundred Forty Six through One Hundred Fifty
  - Let everything that has breath praise the LORD

❖ Week 37

- Implications and Applications for Clearcreek Chapel
- Thoughts on the Psalms as a lifetime companion