

**BAPTIST  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY**

School of the Scriptures

Curricula of Teaching Offered to  
Independent Baptist Churches  
Worldwide



Baptist International University  
And the School of the Scriptures  
are Ministries under the Authority of  
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Class Number

**550**

Class Title

**ACCELERATED MASTER'S  
PROGRAM**

Prepared by

**N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.**

Date

**April 12, 2024**

Units

**6**

Level

**Master Level**

This Syllabus is Approved for  
Baptist International University School of the Scriptures

**N. S. Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.**

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

This syllabus outlines the Accelerated Master's Program offered to pastors and church leaders who meet the candidate requirements and who intend to teach the BIU program in their own church-operated university, seminary, Bible college, or institute.

This syllabus describes the Accelerated Master's Program for pastors and church leaders that fulfill special requirements and who are willing to operate a BIU school under the authority of their own independent Baptist church.

Our intent is to partner with good churches and pastors to help them have their own seminary, college, university, or Bible Institute.

This Syllabus is complimented by *Class 551 BIU Teaching Guide and Understanding the Levels*.

NOT FOR SALE

All Materials Offered by *Baptist International University* are Free of Charge.

Baptist International University is a church-authorized international University dedicated to world evangelism, worldwide scripture distribution, and preparing faithful men of God for the work of the ministry.

Since its commission in 1970, Baptist International University has employed scriptural teaching methods and subjects based on the Commandment Doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# AMP



CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER’S PROGRAM

**ACCELERATED MASTER’S PROGRAM**

A Syllabus Approved for Baptist International University School of the Scriptures – 6 Units.  
N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.; Pastor, *Iglesia Bautista El Lindero Antiguo*  
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April 14, 2024

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### Scripture References

Matthew 4

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Matthew 5

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 9

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 11

1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

Matthew 15

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Matthew 28

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of

the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 14

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Acts 1

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Romans 12

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

1 Corinthians 2

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 Corinthians 12

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1 Corinthians 14

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

Galatians 6

6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Ephesians 4

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Colossians 1

[28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

1 Timothy 2

7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

1 Timothy 3

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1Tim.4

11 These things command and teach.

1 Timothy 6

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise

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them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

2 Timothy 2

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many

witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

2 Timothy 4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound

doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

1 Corinthians 14

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

### Introduction to AMP

This syllabus outlines the Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) offered to pastors and teachers who meet certain requirements, and who intend to teach the Baptist International University School of the Scriptures program in their own Baptist church's university, Bible college, seminary, or institute.

The Baptist International University School of the Scriptures program was first developed over fifty years ago by Dr. Don M. Fraser (affectionately known as the father of *Bearing Precious Seed*). Brother Fraser was commissioned in the late 1960's by Dr. J. G. Tharpe (pastor of Baptist Tabernacle in Shreveport, LA) to develop a purely scriptural curricula for use in Baptist Christian University International.

Don Fraser understood the need – not only for Baptist churches to reproduce and distribute the scriptures to all the world (Romans 16:26), but that the scripture production work itself be reproduced in good Baptist churches worldwide. As a result, he developed the *School of the Scriptures*, which has been in use for decades by many independent Baptist churches worldwide.

It took more than twenty years of work for Don Fraser to develop, prove, and refine the curricula. He fulfilled the commission given him by Pastor Tharpe in 1989 when he turned over the completed program.

In 1989 Dr. Nash Desent was installed as President of the Baptist International University. After more than twenty-seven years teaching the program and helping churches operate schools, Pastor Desent commenced an eight-year process of documenting all the curricula in digital form and offering the curricula online. The availability of the curricula online has facilitated the translation of the material into over 100 languages, and has made the program accessible to churches worldwide, truly making the program international.

In 1991, Pastor Desent organized Historic Baptist Church in Rhode Island, teaching the BIU program under the authority of that church, in Rhode Island Baptist Seminary, a ministry of Historic Baptist Church.

In 2023, Pastor Desent organized the First Baptist Church of *Pachacamac* in Lima, Peru. Both Historic Baptist Church and First Baptist Church offer the BIU teaching program, as do other churches. BIU is actively stating schools in many places worldwide, with our current emphasis in South America and Africa.

Our curricula and the manner that our school operates are wholly scriptural in content, order, and operation. Additionally, our curricula and operation are fully accredited internationally.

Although we have used various methods of accelerating the teaching to pastors and teachers in the past, we now have proved a system that we offer herein.

This *Class 550 Accelerated Master's Program* is complimented by *Class 551 BIU Teaching Guide and Understanding the Levels*, which should also be reviewed.

The purpose of the syllabus is to outline the Accelerated Master's Program for pastors and church leaders who meet the requirements, and who are planning to teach the Baptist International University program in their own churches. The BIU program has been used for more than fifty years by many independent Baptist churches. The BIU program was first developed over a twenty-year period by D. M. Fraser (known by many as the father of *Bearing Precious Seed*) when he was commissioned by J. G. Tharpe (pastor of Baptist Tabernacle, Shreveport, LA) to create a fully scriptural program of teaching for Baptist Christian University International in the late 1960's.

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Don Fraser developed the BIU program in conjunction with his effort to teach churches their responsibility to publish and distribute the scriptures worldwide (Romans 16:26). Similar to two hands working together, the scripture publishing work by Baptist churches needs to be reproduced through teaching. And the teaching uses the scriptures as source of doctrine.

This class 550 is complemented by *Class 551 BIU Teaching Guide and Understanding the Levels*, which offers high-level teaching understanding to men starting the program in their churches.

### Summary

Dr. Don M. Fraser said: “We don’t need more men in the BPS work – we need the BPS work in hearts of more men.”

Dr. Fraser understood and taught that the scripture work must be in the heart of pastor, and we accomplish this through scriptural instruction (i.e., teaching). Baptist International University School of the Scriptures is one means (and the most effective means) of instruction on this subject. Dr. Fraser dedicated his ministry to developing the Bearing Precious Seed ministry in churches, and once he had success in this work, he finalized the development of the S.O.S. curricula we herein offer.

This preacher, after being personally trained as one of Dr. Fraser’s last students (1989 – 1993), and being the person to whom the curricula was entrusted, and being a teacher of the program for over 30 years; can confidently say that once a pastor or church leader has the scripture work well-fixed in his heart, he will increase more and more in the wisdom and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has magnified his word above all his name (Psalm 138:2). And when a man does the same, God richly blesses that man.

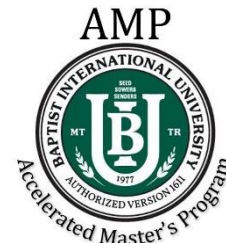
The Accelerated Master’s Program (AMP) is intended for men who are starting schools in their churches. Men who reach the master’s level will have a good knowledge of the lower levels and will be able to teach them if necessary. Once the master’s diploma is awarded, that man can sign and issue diplomas for all lower levels.

*Practicum* requirements for the master’s level are credited by the individual’s more than ten years of ministry work.

For any questions, we encourage the candidate to contact our officials.



N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.  
President, *Baptist International University*



### Teaching and its Connection to Love Commandment Doctrine

Jesus instructed his apostles in Matthew 10: 8: “... freely ye have received, freely give.” We desire to see churches edified through scriptural teaching, souls saved through world evangelism and scripture distribution, and leaders developed to teach others in fulfillment of the Great Commission.



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We repeat what our beloved Apostle Paul told the Corinthian church:

1 Corinthians 16:14: Let all your things be done with charity.

1 Corinthians 14:26B: ... Let all things be done unto edifying.

1 Corinthians 14:40: Let all things be done decently and in order.

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

### **Lesson 1: Starting a College, University, Seminary, or Bible Institute as a Partner with Baptist International University**

Baptist International University offers teaching curricula to independent Baptist churches so they can operate their own schools using an accredited program of teaching.

Baptist International University offers an Accelerated Master's program to qualified pastor and leaders, so they understand and are prepared for teaching all levels up to the master's level.

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

### Lesson 2: Church and School Requirements

Because our university desires to maintain its integrity, BIU recognizes approved churches that teach the program.

Because our curricula are accessible online freely to all, we understand any church or individual can access a class and use it as they see fit. However, recognized schools should have pastors and teachers who have diplomas from BIU and practice good doctrine.

BIU maintains, teaches, and respects the authority, autonomy, and independence of all Baptist churches. Consequently, church-operated schools are encouraged to decide for themselves how and when a school operates, and how the curricula are taught.

However, to maintain accreditation, schools must accomplish some things, which we describe below.

1. All schools must be organized under the authority of an independent Baptist church.
2. The pastor and the church must be doctrinally sound and aligned with the school.
3. The pastor and the church must support missions.
4. The pastor and the church must be willing to participate in the publication and distribution of the Scriptures.
5. The teaching program of the school follows the topics of the class and the teaching order of the classes.
6. Schools can choose to operate independently of BIU involvement or as partners. Independent schools can use curricula and operate as they wish, but their names are not listed as approved schools on the BIU website. Partner schools will be listed on the University website and enjoy international accreditation.
7. Teachers at partner schools should be approved by BIU and be working on earning a BIU diploma. It is best that they be enrolled in the accelerated master's program (if they qualify) and obtain a master's diploma. A master's degree is not required to begin teaching at school; however, the teacher can earn credits toward his or her master's degree while teaching. Teachers who qualify should plan to enroll in the accelerated training program offered by BIU.

Note: It is hypocritical for a teacher to have students if he himself is not (or has not been) a student.

8. Partner schools may choose to issue their own diplomas and/or use BIU diplomas.
9. Partner school requirements include:
  - BIU-approved teachers
  - A regular Teaching Schedule
  - A regular classroom for lower-level classes
  - Complete Student Records Maintenance

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- Training opportunities for practical work (i.e., practicum).

### 10. Partner schools must establish a name for the school.

- Select a name. Examples:
- [place] Baptist University
- [place] Baptist Seminary
- [place] Baptist School
- [place] Baptist Institute

### 11. Practical helps for school organization

- Have a dedicated class meeting area that has desks and chairs for students, and a place for the teacher.
- Schedule two or three times a week for class time.
- Each student must print their own copy of the syllabus if it is reasonable. If not, they can follow along via digital means.)
- Each student must keep a work journal documenting their practical work for credit.
- Each student must have a transcript and academic record kept by school, or the students should be enrolled through BIU.

### 12. Financial Information

Baptist International University from the beginning was designed to follow scriptural precepts and operate accordingly. We state without apology that our curricula meet these objectives:

- Train men effectively for the work of the ministry
- Teach and emphasize the Commandments of Jesus Christ according to Matthew 28:18-20
- Require practical work for credit (i.e., *practicum*) to prove all students
- Follow the scriptural **order** of teaching as found in Isaiah 28:8-10
- Follow the scriptural precepts NOT to charge for teaching – Matthew 10:8; Proverbs 23:23; Romans 8:32; 1 Corinthians 2:12.
- Provide scriptural **content**
- Follow scriptural **operation** of a school – no charge to students, teach by example

Consequently, all teaching should be offered freely. However, we also encourage and teach the obligation of students to give offerings to their teachers, following Galatians 6:6-10:

6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

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9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

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### Lesson 3: Pastor and Leader Requirements for the Accelerated Master's Program (AMP)

For master level students we offer an accelerated and expedited teaching program for approved men who meet our requirements and who are incorporating the university teaching program into their independent church institute, seminary, college or university. We have ordered these steps to accelerate the teaching of these men. Qualified men would be church-approved pastors, missionaries, and teachers.

#### Requirements for Accelerated Master's Program (AMP)

1. **AMP Candidates must have at least ten (10) years of ministerial service demonstrating good doctrine.**

- A. The pastor must present a work history document that describes the following:
- Personal information: family members, address, contact information, etc.
  - Description of the salvation experience.
  - Description of baptism
  - Description of the call to ministry
  - Ordination description
  - Description of the ministries involved in
  - Description of current ministry

2. **AMP Candidates should have attained Bachelor Level Degree**

- For a master's degree, it is necessary that the candidate complete previous class credits, at least in obtaining a bachelor's degree.
- If the candidate has not reached the bachelor level in his studies, he should not be discouraged. He should consult a BIU vice-president and investigate how he can accelerate a bachelor's degree through BIU.

3. **AMP Candidates must be Doctrinally Sound and Practice the following:**

- Be Baptist in name and doctrine.
- Be soul-winners and evangelists.
- Be King James Bible only (English schools).
- Believe and teach that all people can be saved (i.e., non-Calvinist, rejecting Calvinist teachings of total depravity wherein a man does not have freewill to be saved, predestination unto salvation, limited atonement of Christ's sacrifice, and that man cannot reject God's grace).
- Practice a sanctified and separate life.

4. **AMP Candidate and his church must support World Missions:**

- Practice faith promise giving or similar methods of mission support.

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- Be willing to take missionary survey trips.
- Emphasize world evangelization in their ministry.
- BIU credits require mission work participation.

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### Lesson 4: Objectives to Complete the Accelerated Master's Program

#### 1. Participation in the Publication and the Distribution of the Scriptures is Essential

- The scripture work is part of the credits required at all levels.
- Candidates must have experience in all four areas of participation in the Scriptures: distribution, support, publication, and teaching.
- BIU credits require scripture work. Please confirm your understanding.

#### 2. AMP Candidate to have a Familiarity and an Understanding of all Lower Levels.

- This is part of the AMP program. The candidate will have to review each syllabus in the lower levels or attend an accelerated class where the levels are taught rapidly. BIU offers a 5-day program of intensified teaching.
- Knowledge and understanding of the doctrinal and undergraduate levels.
- Familiarizing yourself with all doctrinal (associate) level study programs:
  - Includes all syllabus classes (200-229)
  - Read introduction.
  - Read the scripture list.
  - Read table of contents.
  - Read the lessons you don't understand.
  - Write a summary for each class.
  - Send summaries to the university office.
- Read Graduate Level Syllabi (301-310)
- Understand that this is a requirement because the candidate will be teaching these levels.

#### 3. AMP Candidate to be familiar with Bachelor Level Study Plans and Accomplish Writing Tasks.

- 402-403 – write a paper that combines these two tasks.
- 406 Read the complete program.
- 408 Send 10 well-written messages to demonstrate study and organization skills.
- 409 Submit the verse comparison list using 2 or three other bible versions, or a paper on the superiority of the KJV.
- 404 Present published work to the University – can be scripture production.
- The candidate must present written testimony that he has read his Bible a minimum of four times and that he is familiar with the contents of the 66 books of the Bible.
- If the candidate has outlined any books of the Bible, they should send them to the University office for examples.

#### 4. Master's Level Work Required

- 501 written textual history of a particular version of the Bible.
- 502-504 Scripture publication and international distribution.
- 505 Thesis on approved subject



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### 5. Additional Creditable Work

- Pastors and missionaries may submit special achievements for work credit and class credit in certain cases.
- The pastor or missionary should talk to the president or vice president of the university and discuss options.

### 6. Bachelor and Master Level Programs for Reference.

- Standard student requirements for the Bachelor and Master's levels
- AMP candidates receive the same credit, but experience and other work is accredited for some objectives.
- Credit summaries shown below.

Class	Bachelor of Theology Scripture Ministries	Credits
	<i>Completion of the S.O.S. Graduate Curriculum</i>	<i>90</i>
201	School of the Scriptures Orientation (complete, use as is)	1
	<i>Note: The Bachelor Level Work as follows is Self-Directed</i>	
401	Hand Copy 100 Passages of Scripture as Assigned	1
402	Paper Written on Biblical Manner to Evangelize the World and fulfill the Great Commission	1
403	Paper Written on a Practical Modern Way to Evangelize the World Using Biblical Methods	1
404	Create Publishable Work Related to S. O. S	2
405	Associate Level Curriculum Survey	2
406	Create Reference List for all New Testament Commandments with a Brief Description of Each	1
407	Create a Survey of the Whole Bible (O.T. and N.T.)	3
408	Topical Studies	4
409	Document a Textual Comparison of 500 verses	6
	Practicum Requirements	12

CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

<b>Class</b>	<b>Master of Arts Scripture Ministries</b>	<b>Units</b>
201	Orientation, Curriculum Survey, and Teaching	6
501	Textual History of the Scriptures	6
502	Multi-Church Scripture Development	3
503	Cooperative Production and Distribution	12
504	International Trip using Scriptures Produced	3
505	Thesis on Approved Subject Matter	6

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

### Lesson 5: General Teacher Requirements

As stated, we expect men in the Accelerated Master's Program to operate their own school in their own church using the BIU program. Consequently, teachers should be familiar with the teaching and be good testimonies of what they teach that others should do.

In addition to being the pattern to follow, a teacher has other responsibilities:

1. Each teacher is responsible for knowing the needs of the students and teaching in the areas they need.
2. The teacher must teach and follow the teachings of his local church in cases where the curriculum does not have information. The outlines are verses for the most part. The teacher is responsible for filling in the gaps and helping students understand.
3. The pastor oversees the school. He should teach. He can also assign teachers. Unless instructed otherwise, all teachers should direct their questions to their pastor before asking the school.

#### **Important:**

Because we understand the BIU curricula and how it is best taught, we have supplied the syllabus for *Class 551 BIU Teaching Guide and Understanding the Levels*. Reading this syllabus will help teachers be more effective in the BIU program.

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

### Lesson 6: An Example of a Practical Way of Operating a School

The below description is how we helped a local church start the program. This may help in organizing a new school.

**Schedule:**

Every Monday: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Every Saturday 10:00 – 2:00

**Location:**

Church Sunday School room

**Each Student to Bring:**

A personal printed copy of the syllabus assigned or a digital means of reading

A syllabus is a class study booklet. Each class has a syllabus.

**In charge of the class:**

The Pastors of the church

**Additional Teachers:**

To be designated by the pastors

**How the Classes operate:**

1. On Mondays, the class will normally start with a new class syllabus. The teacher will spend one hour reviewing the previous class syllabus if needed, and then use the second hour to teach the new syllabus. Or he may use the two hours to teach the new syllabus.

On Mondays after the teacher has taken time to teach out of the new class syllabus, the students will be assigned to read the remainder of the new syllabus in detail during the upcoming week, so they are prepared for the Saturday class. The students should read particularly the introduction, the list of verses, and the table of contents. It is not necessary to print the syllabus, unless required by the teacher.

2. All students should read the assigned syllabus throughout the week, they should mark unfamiliar lessons and study them on their own time.
3. Students should highlight discussion points and write questions in preparation for Saturday class.
4. Every Saturday class the teacher will rapidly cover the syllabus assigned the week before. He should review the applicable lesson outlines quickly for the first two hours, then break for a short lunch.
5. During the first two hours the teacher can also focus on lessons that he thinks are important.
6. During the second two hours the teacher can take questions from students and give answers.

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7. Basically, Mondays are to kick off new classes and syllabi, and Saturday is for detailed review. The teacher assigns homework for next week on Mondays, which is to read the following syllabus.
8. The teacher should try to teach one syllabus credit each week. If the class is two credits, then he can take two weeks. If the class is three credits, then he can take three weeks. If a class is particularly needed or emphasized, the teacher can take longer – say, two or three weeks.
9. In theory the students can finish the associate level in 32 weeks. The class time of both Saturday and Monday time adds up to six hours of teaching time. And students reading the syllabi during the week add another 6-10 hours depending on the student's ability to read and understand. Even with extra weeks added, a teacher should be able to teach the associate level in less than a year.
10. Practical work is necessary for credit. Each student must have a workbook where they can record their work. Including evangelism, work of serving in the church, and obedience to the teaching.
11. The teacher must maintain a list of students and their completed classes. At the end of each month the teacher can send the list of students and the classes completed to the University office for record keeping in each student's folder.
12. If there is a student who fails to attend a class, the teacher may give that student homework and the student may complete and submit the 001 summative assessment for the class for credit.
13. If there are no Saturday class time, the teacher should use the first hour of each week to review the previous syllabus.
14. Times and days can be adjusted for convenience for the students and teachers. However, a regular schedule should be maintained with discipline
15. Teachers should read Class 551 to better understand how to teach the material. Some syllabi are very large, and the teacher should know how to use the parts applicable to his students.
16. The goal is to have students learn. They do not have to know everything in each syllabus. It is the teacher's discretion what lessons he wants to teach.

### **IMPORTANT:**

Because the students will be also preparing for the upper levels (300 and 400 series), they should start three practices:

**First**, they all start daily Bible reading from Genesis through to Revelation. Each student should have a notebook wherein he makes notes of his regular Bible reading. As he finishes his Bible reading in a year or so, he will have accomplished Class 407, The student should not wait for the Bachelor level to start this objective.

**Second**, the student should start copying the word of God by hand in fulfillment of class 401. If the student copies two verses from each book of the Bible that he reads, we will also have this goal accomplished by then of the associate's level.

**Third**, because practicum credit is required, the student should maintain a work journal during the year.

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

### NOT FOR SALE

All materials offered by *Baptist International University* are free.

*Baptist International University* is an international university authorized by the church and dedicated to world evangelism, the worldwide distribution of the Scriptures, and the preparation of faithful men of God for the work of ministry. BIU operates under the authority of Historic Baptist Church Wickford, Rhode Island 02852.

Since its commission in 1977, *Baptist International University* has employed biblical teaching methods and materials based on the Commandment Doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The *Baptist International University School of Scriptures curricula* are offered by ministries under the authority of local independent Baptist churches throughout the world.

*Baptist International University* and *Rhode Island Baptist Seminary* are fully accredited institutions by the *Accreditation Commission International*, the largest non-governmental accrediting commission in the world. *Baptist International University* maintains its separation from governments and its religious liberty. Accreditation by a non-governmental third party means that our schools meet (and exceed) established requirements for credits, record-keeping, and operations. Our practice is to display the content of our programs for public and peer review.

## CLASS 550 ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM

### Lesson 7: Tips and Steps for Writing a Thesis for Baptist International University

## Tips and Steps for Writing a Thesis for Baptist International University

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March 22, 2024

#### 1. Identify the Purpose of the Thesis and the Audience.

- Determine the class credits or units needed.
- Understand the details: pages, rules, text size, etc.
- Follow applicable requirements.
- Most theses demonstrate that the writer has mastered a topic and that he has the ability to articulate and defend well his point of view and teaching.
- For BIU, we evaluate the use of theses for potential use in our teaching programs. Students who submit their thesis give BIU permission to offer the thesis for general use.
- Review the examples of theses provided under the list of 500 series syllabi.

#### 2. Get Theme Approval from BIU.

- Choose a topic you have experience in or are interested in
- The topic must be motivating for the writer.
- BIU should approve of the theme or topic of your thesis.

#### 3. Write a Descriptive Paragraph of your Thesis.

- Content
- Scope
- Aim
- Include a descriptive title.
- This description will be used to keep the work focused.

#### 4. Tips and Practical Steps

- Create a list of topics to cover.
- Write bullet points of all your thoughts – as many as you have.
- Make an exhaustive list of Bible verses that support your thesis.
- Think about what a new reader would want to know or how you can help them.
- Continue adding bullet points as ideas come to you.
- Organize bullets as chapters or lessons and convert some bullets to subpoints as necessary.
- Organize the chapter or lessons in a logical order.

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- Plan to make a lesson plan for each point.
- Create a blank page for each lesson with the lesson title and number at the top.
- Separate the verses among the lessons as applicable.
- Start writing the introduction. Use the main points as a guide for the introduction.
- Work on the easy lessons first.
- Work on more difficult lessons when you can spend time writing.
- All research should be copied and pasted into the correct section for future use.

### 5. **Rome was Not Built in a Day**

- Take your time to do the job correctly.
- Work on paper while you are excited and focused.
- When you are not writing, think about how to improve your thesis.
- Write notes to yourself so you do not forget.
- Pray that God will give you more topics to cover and good ideas for illustrations, graphics, etc.
- Your thesis is an example of your personality and a testimony to your diligence

### 6. **Do your Due Diligence**

- Pray before writing asking for the Lord's help.
- Try to exhaust the topic as best you can.
- Try to make the article worthy of your time and that of others.
- If you think it is missing a part, add it.
- Do the best job you can do.

### 7. **Make your Writing Interesting and a Pleasure to Read.**

- Subjects selected
- Writing style
- You should think about the length of the sections (not too tedious to read)
- Separate large ideas into smaller bites
- Headings
- Add images (make sure they can print in black and white)
- Things that are complicated rewrite as needed, so that they are simple to understand.
- Give good examples and provide quality illustrations.

### 8. **Follow Proper Organization**

- Title page
- Table of Contents
- Scripture Texts
- Preface
- Introduction



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- Connection with the doctrine of the commandment of love
- Divide the content in an orderly and logical manner.
- Conclusion
- Bibliography if necessary

### 9. **Include all Attributions**

- Scripture References
- Footnotes
- In the text
- Final notes

### 10. **Be sure to Review and Make Changes before Submitting your Thesis.**

- Check and recheck your work.
- Give work to others to critique.
- Clarify contradictory or confusing statements.
- It often takes seven revisions to find all the errors.

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### Lesson 8: Writing Your Thesis – Summary

#### 1. Start with:

- Theme
- Thesis Statement
- Abstract
- Scope

#### 2. Get Thesis Approval

#### 3. Provide these Sections:

- 1 Title Page
- 2 Forward
- 3 Preface
- 4 Table of contents
- 5 Scripture Reference List
- 6 Introduction with Connection to Love Commandment Doctrine
- 7 Body of Text or Lesson Plans – Separated into Chapters or Lessons. Add Illustrations, Diagrams, Tables, etc.
- 8 Conclusion
- 9 Acknowledgements
- 10 References

#### 4. Definitions:

A **thesis statement** is a sentence or two that states the main idea of a writing assignment. It also helps to control the ideas presented within the paper. However, it is not merely a topic. It often reflects a claim or judgment that a writer has made about a reading or personal experience.

A strong **thesis** makes a clear argument, gives clear direction, provides proof, and provokes discussion.

An **abstract** is a 150- to 250-word paragraph that provides readers with a quick overview of your essay or report and its organization. It should express your thesis (or central idea) and your key points; it should also suggest any implications or applications of the research you discuss in the paper.

**Scope** refers to the breadth and complexity of the central concern of your paper, including all of the points that you must establish for your readers to understand your central concern, as well as all of the significant issues that you must address in order to present a fair, well-considered argument.

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The **title page** includes minimum five elements: complete title, complete name of author or authors, date, institution affiliation and purpose, and running head (header).

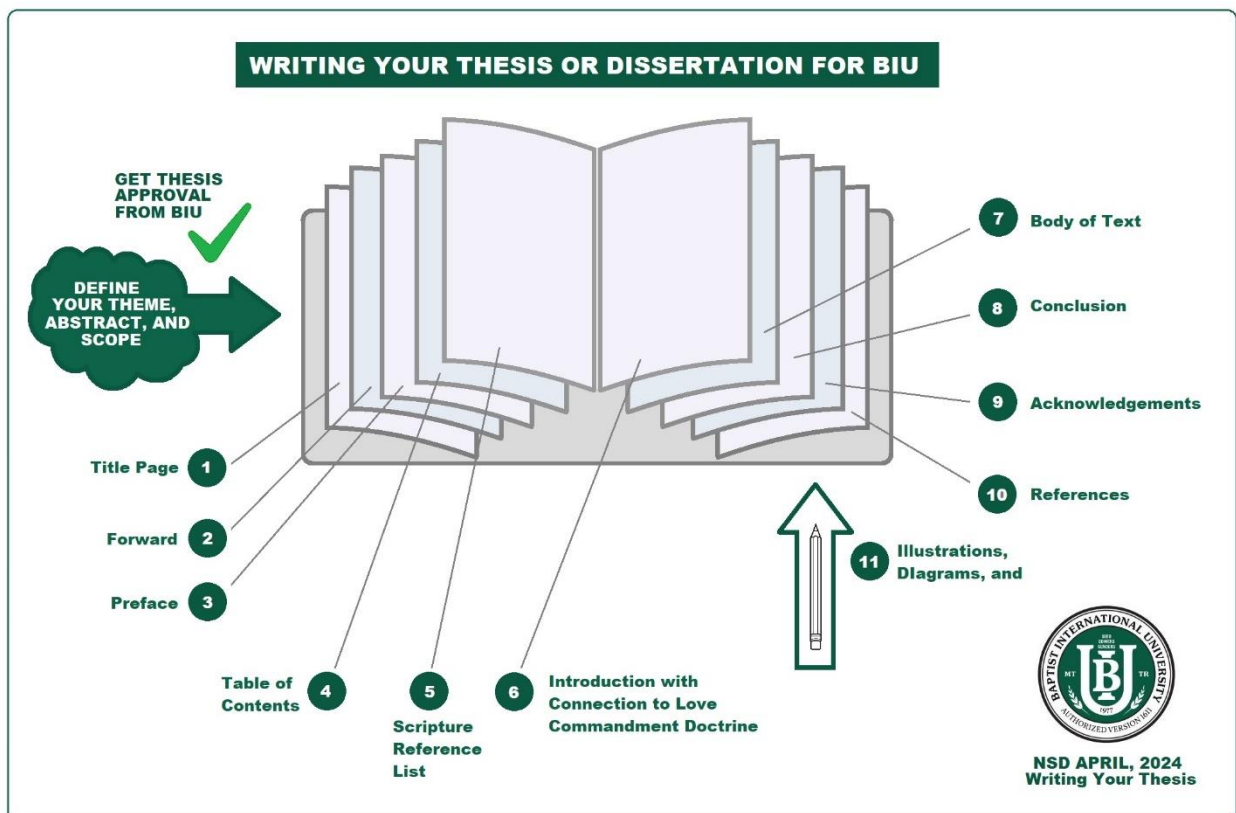
A **foreword** is written by someone other than the author and tells the readers why they should read the book.

A **preface** is written by the author and tells readers how and why the book came into being.

The **Table of Contents** lists all sections of the paper and their page numbers.

An **introduction** introduces readers to the main topics of the manuscript and prepares readers for what they can expect.

The **Acknowledgements** section usually follows the Discussion and Conclusions sections. Its purpose is to thank the people who helped with the research but did not qualify for authorship.



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