

A Special Welcome

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This handbook/catalog is designed to give you an introduction and detailed explanation regarding the Grace and Truth Bible Institute of Warner Robins, GA. (otherwise referred to as G.T.B.I.), a ministry of Grace & Truth Bible Church (GTBC).

Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
(2 Timothy 2:15)

Mission Statement

The purpose of GTBI is to be a useful instrument in God's hand through the ministry of the Holy Spirit enabling gifted teachers via the local church to provide grace-oriented teaching, personal discipleship, ministry training, and doctrinally sound materials to serious and diligent believers in order to further establish, equip, and edify them to faithfully fulfill the ministry God has given them by His grace.

And He Himself gave some to be ... evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.
(Ephesians 4:11-12)

The Need of the Hour

As we observe the spiritual landscape of our world and the condition of the Church in our day, we cannot help but see the great need to establish and equip believers in Christ as the harvest is white but the laborers of the Gospel of grace are few. Too often our churches are exposed to unclear or false teaching by pastors trained in para-church Bible colleges and seminaries lacking local grace-oriented church oversight, leaving believers undernourished at best and misled at worst. We believe that it is God's blueprint for each local church to be effectively preaching the Gospel of grace with clarity and expository teaching verse-by-verse the life

changing truths of the Word of God to all who attend church services, especially those who are desirous about serving our Lord Jesus Christ and others.

Every believer needs to have a sound biblical framework to grasp and fulfill the will of God for his or her life (Col. 1:9-12). Each born again child of God should learn to effectively lead someone else to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior (Acts 16:30-31) and then help them grow into spiritual maturity (Col. 1:27). Each child of God should also be equipped to answer the many common objections to the faith (1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Pet. 3:16) and to be able to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3) when called on to do so in this Romans 1 culture.

In addition, each believer in Christ should have a solid grasp on crucial Christian life truths such as what it means to faith - rest in the Lord (Hebrews 4) and God’s many precious promises (2 Peter 1:4) in light of their position / identity in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Romans 6). Sadly, this kind of grace Christian life teaching is too often the exception instead of the norm today. Thus, for believers to consistently grow in these important areas, our preaching over pulpit or podium emphasizes the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ (Colossians) for salvation in all three phases or tenses - from sin's penalty, then from sin's power, and ultimately from sin's presence—all by God's grace and to the glory of God until Jesus comes again! (Titus 2:11-15)

Unfortunately, too many believers in the USA have lacked sound grace-oriented teaching (2 Peter 3:18) with spiritual application (James 1:19-22) and instead wallow in carnality (1 Cor. 3:1-4) and spiritual immaturity (Heb. 5:11-14). In addition, too many pastors and teachers have been more concerned about drawing numbers into the building by entertaining the goats instead of feeding the sheep (1 Tim. 4:13-16; John 21:15-17) and have failed to allow the Lord to build His Church, His way (Matt. 16:18; 2 Tim. 4:1-5). The result has been that few believers have been adequately equipped for the work of ministry God has for them to do in the various spheres of opportunity God has given them. Or they think that this is only for the “professional” minister and they miss how God wants to use them in or through their own local church.

Internationally, it is reported that up to 90% of pastors around the world have had either little or no formal training for the ministry God has called them to do. Unfortunately, there is not only a lack of access to doctrinally sound pastor or teacher training but also there are very few grace-oriented places or ministries from which to receive such training. With these crucial needs in mind, let us introduce you to the Grace & Truth Bible Institute (GTBI).

Why the Grace & Truth Bible Institute?

We believe the need for a specialized training and equipping ministry of this nature is evident due to several reasons:

1. Because the vast majority Bible colleges and seminaries in our land deny in either doctrine or practice the authority and / or the sufficiency of Scripture. (2 Timothy 3:15 - 4:4)
2. Because most educational institutions of this nature function independent of and apart from the auspices & authority of the local church, which is "the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:15)
3. Because of the evident need and desire to equip men and women with grace-oriented doctrine, practical application, and ministry preparation in a specialized and affordable way for specific avenues & opportunities of ministry that require both scriptural teaching, along with practical training / discipleship with supervision / mentorship (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

Who Are We and How Has God Used Us?

While August of 2023 will be the initial year of GTBI, both pastor-teachers Dennis Rokser & Kevin Lucas have been involved in local church based equipping ministries like GTBI for many years. Pastor Dennis Rokser was used by the Lord to establish the Grace Institute of Biblical Studies {GIBS} in 1992 at Duluth Bible Church, Mn. where he taught the Word of God and pastored for 41 years. GIBS will act as a model in many aspects for the GTBI. The spiritual leadership at DBC was strongly convinced by the Scriptures that the local church is to be integrally involved in the equipping of the saints to do the work of ministry to the edifying of the Body of Christ

(Ephesians 4:11-13) - both locally and worldwide as the Lord leads. This resulted by God's grace in ...

- An impactful ministry serving locally at DBC
- the establishment of the GIBS in 1992 which has resulted in the training of multiple pastors & deacons in various local churches
- the planting of 3 churches in Minnesota & Wisconsin
- a world-wide impact since 1998 via the Grace Family Journal
- doing missionary work and pastoral / teacher training Bible institutes in various countries since AD 2000 with several hundreds of students and graduates in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Myanmar, Kenya, Zambia, the Gambia, etc.
- a large website and media ministry reaching many for Christ and teaching believers via You Tube and Sermon Audio
- the establishment of Grace Gospel Press in 2010
- the establishment of GIBS Online which provides Bible classes and courses with students from numerous countries
- an annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference at DBC, and
- fellowship and ministry with other local churches of like-precious faith around the USA and world.

God has been very gracious and faithful as He desires His Word to go forth more than we do. To God be the glory. PTL! We are reminded of Ephesians 3:20-21: *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Now that God has directed Dennis Rokser to the Warner Robins, GA area in August 2022, he believes that the Lord is also leading him to oversee and be involved in GTBI along with its director, Kevin Lucas.

Pastor Kevin Lucas {director of the GTBI} has been involved with Christian Education since beginning his first pastorate in 1979. He has served in local churches in West Virginia, Virginia, Indiana, South Carolina, and Georgia. During his ministry, he has been a faculty member of several Christian schools, including as a High

School Principal and Minister of Education. He has been privileged to have written a number of courses used in multiple locations.

Pastor Lucas has been instrumental in the training of over twenty men for the ministry and has established continuing education institutes in every church he has served whether in the classroom or one-on-one. By God's grace, Pastor Kevin seeks to exemplify his life verse, "*For me, who am less than the least of all saints, His grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.*" (Eph. 3:8)

What Are Our Objectives in GTBI?

1. Ultimately, the purpose of the GTBI is designed to glorify God through establishing & equipping believers to be faithful servants generally, and teachers of the Word of God specifically, from a grace perspective through the faithful exposition of His Word and humble service via the local church for the building up of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 4:2).
2. A graduate of G.T.B.I. in the *Bible Study Track* should understand and be able by God's grace ...
 - a. to communicate the great doctrines of the Bible such as the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, the attributes of God, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the ministries of the Holy Spirit, justification, sanctification, glorification, eternal security, the dispensations and covenants in God's plan, etc.
 - b. to effectively evangelize the lost, disciple the saved, and answer basic objections to Christianity
 - c. to discern the important distinctions of the Bible such as the 3 Tenses of Salvation, Entering the Family of God vs Fellowship with God, the Eternal Security vs Assurance of Salvation, Israel vs the Church, the 7 Dispensations, the 7 Deaths, the 7 Baptisms, Salvation vs Rewards, etc.
 - d. to proficiently walk through every book of both the Old Testament and New Testament with an understanding of their theme, flow, historical context, etc.

- e. to grasp the important concepts of the Christian life such as their position / identity in Christ, the faith-rest life of abiding in Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit, how to pray effectively, etc.
 - f. to serve with love and effectiveness in and through his/her local church. (Galatians 5:13; 1 Timothy 3:15)
 - g. to defend and contend for the faith. (Jude 3)
 - h. to be equipped to be a useful curriculum teacher of the Bible in the various ministries God opens up for him / her in or through the local church
 - i. to advance on to the *Expository Teaching Track* for further equipping if they choose to do so after completing this track instead of opting immediately for the *Expository Teacher Track*.
3. A graduate of GTBI in the *Expository Teacher Track* should be able by God's grace ...
- a. to do every objective that was stated in the *Bible Study Track*, as well as ...
 - b. to communicate effectively in speaking and writing in English
 - c. to do first-hand exegesis from the original languages of the OT {Hebrew} and NT {Greek}
 - d. to do consecutive and/or topical expository teaching with clarity and scriptural authority, understanding the entire process from beginning to end (Titus 2:15)
 - e. to interact with technical Bible commentaries and other resource books after doing one's own exegesis of a passage or book of the Bible
 - f. to be used by God to equip other believers to teach others the Word of God. (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - g. to wisely lead with conviction and example. (1 Cor. 11:1)
4. Our focus in G.I.B.S. will be on...
- a. Biblical understanding. (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - b. Personal growth. (2 Peter 3:18)
 - c. Ministry preparation. (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Our Emphasis in GTBI

1. Sound Bible teaching involving...

...**verse by verse study**. We believe every word of the Bible is inspired by God and should be studied with great care in light of its context, its content, and by comparing Scripture with Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Thus, every semester of GTBI will have at least one verse-by-verse expository preaching series / class from the Old and / or New Testament, with an emphasis especially on the Church Epistles {Romans - Jude} and Revelation.

...**maintaining biblical distinctions**. The believer is to be "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15), thus properly observing and interpreting the many biblical distinctions that will lead to further clarification regarding God's plan and program for the Church during this age of grace. We reject covenant theology and hyper-dispensationalism.

... **doctrinal understanding**. It is very important to not only know exactly *what* you believe but *why* you believe it. Biblical doctrine when grasped is very practical and can be taught with relevance and meaning to all who hear.

... **strong preaching**. We seek to teach biblical truths with conviction and scriptural authority (Titus 2:15; Acts 19:8). We value preaching which observes the text, interprets the text, and applies the text, making appropriate applications to those hearing. The Word of God should be practical and meaningful to each believer!

... **the ability to navigate through contemporary theological and biblical worldview issues**. On a regular basis, we are all faced with modern trends, theological challenges, and biblical worldview issues that require interaction and scriptural discernment.

... **with the design that everything that is taught to our students can later be taught by our students**. We seek to teach all our classes with the capability of having these same truths & materials be transferable to the students' local church, home bible study, planting of other churches, etc. (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

2. A Clear Presentation of the Gospel.

We uphold the focus and centrality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as set forth in such passages as 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. The Gospel of grace is not a message that you learn once and then soon depart from to explore other things. Rather it is the essential foundation and crucial element throughout all the teaching of Word of God (Col.1:28) as the believer advances toward spiritual maturity. Even a proper understanding of the Christian life by grace is predicated upon clearly grasping, being grounded, and holding fast to these vital truths of the Gospel. (Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 2:20)

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

Colossians 2:6-7 *As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.*

We also stress in GTBI the tremendous need for clarity when it comes to the Gospel message, and the only correct response to it - eternal salvation by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone & His finished work alone apart from works, law, or ritual (Rom. 4:1-16). An inaccurate or garbled presentation of the Gospel is quite common these days, so there needs to be strong contention & scriptural clarification for the Gospel's simplicity and accuracy (Gal. 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 14:7-9). We teach from the Scriptures not only how a lost sinner *is* saved by the grace of God but also how a sinner *is not* saved by clarifying and exposing the many unscriptural conditions and misleading clichés of our day (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:5; Galatians 2:16). The Gospel is a powerful message, especially when delivered clearly through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

3. Grace Teaching for Godly Christian Living & Service

Bible teaching should never stop at merely knowing sound doctrine - as important as that is - lest we get puffed up instead of built up (1 Cor. 8:1-2). Clear Bible teaching should include a rich diet of

practical Christian life truths and applications in the various areas of life. We have found three doctrinal principles that need special emphasis when it comes to teaching the Christian life by God's awesome and amazing grace.

- ***Understanding the Three Tenses / Phases of Salvation.*** We seek to “rightly divide” between the justification of the sinner before God with its salvation from sin's penalty (Rom. 3-5), from the progressive sanctification and growth of the saint in time with its salvation from sin's power (Rom. 6:1-8:16), and the final glorification of the believer in eternity with its salvation from sin's very presence (Rom. 8:17-38).

- ***Positional / Identification truth.*** It is imperative for believers to know their identity in Christ as new creations in Him (2 Cor. 5:17) and what it means to abide by faith in Him as their Life and resource for everything (John 15:1-8). The faith-rest life (Heb. 4) is anchored in knowing & applying these identification truths day by day, as the Christian life is to be an overflow of one's fellowship with God {1 John 1) and not a crank out from the flesh (Rom. 6-8).

- ***True spirituality vs. fleshly counterfeits.*** The Christian life, God's way, is never designed to be a set of legalistic rules (Romans 6:14), nor is it to result in licentious living (Romans 6:1-2, 15). It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ enjoyed by faith, not a religious performance. The daily Christian life is to be lived in the same way one has been justified before God, by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone apart from human effort, merit, or wisdom (Col. 2:6-7). We cannot live the Christian life, as God designed it, by our own wisdom or strength (2 Cor. 3:5; Romans 7:15-25). It must be by faith in Jesus Christ, Who lives in us and through us {Gal. 2:20 - 3:5). Abiding by faith in Christ as our Life, motivated by the love of God (2 Cor. 5:14-15), and empowered by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:1-5), resulting in serving the Lord and others by the grace of God in the Christian life is our focus in GTBI.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Who is G.T.B.I. For and How Will It Be Conducted?

The majority of our Bible studies and/or courses of GTBI will involve public teaching from our pulpit to all adult believers at Grace and Truth Bible Church as these are scriptural truths that every believer should know, be established in, apply, and be reminded of (2 Peter 1:12-15). Those believers who are students of GTBI, who live in the Warner Robins, GA area but do not attend GTBC, can apply for GTBI, and if accepted, will be required to watch these lessons online {if unable to do so in person} in a timely fashion to stay in step with their study cohort or group, though face-to-face Bible teaching is certainly preferable. This local church-based approach which combines normal church services {Sundays & Thursdays for all GTBI students} and GTBI classes {Tuesday nights for those in the *Expository Teaching Track*} reduces the number of outside times and studies that GTBI students will be involved in by combining both regular church services & GTBI classes as they seek to faithfully balance life's demands and their God-given priorities.

However, all GTBI students {in both the *Bible Studies Track & Expository Teacher Track*} will also be required to take regularly given tests electronically through Moodle with deadlines on the scriptural truths that are taught in these studies / classes. In addition, those students in the *Expository Bible Teacher Track* {which also includes Tuesday nights} will attend & participate in courses that are geared to have a better grip on the English language, along with Greek & Hebrew, to develop a solid exegetical and expository preaching skill-set, to experience personal discipleship interaction, scripture memorization, ministry involvement & development, along with ongoing personal involvement with pastors Dennis & Kevin.

The GTBI *Expository Bible Teacher Track* is designed especially for those believers in Christ who have a God-given desire and dedication to learn the Word of God and a passion to minister for our Lord in specific teaching ministries within or through the local church. Sensing the need for adequate and further preparation and training for those whom God is leading towards a ministry in the

pastorate, missions, youth ministry, teaching, evangelism, etc., GTBI has been established. We do not believe that the GTBI can "manufacture" a pastor, teacher, evangelist, etc. – as only God can gift and enable a believer to do this. However, we do believe that a ministry of this nature can be used to help equip and provide the necessary tools for those whom God has gifted, matured, and led to be used for His glory and the building of His Church.

The GTBI is not designed for glamour-seeking people who want to make a name for themselves. Nor is it for those who want to wear it as a badge of their own spirituality to impress others as if they have achieved a certain status. This is not consistent with God's grace. Instead, it is for the believer whose heart's passion is to grow in grace & be equipped to serve the Lord, and especially for those who are desirous and drawn to preach / teach God's inspired and infallible truths to precious souls for whom Christ died. GTBI is for those who are motivated by God's love to be willing to sacrifice their lives by investing them in specialized ministry to further the cause and Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ministry preparation will also involve supervised hands-on opportunities to serve in various church ministries at GTBC and be mentored by our pastors and others. For those who desire to go into pastoral ministry, missions, etc., an internship upon graduation will be encouraged and highly recommended.

Our objectives are not only for students to be well-established in sound doctrine with an accurate & categorical understanding of the Word of God, but that these scriptural truths would have a transforming affect upon their lives, marriages, families, witness, etc. Since ministry involves the Word of God & people, we would desire that they would become well-equipped for an expositional kind of ministry from a grace-perspective, along with being discerning & beneficial in their personal interactions & ministry to others.

We understand that GTBI cannot give a believer a spiritual gift like that of pastor-teacher – only God can, nor can GTBI make a child of God a spiritual believer – only the Holy Spirit can. Ultimately, each student's walk and growth in the Lord (and their mate's as well) is dependent upon learning to daily abide in Christ by faith and to

orient more and more regarding God and His grace, their position in Christ, walking by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, etc. What GTBI can do is encourage students in their walk, establish them in sound doctrine, and equip them to study and teach the Word of God as they are gifted & led to do so.

What Are the Projected Classes Offered in the GTBI?

YEAR 1

{Semester 1} * Semesters are normally 18 weeks long.

1. **God's Grace on Display** {1 credit}- on video
2. **By This Name - Creation to Christ** - {1 credit}- Tuesdays
3. **Biblical Distinctions 1** {3 credits} - Sundays 2 pm
4. **Romans 1-5** - {3 credits} Sundays 3:30 pm
5. **Introduction to Bible Study Methods & Rules of Interpretation** - {3 credits} Tuesday nights
6. **Scripture Memorization** - {1 credit} Tuesdays
7. **Daniel - Verse by Verse** - {3 credits} Thursday nights
8. **Using Logos & Developing PPTs** - {1 credit} Tuesdays

{Semester 2}

1. **Biblical Distinctions 2** - {3 credits} Sundays 2:00 pm
2. **Getting 'Repentance' Right & Wrong** {1 credit}
3. **Romans 6-8** {3 credits} - Sundays 3:30 pm
4. **English Grammar** - {3 credits}- Tuesday nights
5. **Cults & Religions** {2 credits} - Thursday nights
6. **Effective Evangelism & Basic Objections to Christianity** {2 credits} - Thursday nights
7. **Scripture Memorization** - {1 credit} Tuesdays
8. **Ministry Practicums** {1 credit} - on video
9. **Middle Georgia Bible Exposition Conference** {1 credit}

Summer Class Electives: Church History through the Lens of Scripture; Abiding in Christ; Ruth: Verse by Verse

YEAR 2

{Semester 1}

1. **Bibliology: The Bible - God's Amazing Book** {3 credits} - Sundays 2:00 pm

2. **The Faith-Rest Life** {3 credits} - Sundays 3:30 pm
 3. **English Composition** {4 credits}- Tuesday nights
 4. **OT Reading & Discussion 1** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
 5. **Death - the Final Enemy** {2 credits}- Thursday nights
 6. **Highlights from the book of Job** {1 credit} - Thursdays
 7. **Romans 9-11 - DBC Pastors Conference** {1 credit} - video
 8. **Romans 12-16 - DBC Bible Conference** {2 credits}- video
- {Semester 2}**

1. **Dispensations & Covenants** {3 credits} - Sundays 2:00 pm
2. **The Church: God's Masterpiece 1** {3 credits} Sundays 3:30 pm
3. **Greek 1** {4 credits} - Tuesday nights
4. **OT Reading & Discussion 2** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
5. **Esther - Verse by Verse** {2 credits} - Thursday nights
6. **Middle Georgia Bible Exposition Conference** {1 credit}

Summer Electives: TBD

YEAR 3

{Semester 1}

1. **True Grace vs Lordship Salvation** {4 credits} - Sun. 2 pm
2. **Colossians** {3 credits} - Sundays 3:30 pm
3. **The Church - God's Masterpiece 2** {3 credits} - Thursdays
4. **Greek 2** {4 credits} - Tuesday nights
5. **OT Reading & Discussion 3** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
6. **Training Children in a Romans 1 Culture** {2 credits}

{Semester 2}

1. **OT Survey 1** {4 credits} - Sundays 2 pm
2. **1 & 2 Thessalonians** {3 credits} - Sundays 3:30 pm
3. **Exegesis** {4 credits} - Tuesday nights
4. **OT Reading & Discussion 4** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
5. **Middle Georgia Bible Exposition Conference** {1 credit}
6. **Book of Ruth** {1 credit} Thursday nights
7. **Ecclesiastes** {2 credits} Thursday nights

YEAR 4

{Semester 1}

1. **OT Survey 2** {3 credits} - Sundays 2 pm
2. **We Would See Jesus 1** {3 credits} Sun. 3:30 pm
3. **Expository Preaching** {4 credits}- Tuesday nights
4. **OT Reading & Discussion 5** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
5. **Revelation 1** {4 credits} - Thursday nights

{Semester 2}

1. **NT Survey 1** {2 credits} - Sundays 2 pm
2. **We Would See Jesus 2 - Life of Christ** {3 credits} - Sundays 3:30 pm
3. **Basic Hebrew** {4 credits} - Tuesday nights
4. **NT Reading & Discussion 1** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
5. **Revelation 2** {4 credits} - Thursday nights
6. **Middle Georgia Bible Exposition Conference** {1 credit}

Summer electives: Contemporary Theological & Worldview Issues

YEAR 5

{Semester 1}

1. **NT Survey 2** {2 credits} - Sun. 2pm
2. **Genesis 1-12** {3 credits} - Sundays 3:30 pm
3. **Acts 1-12** {3 credits} - video on Tuesday nights w discussion
4. **NT Reading & Discussion 2** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
5. **1 Corinthians 1-8** {3 credits} - Thursday nights

{Semester 2}

1. **Sundays at 2 pm**
2. **2 Corinthians** {3 credits} - Sundays at 3:30 pm
3. **Acts 13-28** {3 credits} - video w discussion - Tuesday nights
4. **Pastoral Ministry & Scriptural Counseling** {3 credits} - Tuesday nights
5. **NT Reading & Discussion 3** {1 credit} - Tuesday nights
6. **1 Corinthians 9-16** {3 credits} - Thursday nights

*Seeking to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the congregation at GTBC, there may be some future adjustments in the projected class schedule and order.

What Does GTBI Cost?

To those who regularly attend Grace & Truth Bible Church, *there is no cost for classes* as GTBI is a ministry of and to our local church. To those believers who do not faithfully attend GTBC, the cost is \$250 per semester to cover certain expenses such as administrative overhead, handouts, booklets, etc. However, all GTBI students will be required to purchase any books that are needed.

What Degrees Will Be Offered in GTBI?

While we believe that there is great intrinsic value in learning the Word of God (if applied and shared), the faithful student will receive upon completion a degree distinguished by its track.

1. Bible Studies Track

- *Certificate of Completion of Biblical Studies* - 40 credits
- *Associates of Bible Studies* - 80 credits

2. Expository Bible Teacher Track

- *Certificate of Completion of Biblical Studies* - 40 credits
- *Associates of Bible Studies* - 80 credits
- *Bachelor of Biblical Exegesis and Exposition* - complete year 4
- *Master of Grace Theology & Advanced Biblical Studies* - complete year 5

Is GTBI Accredited?

While the state of Georgia has granted us permission to offer degrees to those students who meet certain graduation criteria at GTBI, we are not accredited by any recognized religious or secular accreditation agency, and we are not required to be. Though our academic standards are high and required of our staff and students, we have chosen not to pursue accreditation for a number of biblically held convictions such as our God-given desire to remain faithful to the Lord and thoroughly biblical in our teaching content in all our

courses. Many accrediting agencies require subject matter to be taught that does not fit our purpose as a local church Bible institute or our scripturally rooted beliefs. To accomplish our objectives, our Bible teachers must be doctrinally sound and of moral integrity, whereas many accrediting agencies require that you have teachers from a variety of colleges in order to teach a number of perspectives on any given subject as if equally acceptable. In addition, many Bible Colleges and seminaries have been more concerned about being politically correct and biblically correct in order to qualify for certain government funding for school or students. Instead, GTBI is only concerned that we are accredited by the Lord in our scriptural doctrine and godly practice as “it is required of the Lord that a man be found faithful”. (1 Cor. 4:2)

The Advantages of GTBI

When you consider the ministry of GTBI, there are several advantages to this approach to pastoral and teacher training. GTBI is:

- 1) thoroughly Biblical in its teaching with an emphasis on sound exegesis and biblical exposition by example and training;
- 2) grace-oriented and dispensational in its doctrines;
- 3) taught by pastors and teachers with years of experience who can also personally interact with and disciple students;
- 4) very reasonable in its cost for students or even free of charge;
- 5) is accessible to believers in the Warner Robins, GA area, without having to move from their homes and jobs.
- 6) is local church-based and not an ivory tower, sterile environment of learning, where students can observe or participate in ministry first-hand;
- 7) all teaching is designed to be transferable and easily taught in the local church, the planting of other local churches, etc.

This method of training has been tried and tested for over 30 years and is presently being used in several countries of the world.

What Are the Application Requirements for GTBI?

Bible Studies Track

1. At least 18 years of age.
2. A believer in Christ as Savior.
3. A willingness to be a faithful and teachable student/servant as unto the Lord.

Expository Bible Teacher Track

1. At least 22 years of age. (If you are younger than 22 y.o. but sense an inner compulsion, and demonstrate some relative spiritual maturity and teachability, please discuss your desire to apply for the GTBI with our pastors / elders).
2. A believer in Christ as Savior.
3. A willingness to be a faithful and teachable student/servant as unto the Lord.

If you are interested in applying for GTBI, make this a matter of diligent prayer, discuss this with your spouse (if married), fill out the attached application, and submit it via email for possible acceptance into GTBI at: kevin@gracetruthbible.org

The Local Church Advantage

It is our studied conviction from the Scriptures that the local church is God's primary context and focal point for the equipping of the saints for their work of ministry to our Lord in this present age. And though we are grateful for any Bible college or seminary where the Word of God from a grace-perspective is taught in truth, it is by participating in a Bible-believing, Christ-exalting local church where a believer should be...

...established in sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

...equipped for ministry with training, oversight, etc. (Eph. 4:11-13)

...exercising their spiritual gifts and learn the one-anothers of a healthy body-life concept (1 Corinthians 12).

The local church is to be the primary context for the believer's teaching / training for spiritual ministry and the proving ground of an individual's spirituality, spiritual maturity, submission to the Lord & others as unto the Lord, spiritual giftedness, servant mentality & capacity to be a team-player, etc.

The local church advantage is far more than merely physically housing a seminary class in a local church building. It involves reaping the benefits of a real-life & not sterile ministry context under spiritual leadership and oversight with doctrinal and practical preparation for more specialized ministry for our Lord and to His Church. If it does not work in an individual's life or local church, do not export it somewhere else!

In Conclusion

The Lord Jesus Christ observed, "The harvest truly is plentiful but the laborers are few." The solution? "Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38).

While each believer is an ambassador for Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), some need more equipping and preparation than others. If you sense the leading of God for specialized ministry in your life, perhaps GTBI is for you!

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)