

## What is the Lightbearers Institute?

The Lightbearers Institute is the primary teaching element in the Lightbearers Discipleship Community. It is a classroom setting where over the span of two years, students attend over fifty class sessions and complete two courses: Biblical Survey and Theology and Practice. The Institute seeks to give students Biblical literacy and sound doctrine, equipping them as church members for a lifetime and then stepping away to allow their churches will build upon this introductory foundational knowledge. In addition to participating in the Institute, students in a Lightbearers Discipleship Community live in intentional small groups led by a house leader, meet regularly with a mentor from their local church and are exposed to the work of the body of Christ among the nations. Our prayer is that these commitments connect students for life with Jesus, his people and his plan for the ends of the earth while we use their rental income to fund mission projects in Asia and northern Africa.

Lightbearers is not the church but, rather, exists to serve the local church. This conviction has impact in many areas, including the fact that the Lightbearers Institute is primarily taught by local pastors in order to emphasize to students our ministry's subordinate role and to introduce students to several healthy local churches. Remaining classes are taught by Lightbearers staff members and, in some instances, church laymen and laywomen.

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## Week 12: Eschatology 2 - What do we know about eternity, heaven, and hell?

**Thesis:** What happens after we die is the most sure and enduring reality for every human being, and it will either be an eternity with the Lord or an eternity of suffering apart from Him. However, even within popularity Christianity, this truth is argued, diluted, or rejected entirely. With such debate, many Christians don't know what to believe about eternity, and even for those who are sure of Heaven, they have no real concept of what it will be. How can we long for something we do not know? As believers, we should be filled with joyful anticipation when we better understand the fate that we are hoping and waiting for with full assurance.

**Primary Objectives:** At the conclusion of this session, students should understand: 1) There are two possible outcomes for this life — eternity with the Lord or an eternity of suffering without Him. Much of society and even churches will promote a false alternative; 2) From scripture, the spiritual and physical realities of a New Heaven, New Earth, and eternal life and relationships in a glorified body; 3) That the fullness of joy in eternity will be found in the presence of the Lord immediately after death — there is no pleasure without Him, and we will glorify Him in all that we do forever; 4) The value and peace that comes with an eternal perspective and longing for all things to be restored and complete.

**Key Readings:** 1 Corinthians 15, Matthew 25, Luke 16:19-31, Hebrews 12:18-29, Isaiah 65, Philippians 3, **Revelation 21:1-8**

### Things to Remember:

- The Lightbearers Institute aims to teach Biblical literacy and doctrinal soundness. Christian unity and a love of Scripture should be displayed above the ability to win an argument. On potentially contentious doctrines, we primarily want to emphasize to students the bounds of historical evangelical orthodox faith. You are free to outline your particular opinion on these doctrines, but please acknowledge to students where there is notable legitimate debate on an issue.
- Class sessions usually run for 90 minutes and take place in an academic setting (students seated at tables), but please communicate with your local campus staff for exact details and location.
- In an effort to encourage students to engage with Scripture, students have assigned key readings (listed above), so it is wise to reference some of these readings. We do not ensure students have completed the assigned readings but mentioning and/or discussing these readings, particularly the bolded chapter, during class reinforces to students the need to complete these readings.
- Lightbearers Theology and Practice course follows an outline loosely based on Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology. Please note, however, that students have not read Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem.
- Please prepare an outline for students. A sample outline follows, but please note that this material is suggestive rather than prescriptive. Please use this sample to whatever extent is helpful to you, and communicate with local campus staff with any specific questions you have.
- Our most successful instructors consistently do three things: 1. Demonstrate clearly that their teaching and opinions are based in Scripture; 2. Communicate with students in an engaging manner; 3. Have a passion for the Scriptures and the God who inspired them.

### Proposed Teaching Outline

TOPIC		TIME
I.	What Happens After We Die?	(30 min.)
A.	The reality of eternity — either heaven or hell	(15 min.)
B.	Opposing views within popular christianity (annihilationism,	(15 min.)
II.	The Hope of the Believer	(70 min.)
A.	The promise of eternal life to the believer; What happens immediately after death	(10 min.)
B.	What will Heaven be like: New Heaven, New Earth, and life in a glorified body	(20 min.)
C.	The presence of the Lord as the pinnacle of all joy and gladness	(20 min.)
D.	Living with an eternal perspective in light of these realities	(20 min.)

### Spring Class Sequence

WEEK	DOCTRINES
(1)	Fall Review
(2-3)	Sanctification
(4)	Disciplemaking
(5-7)	Ecclesiology
(8)	Missions
(9-10)	Church History
(11-12)	Eschatology
(13)	Spring Review

### Resources

TITLE/AUTHOR		CHAPTERS
Systematic Theology	Grudem	(56-57)
Historical Theology	Allison	(32-33)
The Christian Faith	Horton	(27,29)
Heaven	Alcorn	
Classic Christianity	Odom	(IV:9,11)

### Additional Web Resource

Capitol Hill Baptist Church
<a href="http://capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars">http://capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars</a>