**EE: Advanced Theological Studies Program**

**Syllabus**

**Instructions**

There are 4 major components to this study experience. Each week you will be required to complete these components. They are:

* Lecture Criteria – Watch the lecture video or read the lecture transcript associated with each week’s study materials.
* Quiz Grading Criteria – Take the specified quiz associated with each Lecture. Each quiz will be graded out of 100%. You may reference the lecture video/transcript during the quiz.
* Forum Grading Criteria – Post and/or comment at least 3 times each week. If each of your posts/comments quotes from the lecture, your opinions/experiences, or Bible verses you will receive 100% for your forum participation.
* Assignment Grading Criteria - Complete and submit the assignment associated with the lecture material your cohort is studying. Do what the assignment requires as well as submit at least 1 sentence describing what you did. Meeting this criterion will result in a 100% for each assignment. This is based primarily on the honor system.

All that is taught in the ATS program will center on Christ so that God is glorified in you as you equip the church to multiply!

**Quiz & Assignments**

* Please complete the assignment and quiz after you have watched the lecture video.
* The assignment has no time limit. The Advanced Credited Track must complete both assignments.
* The quiz has no time limit. Feel free to reference the lecture.

**Accredited Curriculum Track (ACT)**

* EE staff who pursue the ACT option must earn 20 credit hours by completing the 5 “Core Curriculum Courses” designed by EE. In addition, they must earn 20 credit hours by completing 6 “Third Millennium Courses”. Upon completion of the ACT, EE staff must enrol in EE’s Partner Seminary in their region/continent. With scholarship assistance from EE and by completing additional course work required by the partner seminary, EE staff who complete the ACT program would earn an accredited “Master of Arts Degree” presented by the seminary in partnership with EE International.

**Grading System**

Accountability is very important to the success of your learning experience. While this course is being offered on-line, the ATS administrators are able to monitor your involvement in this course. Therefore, please be prompt in submitting all course assignments on or before the end or each week or session (NOTE: a one week grace period will be given to those who experience technical/internet/computer difficulty).

ATS will use the following grading system for all courses:

10% View and/or read the lecture provided

30% Complete the Quiz assigned for each week

30% Participation in Discussion Forum each week

30% Assignments

20% Completion of all required Assignments

10% Final Paper

**Final Paper**

* You are required to write an "Integrative Paper" on the principles you learned in this course, "Understanding the Cults".  Here are the instructions for the paper you will be writing:
  + Include your name and email address on the title page of this paper.
  + Please submit your paper to the ATS website by clicking on the assignment entitled “Final Paper”.
  + Please type your paper using a "Word" document or PDF file.
  + Double space your paper.
  + The paper should be 3-5 pages long.
  + You should integrate what you have learned in the Understanding the Cults course and show how these new concepts or truths can be applied to your ministry.
  + This paper could be a resource you could use for your "Comprehensive Paper", which you will write at the end of the ATS program.

**Description for each Lecture & Learner Outcome Objectives**

* 1 Introduction to the theology of the cults, cult apologetics, and witnessing to cultists
* **Required Reading:** *Unmasking the Cults*

1. Mormonism/Masonic Lodge: This unit would deal with the largest of the classically defined cults of Christianity (classically defined as a group that professes to be Christian but denies one or more essential, defining doctrines of the Christian faith), Mormonism, and with the Masonic Lodge alongside it because the two share worldview, theology, and ritual in many very important ways (Mormonism having borrowed much from Freemasonry) and because Freemasonry is resurgent on the world scene in our day. These represent polytheistic cults.

* **Required Reading:** *Mormonism*

1. Jehovah’s Witnesses: This unit would deal with the second-largest of the classically defined cults of Christianity, which represents cults that deny the deity of Christ while affirming monotheism.

* **Required Reading:** *Jehovah’s Witnesses*

**4.** Environmentalism: This unit deals with Godly Dominion vs. Environmentalism. Godly dominion meaning reducing poverty, restoring liberty, and renewing human dignity. This week we will focus on reclaiming the blessings of Genesis 1:28.

* **Required Reading:** Hinduism

5. Oneness Pentecostalism/Local Church of Witness Lee: This unit would deal with classically defined cults that deny the doctrine of the Trinity by teaching modalism, which though it affirms the deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit denies their personal distinction from the Father, and that also have aberrant soteriologies (works-salvation).

* **Required Reading:** E. Calvin Beisner, *“Jesus Only” Churches* (ZGCRM)

6. Unitarian Universalists: This unit deals with the Unitarian Universalist Movement.

* **Required Reading:** Fantasies, Legends, and Heroes

1. Astrology and Psychic Phenomena/New Age Movement: This unit would deal with New Age and psychic cults.

* **Required Reading:** Ron Rhodes, *New Age Movement*

1. Moral Government Theology: This unit deals with Moral Government Theology.

* **Required Reading: Goddess Worship, Witchcraft, and Paganism**

9. Health-and-Wealth Gospel/Word-of-Faith Movement/Mind Sciences: This unit would deal with the classically defined cults of Christianity that, though they might (though not all do) have correct doctrines of God and Christ, substitute for the true gospel (justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone achieved by His atoning death for sinners and verified by His resurrection from the dead) a false gospel of health or wealth or both by faith and what amounts to magical speech, and that tend toward Gnostic/idealist understandings of creation (the physical world is illusion or subject to direct control by the mind).

* **Required Reading:** David W. Jones, *Health, Wealth, and Happiness: Has the Prosperity Gospel Overshadowed the Gospel of Jesus Christ?*

1. Oneism versus Twoism: This unit would deal with the various forms of cultic environmentalism, including Atheism, Pantheism, Panentheism, Animism, Gaia Worship, Nature Worship, and “Dark Green Religion” or “Deep Ecology”

* **Required Reading:** Peter Jones, *One or Two: Seeing a World of Difference*