

The Ailbe Seminary

The Fellowship of Ailbe



Realizing the presence, promise, and power of the Kingdom of God.

Introduction to Spiritual Theology
Ladders 1.6

Introduction and Overview

T. M. Moore, Principal

Course Introduction

Welcome

The Christian understands that all of life is spiritual. We are made in the image of God, live in a world filled with unseen creatures, serve a God Who rules over all things from His heavenly throne, and know that we are called to make every moment count for the progress of a Kingdom not of this world.

Introduction to Spiritual Theology is designed to help you gain a better overall understanding of the Christian life, and develop a more fruitful approach to realizing more of the presence, promise, and power of the Kingdom of God.

This Introduction and Overview explains the content of our course and how to proceed through it. Please be sure to read this Introduction and Overview carefully before beginning your course.

Course Purpose and Outline

Introduction to Spiritual Theology provides a framework for advancing in the life of faith, lived under the Kingship of Jesus Christ. The purpose of this course is to equip students for seeking and advancing the Kingdom of God for all aspects of daily experience. Our focus is on working toward continuous revival, renewal, and awakening and restoration. The following topics are discussed:

Part 1: Revival

The Christian Life as Journey
Practicing the Kingship of Jesus
A Framework for Faith: Introduction to Christian Worldview
Personal Mission Field
The Disciplined Life
The Self-Watch

Part 2: Renewal

God's Vision for the Church
Healthy, Growing Churches
Worship, Shepherding, and Mission
Disciples and Disciple-making

Part 3: Awakening and Restoration

The Ministry of the Word
Culture and the Kingdom
Culture, Kingdom, and God's Covenant

Each topic is introduced through online videos and supported by reading and exercises designed to help you understand and put into practice the principles discussed

Course Goals

As in all the courses in our Laddership Curriculum, our goal is to encourage and lead you into greater love for God and your neighbors.

Love for God is the motivating force for spiritual life. As we grow to know Him better, we will love Him more

deeply and obey Him more consistently. Consequently, He will manifest Himself to us and through us in all the daily details of our lives.

As we grow in our love for God, we will grow to see our neighbors as He does and to serve as effective channels of His grace to them, so that they experience His love through us.

Our goals for this course derive from these two overarching objectives:

1. To lead students to adopt a Kingdom approach to life, that is, to embrace a way of living each day that allows maximum involvement with Jesus Christ and the resources He has provided for full and abundant life;
2. To equip students to live as channels of grace and truth to the people and culture of their lives, such that Jesus Christ ministers His love through them with greater consistence and effects.

All of life is spiritual, and the more of God's vision, presence, and power we bring into our daily lives, the more we will realize His glorious purpose for us as His people and children.

Course Format and Materials

This course uses a varied approach to teaching and learning. The assignments for each Lesson are designed to take no more than 4-6 hours per week, and this includes completing all practical assignments and putting into practice learning acquired from each Lesson:

Brief video presentations: These are available under the Syllabus tab for this course and are assigned to each Lesson according to topic. The videos introduce the theme of the Lesson and highlight the most important points.

Individual study materials: One seven-lesson study will guide you through the material of this course. It is available as a free download here with the course Introduction and Overview. This study is entitled *The Disciplined Life* and it focuses on making the best use of our time in living for Christ and His Kingdom in all areas of life. See the assignments for each Lesson for a schedule for working through the seven lessons of *The Disciplined Life*.

In addition, students will read assigned the selections in the *Course Resources*, which are available in PDF here with this Introduction and Overview. These include:

Jonathan Edwards, *The Christian Pilgrim*
Columbanus, *Sermon IV: On Discipline*
Clement of Rome, *Epistle to the Corinthians (1)*
Jonathan Edwards, *Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God*
T. M. Moore, *Engaging Culture*
T. M. Moore, *Redeeming Culture*

Additional resources are available with this Introduction and Overview and your schedule of assignments will advise you concerning when these are due.

Personal Discipleship Inventory

This exercise comes at the beginning of our course, to give you and your Course Guide a sense of where you are starting from in your study of the spiritual life. See the Lesson 1 Assignments for how to complete this exercise.

Submissions: After each Lesson, you will make a written Submission to your course Reader, who will review your work and respond accordingly.

How to Proceed

First, make sure you have registered at The Ailbe Seminary by using the Register button at the top right of the home page. After you have registered, login and then register for the course on the same page as the Course Preview video.

This course is divided into 12 Lessons and is designed to be completed in 90 days. Plan to do one Lesson per week. Lessons are structured so as to give you enough time to complete all the assignments and prepare your Submission.

It is very important that you take the time not just to read and watch the presentations, but to do the practical assignments included in each Lesson. These are designed to help you carry your learning into your life with greater consistency and fruitfulness. Your course Reader will pay particular attention to what you are learning through these activities.

When you have finished the course, please provide us a few words of feedback, to help us improve our teaching, using the questionnaire at the end of the Schedule of Assignments.

We hope you will find *Introduction to Spiritual Theology* to be a challenging, stretching, and rewarding experience of growing in the Christian worldview.