**The Bitterroot Collegium**

Spring 2018

Biblical Theology: The Book of Jonah

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The purpose of “The Bitterroot Collegium” is to provide a comprehensive program of Christian education that equips both the hearts and minds of Christian men and women to be more faithful and fruitful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Program Details**

Classes will meet for 1 hour per week and will generally continue from 4-8 weeks depending upon the topic. Topics/themes will draw from the 4 theological “food groups” including:

1. Biblical Theology
2. Historical Theology
3. Systematic Theology
4. Practical Theology

Classes will alternate between the “food groups,” while topics will be chosen based on the needs and interests of the church.

***Class Schedule:***

 The **Book of Jonah** is a literary gem and absolutely unique in the entire Bible. It is filled with satire, irony, interesting chiasms and important theological truths for our own personal lives. It reminds us that God is always in charge, that He offers us second chances, that He is surprising in His mercy and that He is always concerned for the well-being of all people who have been made in His image.

In preparation for each Sunday class, please read the assigned chapter before class as well as taking time to work through the focus questions for that morning.

**April 29 – “Whose in Charge? (Jonah 1)**

 Film: Veggie Tales: Jonah

 Focus Questions: 1) Notice God’s command for Jonah to “*arise & go*,” but Jonah’s

 disobedient response. How many times does the idea of Jonah

 *descending* or *going down* occur in Chapter 1?

 2) How many times in your life have you known that God clearly wanted

 you do something, only to find yourself trying to block out His voice?

 Think of specific examples and why you responded in this way.

 3) How does Chapter 1 teach us that “we can run from God, but we can

 never hide from God?”

**May 6 – The God of the 2nd Chance (Jonah 2)**

 Film: Moby Dick: The Pastor’s Sermon

 Focus Questions: 1) When you think of the story of Jonah, is there anything that

 automatically comes to your mind? What do children’s Bibles and

 story books typically emphasize when telling the story?

 2) In what ways does Chapter 2 resemble the Old Testament Psalms?

 3) How is God portrayed as the “God of the 2nd Chance” in Chapter 2?

**May 13 – Nineveh ‘Overturned’ (Jonah 3)**

 Film: Veggie Tales: Jonah

 Focus Questions: 1) Jonah’s prophetic speech is the shortest in the entire Old Testament.

 What is Jonah’s entire message to the Ninevites and how is it a good

 example of when religions can get “mean and vindictive?”

 2) How will Jonah’s preaching and prediction ultimately mock him and

 how will the sinful Ninevites undermine him as well?

 3) How does Chapter 3 reminded us that we cannot “domesticate, tame or

 control God for our own personal whims or pleasures?

**May 20 - God’s ‘Long Nostrils’: “*Should I Not be Concerned*?” (Jonah 4)**

 Film: Veggie Tales: Jonah

 Focus Questions: 1) Jonah is angry in Chapter 4. What problems do you discover with his

 prayer life? In what ways have you prayed like Jonah in the past?

 2) Jonah focuses on several *divine attributes* (things that are essentially true of God). What do we learn about the character of God in Chapter

 4?

 3) The Book of Jonah ends with a question from God; “Should I not be

 concerned?” What does this question tell us about the merciful heart of

 God?

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