



# Village Missions Contenders Discipleship Initiative

## Syllabus

**Course:** Christian Doctrine and Systematic Theology

**Instructor:** Ken Ainsworth

Pastor/Teacher, Canyon Community Church, Coram, MT

**Overview:** This course gives students an overview of major Biblical doctrines, putting them in context of a systematic theology.

Theology is the study of God and how He relates to His universe through His sovereign will, His decrees and His works. Systematic theology provides a framework for organizing the findings of theology. Theology is comprised of doctrines, which are teachings about God and His creation. The exclusive source for evaluating the veracity of doctrine must be God's special revelation which we have preserved in our Bible.

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

While most evangelical Christians agree that doctrine should come from the Bible, the reality is that the influences of culture and church tradition often undermine the clear teaching of God's word. Students in this course will learn to evaluate various doctrinal viewpoints from scripture and determine which doctrines are absolutely essential to the Christian faith. At the end of the course, students will produce their own Statement of Faith comprised of those doctrines for which they would be willing to die.

While not absolutely essential, it is highly recommended that you have first completed **Bibliology and How to Study the Bible** as the skills gained in that foundational course are invaluable for determining and evaluating Biblical doctrine.

Upon completing this course you will have a solid foundation for further study and will be able to identify aberrant teachings and heresy.

**Subjects covered:**

- Contrasting Belief Systems
- The Target Model for Evaluating Essential Doctrines
- Theology Proper (The nature of God)
- The Trinity
- Christology (The study of Jesus Christ)
- Pneumatology (The study of the Holy Spirit)
- God's Decrees
- The Works of God
- Angelology (The study of angels)
- Anthropology (The study of humanity)
- Hamartiology (The study of Sin)
- Soteriology (The study of Salvation)
- Ecclesiology (The study of the Church)
- Eschatology (The study of the end times)

Classroom Sessions will involve:

- Lectures
- Class discussion
- Student to student collaboration
- Quizzes and Major Examinations (2)

Outside assignments to include but not limited to:

- Outside reading
- Completion of student's Statement of Faith, supported by scripture

**Recommended Text Books:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>ISBN</b>
<i>Lectures in Systematic Theology</i> by Henry Thiessen.	978-0802827296
<i>Charts of Christian Theology &amp; Doctrine</i> by H. Wayne House.	978-0310416616
<i>The Kingdom of the Cults</i> by Walter Martin.	978-0764228216
<i>Great Doctrines of the Bible</i> by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones	978-1433538797

