



PASTORAL MINISTRY: 11PT5250

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Stone
Email: Jstone@rts.edu
Phone: (972) 529-1502
Mondays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE

The

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To grow the student's understanding of what God requires of ministers.
- To discern the call to ministry.
- To prepare future pastors for the highs and lows that often accompany pastoral ministry.
- To equip students with tools for the various duties that mark a pastor's life and service.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Students will read *each* of the following works:

- [Joel R. Beeke and Nick Thompson, *Pastors and Their Critics: A Guide to Coping with Criticism in the Ministry* \(Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2020\).](#)
- [Horatius Bonar, *Words to Winners of Souls* \(Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1995\).](#)
- [D. A. Carson, *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor: The Life and Reflections of Tom Carson* \(Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008\).](#)
- [Jordan Stone, *A Holy Minister: The Life and Spiritual Legacy of Robert Murray M'Cheyne* \(Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2021\).](#)

Students will select *one* of the following works:

- [Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry: With an Inquiry into the Causes of Its Inefficiency* \(Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1959\).](#)
- [Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students* \(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980\).](#)
There are multiple editions of Spurgeon's work available, make sure you read a complete and unabridged version.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1 Reading Report (5% of final grade): Students will submit a reading report on the final day of the semester.



1 Bible Memory Exam (15% of final grade): Students will memorize 1 Timothy 4, in the *English Standard Version*. You will write out the full chapter on the final day of class.

2 Book Interactions (40% of final grade): Students will write two 1,000–word interactions. One interaction will cover either the Carson *or* Beeke/Thompson volume, with the other reflecting on the work from Bridges *or* Spurgeon. Each interaction should summarize the book’s content, analyze the book’s key contributions, and offer specific encouragements the book provided to the student. Keep quotations from the book to a minimum.

1 Personal Retrospective and Prospective on Ministry (40% of final grade): Students will write a 2,000-word paper that accomplishes two things. *First, it is a retrospective* in that it examines any previous ministry models you’ve experienced. Such models are those churches at which you’ve been a member and those leaders who have served you. How have they shaped your ministerial view—positively or negatively? *Second, it is a prospective* in that the paper offers your personal hopes and desires for ministry. What unique challenges do you expect to face, and how will you overcome them? What non-negotiable emphases do you pray will mark your ministry?

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend all sessions. If a student is “providentially hindered” from attending class, please notify the instructor.

WRITING GUIDELINES

Review papers must be double-spaced, use 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and include pagination. Points will be deducted for spelling and grammar errors.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY (Taken from Dr. Michael Allen)

Computers, tablets, and smart-phones are not allowed in class. Think we’re over-reacting? Believe you are a master of multitasking? [You are not. No, you really are not. Notes taken by hand are almost always more useful than typed notes](#) because more thoughtful selectivity goes into them; [plus, there are multiple cognitive benefits to writing by hand](#). And [people who use laptops in class see their grades decline](#)—and even contribute to lowering the grades of *other people*.