



## PASTORAL MINISTRY

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Stone  
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February 20–21 and April 10–11, 2026  
Fridays 3:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE

An old pastor and professor once called the Christian ministry “the most honorable, the most useful, and, when rightly filled and executed, the most happy office in the world.” Join us this spring for Pastoral Ministry to discover the weight and wonder of being a gospel minister.

### 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*.