

# CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Educating and training ministerial leadership*



## **BIB142 Synoptic Gospels**

### **Mission Statement**

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

### **Professor**

### **Course Description**

This course is a study of the The Life of Christ in the Synoptic Gospels from the viewpoint of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The Life of Christ in the Synoptic Gospels helps the student grasp the chronological progression and the spiritual significance of important events in Christ's life. It also stresses His message and His method, including His parables and miracles. Organized around three themes—the world, the Man, and the message—this study helps students integrate their understanding of His life and work with a clear commitment to live by the principles He taught and the values He demonstrated. They are enabled to preach and teach about Christ with greater understanding and effectiveness.

### **Resources**

You will use *The Life of Christ in the Synoptic Gospels*, an Independent- Study Textbook by Mike McClafin as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Holy Bible is also required. Bible quotations are from the New International Version (NIV), 1978 edition, unless otherwise noted. Most assignments require you to access the Global University Library Web site or other academic resources. Instructions for accessing the Library Web site are provided in the Undergraduate Writing Assignment Guidelines (UWAG) in the Student Packet. If you are enrolled in this course for three credits, the third credit will be earned by completing a collateral reading assignment (CRA). This assignment is based on the textbook *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ* by Robert H. Stein. The instructions for completing the CRA are in the student packet.

### **Objectives**

The key concepts presented in the lesson are derived from the objectives. Study each objective carefully as you begin each lesson. First, identify the key concepts presented in the objective, and second, identify what each objective is asking you to do with the key concepts. For example, in the objective, Assess the positive and negative ways that colonialism affected the spread of Christianity, the key concept is colonialism affected Christianity. In this objective you are asked to assess positive and negative ways—or show the good and bad effects colonialism had on the spread of Christianity.

### **Course Procedures**

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives

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## **Course Introduction**

While all four Gospels deal with the life of Jesus Christ, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, called the Synoptic Gospels, present very similar narratives. In our attempt to learn more about our Savior and Lord, we find it very helpful to try to integrate the material from the Synoptics into one unified narrative.

In this course we present background material that must precede an in-depth study of the Gospels. We discuss the date of writing, authorship, and purpose of each Synoptic Gospel. We also highlight the similarities as well as the unique achievements of the writers. Then we survey the development of the various empires—Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome—that provided the historical background for the advent of Christ. Another major factor in the preparation for Christ was the Jewish religious system. Who were the Pharisees, Sadducees, and teachers of the Law? What purposes did the synagogue and the Sanhedrin serve? These are some of the questions we address.

Next we present a chronological, event-oriented description of Christ's life. Thus, you will become familiar with the events of the annunciation of Christ and of John the Baptist before Him, of Christ's birth, and of His preparation for ministry. Then you will study a detailed account of Christ's public ministry, including the greater Galilean and the later Judean-Perean periods. In addition, you will peruse the key events of the Passion Week, Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, and later His ascension into heaven.

Finally, we focus on the content of Christ's ministry. Why is Christ known as the model teacher? What method did He use? What were His topics? You will consider Christ's primary focus on the kingdom of God, His parables, and the miracles He performed. This should help you determine to what degree He achieved the goals of His teaching ministry.

Although this course minimizes practical application and the exegetical study of the Scripture, it provides the framework for you to use when you engage in these studies later on.