

AIM INSTITUTE | PRISON EPISTLES
Course Syllabus
2023 | September Term

COURSE: Pauline Prison Epistles

Course Term: Weekly Zoom Debriefs begin September 5 at 7:00 PM (US Eastern Standard Time) for 12 weeks (no class on September 27).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to the prison epistles of Paul. This class is a survey of the letters of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. We will look at background and history and study the underlying themes in these four epistles. (A detailed introduction to the New Testament is given in our “Synoptic Gospels” course.) Ten themes, some of which overlap into more than one letter will be examined.

INTRODUCTION VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/849093838>

OBJECTIVES:

- Our goal will be to understand more deeply the message God wants us to understand in context through these epistles.
- Read through each book at least once. A plan for reading each book twenty-two times (six chapters a day) during the course period will be available in the Study Guide.
- To be able to map out an outline of an epistle, as well as identity and trace its major themes.

INSTRUCTOR: Joel Guido

Joel grew up as the son of missionaries in Cuenca, Ecuador, which played a significant role in shaping his worldview and passion for serving others. As a missionary himself since 2015, Joel has dedicated several years to serving the community in Ecuador. As an elder in the local church, he is responsible for overseeing various aspects of the church's ministry, and more importantly, for shepherding the souls of the local church body. He currently supervises youth and high school home groups, Sunday school, and the multimedia team, and helps to run the day-to-day operations of the church.

Joel is a nurse by vocation and is driven by a desire to provide healthcare to those in need, especially in a missionary context. Additionally, the recent process of pursuing his master's degree in religion with a focus on church administration has deepened his understanding of theological principles and enhanced his leadership skills within the church community.

Finally, Joel's wife and three daughters are an essential part of his life and ministry. Overall, Joel's unique combination of experiences, including his background as a missionary kid, nursing vocation, and theological education, makes him a compassionate and well-rounded leader in his church community, dedicated to glorifying God and leading others toward Him.

COURSE FORMAT

This directed study format enables you to receive college level instruction while studying at home. (Note, AIM Institute does not offer accredited college credits.) Course elements include:

- Weekly video assignments
- Required textbook reading assignments.
- Contact time with the instructor and classmates by means of a weekly Zoom debrief classroom.
- Study questions are for your personal benefit as well as preparation for the weekly debrief.
- Course will be graded as pass or fail. Bear in mind your weekly preparation will have a direct bearing on how much you gain from the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- The first of twelve weekly Zoom Debrief begin on September 5 at 7:00 PM (US Eastern Standard Time) for 12 weeks (no class on September 27).
- You will receive a Zoom invite by email for each debrief.
- Preparation can be done at any time before the debrief.
- To maximize the use of your time, we will not cover information from the videos in the debrief unless there are questions.
- Completion of the course requires a project, a one-page summary of one of the themes which spoke to you personally.
- A complete schedule with weekly assignments will be sent to you after you are registered.

REQUIREMENTS

- This is an intensive course; students should plan to participate in all class sessions.
- Complete all course reading, watch videos, and writing assignments (approximately one to two hours per week).
- Complete course project: write a one to two page response paper (maximum 1500 words) of what you've learned in this course. This paper is to be submitted prior to the

beginning of the last class session. If class size allows, the last class session will be dedicated to a short presentation of these papers by each student.

TEXT

- *“Encountering the New Testament (3rd Edition),”* by Walter A. Elwell and Robert W. Yarbrough (available on Amazon.com, be sure to order the correct edition)
 - Publisher: Baker Academic (2013) ISBN: 978-0-8010-3964-5
 - Hardcover: 430 pages, this textbook will be used for other AIM New Testament survey courses.
 - Pages in the weekly assignments match this edition.

Online registration form: <https://aimteam.org/aim-institute/pe23-app/>