

Lusaka Baptist Church
Reading Course 1 (RC)
Tutorial Letter 2007/2
Lecturer: Ronald Kalifungwa

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The description of the course

This course provides an opportunity for the student to be exposed to books covering basic material in all the major theological disciplines along with church history, biographies and devotional material.

1.2 The objectives of the course

- (a) To help the student develop an aptitude for reading.
- (b) To expose the student to theological material that he would not otherwise read.
- (c) To give a thorough knowledge of books written by proven guides who themselves have demonstrated competence in correctly dividing the word of truth, in the hope that all our students will become workers who do not need to be ashamed and rightly divide the word of truth. (2 Tim.2:15)
- (d) To give students essential background needed for the second year books.

1.3 The targets of the course

All ministerial students, and all Christians with an appetite for reading are welcome to do the reading course.

1.4 The nature of the course

It is a correspondence type course, with required and optional readings, and questions to be answered. The written out questions are to be returned to me after the completion of each unit.

1.5 The specifics of the course

1.5.1 Reading

There are two types of reading listed. Required reading is for every student. The recommended readings are for those who have more time available. An average reading rate of 10 books/semester has been assumed. The student should make notes of all that he reads, either in a separate exercise book or in the book itself (if it is his personal copy).

1.5.2 Books

The required books may be ordered through Tyndale Book Room (Tel: 01 250014); email: lbaptist@coppernet.co.zm, PO Box 30636, Lusaka, Zambia or through a book shop of your own choice. Any reading matter that is unobtainable will be photostatted.

You may contact me concerning the availability of any material. My email address is rkalifungwa@coppernet.zm. You may also phone me on 01 250014 or 099772100. The only charge made for the course will be the cost price for books and Photostatting. While every effort will be made to keep the price for books as low as possible, the indicated cannot be guaranteed.

1.5.3 Questions

As each sub-unit is approached, the student should read and seek to understand the questions before he does any of the readings. He will then know what is expected of him as he approaches the readings.

The questions should be approached very seriously. Help may be given in answering questions, either by asking further questions, or by suggesting an outline-such help need not be slavishly followed. The students should never copy answers straight from the book. Both notes from the readings, and the answers, should be so organized that they can be filed for future reference.

I pray and trust that you will work hard and find the course edifying and a real pleasure. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address.

Ronald Kalifungwa

2. Course Texts

2.1 Basic Skills

2.1.1 Required reading

(a) Adler, M.J. and van Doren, C. How to read a book. (Publisher: Simon and Shuster).

Note: this book can be obtained from www.loot.co.za at a very reasonable price.

(b) Why we read (Article attached).

2.1.2 Recommended Reading

(a) Watts, I. Logic: the right use of reason in the enquiry of truth. (Publisher: Soli Deo Gloria.)

2.2 Doctrine

2.2.1 Required reading

(a) Baptist confession of faith of 1689.

(b) Watson, T. A Body of divinity. (Publisher: Banner of Truth.)

(c) Knowing God by JI Packer

2.2.2 Recommended reading

(a) Berkoff, L. A summary of Christian doctrine.

(b) Seaton, J. The five points of Calvinism

(c) Milne, B. Know the truth.

(d) Packer, J.I. Knowing God

2.3.1 Church History

2.3.1 Required reading

(a) Houghton, S.M. Sketches from Church History.

2.3.2 Recommending Reading

(a) Atkinson. The great light

(b) Shelley, B.L Church history in plain language.

2.4 Biographies/devotional

2.4.1 Required reading

- (a) Bainton, R. *Here I Stand*
- (b) Parker, T.H.L. *John Calvin*
- (c) Bunyan, J, *Pilgrims progress.*

2.4.2 Recommended reading

- (a) Piper, J *Desiring God*
- (b) Jeffrey, P *How shall they hear?*

3. ASSIGNMENTS

Note: the assignments should be sent to the office of Lusaka Baptist Church, either by email, regular post or hand delivery.

3.1 Assignment 1: Basic Skills

Due date: 31 July 2007

3.1.1 Required reading

- (a) Adler, M.J. & van Doren, C *How to read a book* (Publisher: Simon & Schuster.)
- (b) *Why we read.* (Article attached.)

3.1.2 Recommended reading

- (a) Watts, I. *Logic: the right reason in enquiry of truth.* (Publisher: Soli Deo Gloria)

3.1.3 Questions

- (Why do you think it is important to read? (Give reasons in about 400 words)
- (b) Why should you read Christian literature in particular? (Give reasons in about 500 words).
- (c) What, according to Mortimer J Adler, are the goals of reading?
- (d) What is the difference between learning by instruction and learning by discovery?
- (e) How can you form the habit of reading, according to Mortimer J Adler & Charles van Doren?
- (f) What is the difference between analytical reading and inspectional reading?
- (g) How do you develop the habit of making up your own mind?

3.2 Assignment 2: Doctrine

Due date: 31 August 2007

3.2.1 Required reading

- (a) Baptist confession of faith of 1689
- (b) Watson T.A. *Body divinity* (Publisher: Banner of Truth.)
- (c) *Knowing God* by J I Packer

3.2.2 Recommended reading

- (a) Berkhoff, L.A. *Summary of Christian doctrine*
- (b) Seaton, J *The five points of Calvinism.*
- (c) Milne, B *Know the Truth*

3.2.3 Questions

- (a) Why do you think the Baptist confession of faith was written?
- (b) Summarise your understanding of each article of the 1689 Baptist confession of faith words.
- (c) Outline the Baptist Confession's view on the doctrine of the church.
- (d) Read Chapter 10 of the Baptist Confession and state your understanding of Section 3.

- (e) Write a brief review of Thomas Watson's book *a Body of Divinity*
- (f) Read Thomas Watson's *A Body of Divinity* and comment on the way he orders the doctrines of salvation between p.215 and p.279. Do you think that this is a fair representation of the order in which salvation is applied to men? Give reasons for your answer?

3.3 Assignment 3: Church History

Due date: 30 Sept. 2007

3.3.1 Required reading

(a)