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2540 N. Kansas Expressway
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Bible Institute of Missouri
A Work of the Kansas Expressway Church of Christ
www.bibleinstituteofmissouri.com

Bible Institute of Missouri
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Springfield, MO 65803

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Director: Jerry Sullins
Faculty: Brent Green, Chuck Northrop, Kevin Patterson, Max Patterson, Ray Sullins

General Information:
* Free Tuition
* Two-Year Program
* 40+ Courses
* 2400 Classroom Hours
* Preacher Training
* Mission Opportunities



BIM Informer

Bible Institute of Missouri Newsletter

BIM Contributors (2012)

Congregations (Monthly):
39th Street church of Christ, Independence, MO
Camdenton church of Christ, MO
Carthage church of Christ, MO
Conway church of Christ, MO
Crocker church of Christ, MO
Exeter church of Christ, MO
Freedom church of Christ, MO
Highlandville church of Christ, MO
Kansas Expressway church of Christ, Springfield, MO
Mountain Grove church of Christ, MO
Washburn church of Christ, MO
West Road church of Christ, Mountain Home, AR

Individuals (Monthly):
Barnes, Jimmie
Bilbo, Mel and Liz
Hardin, Wanda
Heavin, Clyde and Robbie
Loudermilk, Carolyn
Sanders, Tiffany

Note:
Churches and individuals who send monthly contributions to support faculty and students are not listed here due to a lack of space.

Did You Receive a Copy?
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BIM Informer

Bible Institute of Missouri Newsletter

May 2012

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THE

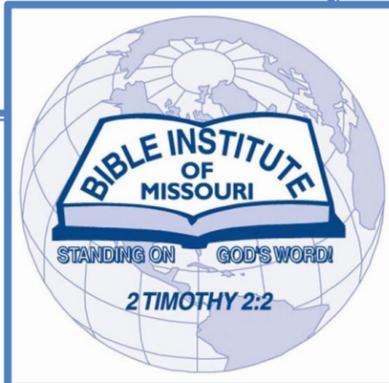
BIBLE INSTITUTE OF MISSOURI 2012 LECTURESHIP

MAY 13-16, 2012

THEME: "WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH." JOHN 4:24

SUNDAY, MAY 13	
9:30 AM	"WHAT IS WORSHIP?" – RAY SULLINS
10:30 AM	"WORSHIP THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD" – RAY SULLINS
5:00 PM	"GOD'S PATTERN FOR WORSHIP" – MAX PATTERSON
6:00 PM	"WORSHIPING GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH" – DARIN CHAPPELL
MONDAY, MAY 14	
7:00 PM	"PRAYER AS WORSHIP" – KENT EAKINS
8:00 PM	"THE LORD'S SUPPER AS WORSHIP" – KEVIN PATTERSON
TUESDAY, MAY 15	
7:00 PM	"SINGING AS WORSHIP" – URIAH GREER
8:00 PM	"GIVING AS WORSHIP" – BRENT GREEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16	
7:00 PM	"THE WORD OF GOD IN WORSHIP" – CHUCK NORTHROP
8:00 PM	"WORSHIP: A PRIVILEGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN" JERRY SULLINS
LOCATION:	2540 N. KANSAS EXPRESSWAY SPRINGFIELD, MO 65803
MORE INFO:	417-869-2284

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2



A Continual Need

Brent Green

The church has a continual need for men who will stand up and boldly proclaim the whole counsel of God. Too many preachers today are preaching something less than the whole counsel or something other than the counsel of God altogether. For this reason the church again needs more men like Paul. He said, "I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). Peter echoed this sentiment: "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). The church desperately needs men—preachers, elders, and Bible class teachers—who will feed the flock the pure and holy Word of God.

This continual need, especially for faithful gospel preachers, is being fulfilled in part by the good work of the Bible Institute of Missouri. For the last almost ten years this school has been adequately and properly training faithful men to faithfully proclaim the message of God's Word. Having graduated from this school in 2007 and now having worked with this school in various capacities over the last five years, I have a firsthand view of just how beneficial the Bible Institute of Missouri is to the kingdom of God, especially to the church in southwest Missouri.

Some men who may have never thought they would preach the gospel (myself included) are now preaching, teaching, and serving in the Lord's kingdom throughout the United States. Others who came to school wanting to preach have now graduated with a solid foundation in the Bible that has helped them tremendously in their ministries both here and abroad. Could these men have gone elsewhere to school? Yes. Would they have? Maybe. However, the truth is that without the Bible Institute of Missouri, many of the men who have trained and graduated may have never become preachers and teachers.

This is why the Bible Institute of Missouri is serving such a vital purpose in the kingdom of God today. Men are receiving a solid foundation in the Word of God, so that they can herald His Word throughout the world. Continue to pray for and support this good work so that the Word of God can continue to be committed to faithful men who will preach the pure gospel of Christ around the world for many years to come (2 Timothy 2:2).

BIM Graduation

Kent Eakins and Uriah Greer are scheduled to graduate on June 10, 2012 at 2 PM at the Kansas Expressway church of Christ.

Evening School

The Monday evening classes ended on April 23, 2012. New classes will be offered starting in the fall. If you are interested in watching past classes, then check out the archives on our [website](#).

BIM Fourth Quarter Classes

First-Year Classes:	Second-Year Classes:
Timothy and Titus	World Religions
Apologetics	The Godhead
General Epistles	Revelation
Preacher and His Work IV	Preacher and His Work VIII
English IV	Greek IV

Combined:
Wisdom Literature II

Current BIM Student Body



Allen Fischgrabe, Jesse Young, Kent Eakins, Uriah Greer

A Search for the True Meaning of Life

Jesse Young

It is probably instinctive for people everywhere to ask themselves this question: "What is the true meaning of life?" Solomon, the most probable person who wrote Ecclesiastes, was searching for the answer to this so frequently asked question. Solomon was the wisest man ever to live, besides Jesus Christ, and thus if any man could find out the true purpose of life, it was him.

The material objects in this life never honestly satisfy man's self-gratification. The word *vanity* is used thirty-seven times throughout Ecclesiastes. It means something that is fleeting or futile. The phrase "under the sun" is used to describe the physical nature of life on earth. This is the perspective people take when they are seeking only those things which gratify them temporarily here and now. Solomon puts this perspective into this summation: "'Vanity of vanities' says the Preacher; 'Vanity of vanities, all is vanity'" (Ecclesiastes 1:2). He again uses this illustration to teach that the works in this life, if entirely focused on physical things, are useless. "One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever" (Ecclesiastes 1:4).

God is in control and does things according to His own purpose. The first eight verses in chapter three of Ecclesiastes make a very clear point. There is a time for every single thing done under the sun, but not according to man's purpose. There is "a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted" (Ecclesiastes 3:2). The message does not teach man is without freewill, but it is about man's freewill working for the benefit of God. God gave us certainty in death (Hebrews 9:27). When people do not come to the knowledge that God is, God has always been, and always will be, then they have left their proper perspective. Christians can take from this book the lesson of renewing their spirit.

Solomon found out through his wisdom the important things in this life are not here but in heaven. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every good work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). This is the key verse to the entire book. Christians should have a proper respect and fear of God and His power. This book teaches what Christ came and taught. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Christians are the holy nation of God, a spiritual people. This book applies to everyone who is searching for the true meaning of life.

Christians are to be set apart from the world. Peter wrote, "It is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:16). Spiritual life should mean more to a Christian than the physical life. How often do people take their focus off of Jesus Christ and pay too much attention to what is fleeting away on this earth?

It is easy to see by a complete study of the example of the holy people of God, whether under the old Mosaic Law or the new Law of Christ, that God has always wanted a special people to call His own. This people is the very body of Christ which should always set their thoughts, desires, and cares on the spiritual aspects of life and forget about the under-the-sun worries of the physical nature in this lifetime. Christ Jesus has promised a spiritual everlasting life with Him someday to Christians who focus on what is ahead of them (Philippians 3:14) and continue to strive at working hard for the Lord. This is easily done by finding out the true meaning of life (which Solomon discovered in his life) approximately 3000 years ago. Every last thing from an under-the-sun perspective is summed up in one word—vanity.

Student Showcase



Jesse Young comes to the Bible Institute of Missouri (BIM) from Sparta, Missouri. He was added to the body of Christ on June 27, 2009. He has two siblings, a brother and a sister. Brother Ted Spencer, evangelist of the Sparta congregation, helped him to learn more about the word of God. His decision to go to the BIM was based upon his love for God, his personal interest in the study of God's word, and his will to do the Lord's work in the best way he can. He said, "I look forward to training as a preacher in the days to come. I love these words Paul wrote to the Philippians, 'I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 3:14)."

[This is the last *BIM Informer* student showcase for this school year. Stay tuned for new articles from our next class of students that will start this fall. More information about students and alumni can be found on our website under the "[About Us](#)" tab.]