

International Biblical Learning Center

What is the International Bible Learning Center?

The International Bible Learning Center (IBLC) is a nondenominational, nonprofit institution of higher learning dedicated to the restoration of the faith once delivered to the saints. One of the principal goals of the IBLC is to make collegiate-level Bible courses available to persons of all ages and educational backgrounds. This is achieved through on-site instruction and distance-learning experiences using materials that bring the classroom to the living room.

The IBLC is nondenominational, yet designed to respect and reflect the biblically proven histories and teachings of first-century Christians. The Center is not competing with any church organization for members. The IBLC was founded to serve the religious educational needs of anyone who has the spiritual courage to base their beliefs solely on the Holy Scriptures.

In view of the educational needs that have been expressed by hundreds of God's people scattered around the earth, the IBLC stands in a unique position to serve Christians around the world. Since the IBLC is nondenominational, we will provide Bible students with a bold alternative to denominational and organizational traditions and preconceived scriptural interpretations. All viewpoints will be honestly examined in light of the Scriptures. If you are a student of the Bible who is courageous enough to prove all religious beliefs from the Bible, you may want to become a charter sponsor of the IBLC.

Purpose and Philosophy of the IBLC

The educational philosophy and purpose of the IBLC are guided by Christ's statement that "the worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24). But what is truth? Christ responds, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

At this critical juncture in human history, we see a world ravaged and in the throes of human suffering in all its sordid forms. We see a world held hostage by fear, ignorance, superstition and the dogmas of man. We see a world that desires peace and freedom, but we live in a world that knows not the way to peace and freedom. Jesus proclaimed: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Peace and freedom can be achieved only through the knowledge and practice of the truth of the Word of God. Therefore, the IBLC is dedicated and committed to the development and dissemination of educational programs that will enrich the knowledge and strengthen the faith and practice of Christians.

Jude, writing toward the end of the first century, admonished his audience to earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. The success of the vicious onslaught against the truth during the first and second centuries makes it difficult to find records of scattered peoples who continued in the faith Christ delivered to the apostles. When one compares the teachings of the Bible with tradition and orthodoxy, the contrast is shocking. Paul wrote that "the mystery of lawlessness is already at work" (2 Thessalonians 2:7). The attacks have continued for 2,000 years, and they have been intensified in recent years. These vicious and relentless attacks have brought forth several "winds of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14), causing great confusion among God's people. The IBLC was founded to provide Christians with sound Bible-based courses to help them to be reestablished in the faith once delivered so they will no longer be tossed to and fro by very wind of doctrine.

Therefore, the IBLC is committed to providing sound biblical instruction that respects and reflects the biblical teachings of the first-century Church of God. These doctrines of the Apostolic Church can be gleaned only from Holy Scripture. They are not the domain of any corporate or organizational structure. All organizations and corporate structures should rejoice in the efforts of any person or group that is committed to teaching and publishing the truth of the Bible.

Love rejoices in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). Thus, any person who is motivated by God's love will rejoice in those who teach the truth. Since the IBLC is not a church, we do not publish a codified statement of beliefs; we seek only to explain and defend the doctrines of the Bible. The Holy Scriptures, not tradition or orthodoxy, serve as the authority for determining the veracity of any viewpoint. The only requirement for enrollment at the IBLC is a teachable heart and determined dedication to intellectual honesty. The students of the IBLC are encouraged to search the Scriptures daily to find whether any teaching of any person or group is true (Acts 17:11). We know that each person stands daily before the judgment seat of Christ and must give a personal account of his faith and practice to Him (Romans 14:10-12). The Father seeks those who are willing to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).

The founders of the IBLC believe individual responsibility for the truth is one of the paramount lessons God desires His people to understand and internalize at this critical point in human history. As a nondenominational institution, the IBLC welcomes the support of all who desire to see a viable institution of higher learning grow and develop to serve all of God's little ones regardless of their church affiliation, age, educational background or socio-economic status.

Mission statement

The mission of the IBLC is to provide Bible courses relevant to the educational needs of Christians regardless of their church affiliation, age, educational background or socio-economic status for the purpose of educating, edifying and strengthening the faith and practice of Christians.

Objectives of the IBLC

The IBLC seeks to fulfill its mission and purpose by:

- Providing high-quality biblical instruction dedicated to the restoration of the faith once delivered to the saints.
- Making college-level biblical courses available on video and audiotapes.
- Providing on-site mini-courses at various locations around the world.
- Developing challenging courses designed to educate, edify and confirm the faith and practice of Christians.
- Providing students with basic principles for rightly dividing the word of truth.
- Designing courses that challenge and encourage students to develop critical-thinking skills.
- Developing courses that will enable Christians to provide an answer for the hope that lies within them.
- Developing courses that will enable Christians to cope with the problems of this life and thus live happier more productive lives.
- Developing courses that encourages Christians to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Administration of the IBLC

The IBLC was founded June 23, 1996. Since that time great strides have been taken toward fulfilling its mission and purpose. The Board of Regents--consisting of John Merritt, M.D., chairman; Linda White; John Robinson; John Barry Skidmore; and Dale Stogner--has adopted articles of incorporation and a set of working bylaws. The regents have contracted with Donald Ward, Ed.D., to serve as president of the IBLC. The board provides visionary direction for the Center in its formulation of policies and programs. *Friends of the Sabbath, Australia* is assisting the IBLC get off the ground in Australia and is the contact point for orders.

Current Course Offerings

For tuition fees and registration information, please visit the Registration area. The Center provided on-site mini-courses and prophecy seminars (August 5-9, 1996) in Big Sandy, Texas. These courses and seminars were recorded on video and audio cassette tapes and form part of IBLC's offerings. Courses currently available include the following:

Full-Length Courses:

Book of Daniel, taught by Donald Ward.
Introduction to the Old Testament, taught by Mark Kaplan.
Life and Teachings of Paul I, taught by Ronald Dart.
Life and Teachings of Paul II, taught by Ronald Dart.

Full-length courses are available on video or audio cassette tapes. The courses include testing and interaction with the instructor via mail, E-mail, fax or cassette tape. Those taking courses at this level will be awarded certificates of completion. The same courses can also be taken on an audit basis. Students will receive the same instruction but will not be tested and thus will not receive a certificate of completion. This audit level is provided for those who desire the precious instruction and knowledge, but do not want to be burdened with the pressure of taking tests.

Mini-Courses:

Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ, taught by Donald Ward.
Principles of Prophecy, taught by Donald Ward.
Introduction to Paul, taught by Ronald Dart.

Prophecy seminars:

Church Eras, presented by Donald Ward.
Place of Safety, presented by Donald Ward.
Seventy-Weeks Prophecy, presented by Donald Ward.

Again, for tuition fees and registration information, please visit the Registration area.

Future Courses

The first round of full-length courses is in the process of being developed. The objective of this first set of courses is to familiarize students with the whole Bible, the issues that face the Christian faith and how Christians can be profitable stewards in God's service. In addition to those currently available, these courses include the following:

Full-Length Courses:

World Religions and Catholicism, taught by Gary Antion.
Book of Revelation, taught by Donald Ward.
Stewardship in the Churches of God, taught by C. Wayne Cole.

ORDER FORM

I am interested in purchasing the tapes and study material available from IBLC. Please send me the appropriate information on undertaking courses with IBLC. Please place keep me informed on developments and place me on your mailing list. **Mail to IBLC, GPO Box 864, Sydney 2001.**

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STATE: _____ POSTCODE: _____

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