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**Introduction to Christian Ministry**

Fall 2024

Teacher: Darren T. Williamson, and others

Location: Southwest Church of Christ, Tigard, Oregon

Times: Tuesdays, noon- 2pm (12 weeks)

Dates: September 3 – November 19, 2024

The course is a practical introduction to the work of Christian Ministers, individuals called to “do the work of an evangelist.” (II Tim. 4:5) Every Christian is a *minister* in a general sense. But scripture teaches certain men have a special calling to serve as a *Minister* (also known as evangelist & preacher) in a local congregation and engage significantly and regularly in authoritative and public preaching & teaching, exhorting & rebuking, and comforting & strengthening of the entire body (1 Tim. 4:6-16; 2 Tim 4:1-5). This course explores the Biblical and historical work of the Minister with a very practical focus, utilizing interactive lecture and seminar-style guided discussion of reading material. Several seasoned Ministers will be featured as guest teachers throughout the term.

This course is for at least three kinds of people. First, the course benefits men who are currently engaged in full-time congregational ministry and would appreciate a refreshing review of ministry basics. Second, the course benefits men who serve in formal ministry (paid or not) but have never had a formal course in congregational ministry. Third, this course benefits all church servants (Elders, Deacons, workers) and will help them minister to others wherever and however God calls them to do so. All are welcome to attend.

**Recommended Text**

* Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students* (Pantianos Classic edition, 2018)
* Jim McInteer, *Minister’s Manual for Churches of Christ* (21st Century Christians, 2007)

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|  | **Introduction to Christian Ministry**  **Class Outline** | | |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Class Title** | **Discussion Topics** |
| 1 | Sept 3, 2024 | The Minister and His Calling | The general New Testament teaching about the role and work of an Evangelist/Minister and how we discern the call to ministry. |
| 2 | Sept 10 | The Minister and the Word | Issues in proper biblical interpretation, preaching, and teaching of the Word. |
| 3 | Sept 17 | The Minister and Pastoral Care | Informal comfort, encouragement, correction, and disciplining of the flock. |
| 4 | Sept 24 | The Minister’s Self Watch and Prayer Life | Spiritual self-care and the complete reliance upon God for fruitful ministry. |
| 5 | Oct 1 | The Minister and Evangelism | Methods and practices of individual and communal evangelizing. |
| 6 | Oct 8 | The Minister and Visitation | Practical guidance for visitation. The easy visits, the hard visits, the importance of visitation. |
| 7 | Oct 15 | The Minister and Pastoral Counseling | Principles, practices, and boundaries of pastoral counseling. |
| 8 | Oct 22 | The Minister and Weddings | Pre-marital counseling & conducting a Christian wedding. |
| 9 | Oct 29 | The Minister and Leadership | Leadership skills, pitfalls to avoid, relationship with Elders & Deacons, etc. |
| 10 | Nov 5 | The Minister’s Family | Caring for one’s first “congregation” and refusing to neglect the family. |
| 11 | Nov 12 | The Minister and Funerals | Comforting the grieving, preparing for funerals, and conducting funerals. |
| 12 | Nov 19 | The Minister and Financial Support | Being a worthy worker rather than a half-hearted hireling. Practical matters (salary, benefits, etc.) |