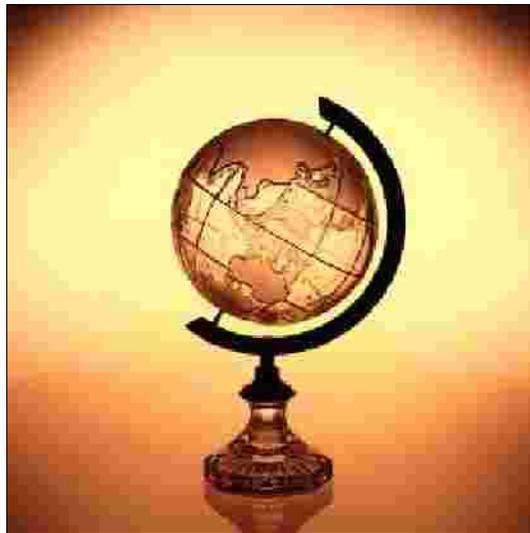


# INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

THE 301 CHURCH OF GOD (7TH DAY) DOCTRINE



## COURSE SYLLABUS

Didactic Ministries Inc. © 2013

All Rights Reserved

**THE 301 CHURCH OF GOD (7TH DAY) DOCTRINE**  
**Revision 9/2013**

**DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine the doctrines of the Church of God (Seventh Day)

**TEXTBOOKS**

*This We Believe*, published by Bible Advocate Press

**OBJECTIVES**

As a result of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the doctrinal beliefs of the Church of God (Seventh Day)
2. Describe how these teachings differ from those of other churches
3. Provide biblical reasons why the Church of God holds these views

**PROCEDURES**

Read the entire syllabus before starting any work and follow all directions carefully. If you have any questions, contact your instructor as soon as possible. Your instructor will also provide you with a class schedule and any deadlines for completing course assignments.

Begin with Lesson One, and complete the assigned reading and homework for each lesson before starting the next lesson. When you finish the last lesson, gather all your completed homework assignments and submit them for grading. If you are unable to email your homework, mail a printed copy for grading, but always keep a copy of your originals in case your homework is lost and must be resubmitted.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Each student is required to submit written answers to the assigned homework questions. The answers will be found in the assigned reading and will always be either a few words or a short sentence. Your final grade will be determined based on the percentage of correct answers.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

- Lesson 1: The Bible & God
- Lesson 2: Man & Salvation
- Lesson 3: The Christian Church
- Lesson 4: The Ten Commandments
- Lesson 5: Marriage & Christian Living
- Lesson 6: Prophecy & the Kingdom

## **LESSON 1: THE BIBLE & GOD**

### Reading

Read *This We Believe*, Chapters 1-2

### Assignment

Write out the following questions and the associated answers found in the reading:

1. What is the object of biblical faith?
2. What are the three categories of the Old Testament (Lk 24:44)?
3. What is the position of the Church of God regarding the Apocrypha?
4. What does the term “omnipotent” mean?
5. What does the Shema tell us about God?
6. Who reigns in the heavens and transcends our ability to comprehend Him?
7. What two natures are united in Jesus Christ?
8. What Hebrew name does Jesus share with the Father (Rom 10:13)?
9. How long was Jesus in the tomb (Matt 12:38-40)?
10. How does one know that he/she has received the Holy Spirit?

## LESSON 2: MAN & SALVATION

### Reading

Read *This We Believe*, Chapters 3-4

### Assignment

Write out the following questions and the associated answers found in the reading:

1. What was the one restriction God gave Adam and Eve (Gen 2:17)
2. What is Satan's number one tactic?
3. What curse fell on mankind after Adam's sin (Rom 5:12)?
4. What is the fate of Satan (Rev 20:10)?
5. What is the final judgment awaiting the unregenerate (Rev 21:8)?
6. What is the nature of salvation in Jesus Christ in its fullness and finality?
7. What does the term "grace" mean?
8. What does the term "faith" mean?
9. What provides atonement and propitiation for the sins of humanity (Rom 3:25)?
10. What provides eternal life for believers (Rom 5:10)?

## LESSON 3: THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### Reading

Read *This We Believe*, Chapters 5-6

### Assignment

Write out the following questions and the associated answers found in the reading:

1. What does the Greek term *ecclesia* mean?
2. What were the four basic practices of the first Christians according to Acts 2:42?
3. What are the two pre-requisites for church membership?
4. What are the two human offices of the church?
5. What are the two ordinances of the church?
6. When does the Church of God (Seventh Day) observe the Lord's Supper?
7. What is the Greek term *baptizo* understood to mean?
8. What is symbolically washed away in baptism (Acts 2:38)?
9. What illustrates humility, cleansing and willingness to serve (Jn 13:1-15)?
10. What two emblems are used in the Lord's Supper service (1Cor 11:23-26)?

## LESSON 4: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### Reading

Read *This We Believe*, Chapters 7-8

### Assignment

Write out the following questions and the associated answers found in the reading:

1. Where were the two stone tablets stored inside the Tabernacle?
2. Why did God choose Abraham to be the father of many nations (Gen 26:5)?
3. Where is God's law written for new covenant believers (Jer 31:32-33)?
4. What should people do if they wish to enter into life (Mt 19:16-19)?
5. What are the two primary attributes of the people of God (Rev 12:17, 14:12)?
6. How did Paul answer the basic question about the law's validity (Rom 3:31)?
7. What is the purpose of God's laws and instructions through the prophets?
8. When did God sanctify the Sabbath day (Gen 2:1-3)?
9. What was Jesus' custom on every Sabbath (Luke 4:16)?
10. What does the Greek term *sabbatismos* mean (Heb 4:9)?
11. Who was the Sabbath made for? Who is included (Mark 2:27)?

## LESSON 5: MARRIAGE & CHRISTIAN LIVING

### Reading

Read *This We Believe*, Chapters 9-10

### Assignment

Write out the following questions and the associated answers found in the reading:

1. What was Christ's one exception to life-long marriage (Mt 5:32)?
2. What did Paul concede when an unbelieving spouse departs (1 Cor 7:15)?
3. How do Christians develop a relationship with God (five activities)?
4. What is the oldest known system of giving for religious purposes?
5. What did God show Peter in the vision of unclean animals (Acts 10:28)?
6. What did Paul teach Christians regarding carnal warfare (2 Cor 10:3)?
7. What year did Constantine order people to abstain from work on Sunday?
8. Which pagan god was honored on December 25 in the Roman Empire?
9. Which ancient bishop kept the Christian Passover on 14 Nisan?
10. What is the word "Easter" derived from?
11. Which pagan god was worshipped by Celts on October 31?

## LESSON 6: PROPHECY & THE KINGDOM

### Reading

Read *This We Believe*, Chapters 11-12

### Assignment

Write out the following questions and the associated answers found in the reading:

1. What percentage of the Bible is some form of prophecy?
2. What purpose does prophecy serve for those without the assurance of faith?
3. What do frequent New Testament references to the “last days” suggest?
4. What is the danger of preaching (only) the “signs” of the end?
5. How may we refer to the present phase of God’s kingdom?
6. Which view of Revelation 20 does the Church of God hold?
7. Where will the saints be taken when Jesus returns?
8. What is the final fate of the wicked in the lake of fire (Rev 21:8)?
9. Which Bible passage specifies the length of Christ’s coming kingdom on earth?
10. Where will the eternal inheritance of the saints be (Rev 21:1, 10)?

## CAVEATS

Although the textbook accurately describes the current teachings of the Church of God (Seventh Day), there are some additional issues that the student should understand.

On page 14, the textbook states, “While Christianity is a monotheistic faith and while God is numerically one, the best biblical evidence points to the fact that He is uniplural [sic] in His divine person. *Uniplural* suggests that God is one in essence but more than one in expression.” Technically, the term “uniplural” is a colloquialism within the Church of God that outsiders would probably not understand. Theologians would use the terms “triune” or “consubstantial” to convey the same idea.

On page 14, the textbook states, “The Hebrew words *elohim* (translated as ‘God’ or ‘gods’) and *adonai* (translated as ‘Lord’ or ‘lords’) may be references to the plurality of God’s nature, as well as to the plurality of His power and majesty.” Actually, Hebrew nouns were occasionally pluralized to convey a superlative notion and are referred to as “intensive plurals.” Although plural in form, these nouns are singular in meaning and take singular verb forms. This is usually the case when *elohim* refers to the one true God of Israel. The Hebrew term *adonai* means “my lord” and is singular when referring to Yahweh.

On page 14, the textbook states, “The Hebrew word *echad* (translated “one” in the *shema* of Deuteronomy 6:4) can refer to a composite, integrated whole, thus allowing for the uniplural nature of God.” The Hebrew term *echad* is always numerically one; while it may be used to refer to a collective noun (e.g., nation, family or church), the Hebrew term *elohim* is not a collective noun, and God is not composed of parts.

On page 30, the textbook states, “The grammatical evidence from Matthew 28:1 given here rules out the possibility of a Sunday morning resurrection, and therefore of a Friday evening burial for our Lord.” There is some debate about the meaning of *opse* and *epiphosko* as well as the validity of the argument presented here; even if the current consensus should change in the future, there is additional evidence that supports the current view of a 72 hour entombment.

On page 37, the textbook states, “Thus, it is better to think of the Spirit as the personal presence of the Father and Son on earth and within believers, rather than as a third person of the Godhead in the same sense as the Father.” Students should be aware that there is a wide diversity of opinion among scholars regarding the nature of the Spirit. For a discussion of alternative views, see the research paper “The Personality of the Holy Spirit” at the Didactic Ministries website.

On page 96, the textbook states that circumcision and animal sacrifices for sins are no longer commands under the new covenant. Didactic Ministries holds that the Mosaic Law was incorporated into the Old and New Covenants. While many stipulations apply only to Israelites living in the Promised Land, others are binding on all humanity, therefore the Mosaic Law has abiding significance as a guide to proper living for God’s people (Jer 31:33, Matt 5:17-20, Rom

3:31). Careful study of the Bible helps us understand which laws are limited to Israel (e.g., the Passover) and which ones are universally binding (e.g., the Ten Commandments).

Technically, the law of circumcision is still in force, but it only applies to Abraham's sons (Gen 17:10, Acts 16:1-3, Rom 3:1-2). Similarly, Paul participated in Temple rituals to show that, as an Israelite, he walked orderly and observed the Mosaic Law (Acts 21:18-24).

Moreover, God has called the sons of Aaron to a perpetual priesthood which will once again offer sacrifices when the Temple is restored in Jerusalem during the Millennium (cf. Ezk 40-48, Zech 14, Isa 2:1-4). These sacrifices will serve as a graphic memorial of the penalty that Christ paid for our atonement, but this duty will fall on the sons of Aaron alone.

On page 137, the textbook states, "Though the Old Testament tithing laws for Israel are no longer in force, the church and its gospel ministries are still supported by a voluntary tithe and the offerings of its members and friends." Didactic Ministries views tithing as a permanent law that is linked to the New Covenant through Jesus Christ who is our High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb 6:20); Christians tithe to the Lord, who has in turn directed the church to support the ministry financially (cf. Num 18:21, 1 Cor 9:14, Gal 6:6).