Course Prospectus
For THL 135 Life, Ministry and Teachings of Jesus

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Overview
Through this course, a student encounters the Judeo-Christianity of the Apostolic Period and explores the basic doctrines of Jesus of Nazareth and his teaching of the individuals he prepared as apostolic leaders of the Church of God. In this course, a student encounters the Gospels in a holistic manner through a verse-by-verse analysis of the biblical text. Use of a harmony of the Gospels provides the student with both a chronological approach to Jesus’ ministry and parallel accounts from the four Gospels. The course is an excellent opportunity for serious students of the Bible to develop a working familiarity with the culture of Jesus’ day and an understanding of the foundational truth of the Church of God which Jesus established.

Course description
This course covers the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus Christ as presented in the four Gospels. Emphasis is on the analysis of the four Gospels in the context of the social, political, and religious conditions of the first century. Upon completion, students should be able to explain the background, purpose, message, and themes of the Gospels and the significance of Jesus Christ in the first century and beyond. The lecture core of this course is a series of recorded lectures presented by noted television evangelist, author, and pastor of pastors Dr. Roderick C. Meredith.

Prerequisites and corequisites
There are no Prerequisites or Corequisites for this course.

Course credit
Three (3) semester hours.

Instructional Objectives
On successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Trace the events and statements involved in Jesus’ life in a logical and chronological sequence;
2. Describe the significance of the words and works of Jesus Christ in light of the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the Gospels;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of God’s overall plan of redemption and the implications of the basic truths revealed in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ;
4. Show the harmony of the four gospels and dispel any questions of the so-called “contradictory facts” found in each of them;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how the life and ministry of Christ relates to prophecy, first-century Jewish and Christian life, and beyond;

Your Instructors
The principal lecturer for this team-taught course is the late Dr. Roderick C. Meredith. Dr. Meredith taught this course to thousands of students over the span of four decades. His recorded lectures, designed
specifically for this online course, help students master the details of the original Christianity of the Church in the first century and explore the basic doctrines of Jesus of Nazareth and his teaching of those he prepared as apostles and leaders of the early Church. He is assisted by Mr. Kenneth L. Frank who serves as the instructor of record. Michelle R. Broussard (LU’s Assistant Registrar) serves as the instructional associate. To contact Mr. Frank or Mrs. Broussard on course details and issues, please use the email feature in the E-Learning system (Populi).

Course Protocols

Technology access
This course requires web access and the student has to have an established email account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. One can download the reader free at http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html.

Students with disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities have a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students having a disability requiring an accommodation should inform the instructor by email (on the “Course Info” page click on the instructor’s name and then select “Send Email”).

Attendance in this online course
One of the most vital aspects of the college and university experience is attendance and punctuality in the learning environment. Regularity of attendance is necessary for students to derive maximum benefit from a course and to maintain a satisfactory academic record, whether in an online course or in an on-campus course. We have noticed that students who fall behind in their coursework typically drop out. Therefore, we highly encourage you to complete your assignments on time as we want you to succeed. Remember Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go.”

Please be aware that all students who fall behind in an online course and do not complete twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total assignments and other required activities for a course, on or before “Last day to withdraw from a course” as set forth in the University Academic Calendar, will receive a grade of “W” for it. After that date, the grade will be a “WF” and counted in a student’s GPA. Moreover, an instructor may drop a student from a course whenever the instructor concludes that a student’s class attendance or punctuality endangers the student’s success or places other students at risk.
Withdrawing from or dropping this course
It is the responsibility of a student to drop a course if he or she cannot meet the requirements of the course. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing from it risks receiving a punitive grade for that course.

Withdrawal requests may be conveyed in any manner to a course instructor, the Registrar, or the Dean of Faculty. This action is sufficient for ensuring any refund owed you. Please note the following:

- If a student drops a course on or before the “Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade penalty” as published in the University Academic Calendar, even if his or her work is not of a passing grade, then a “W” is recorded.
- If a course is dropped after that date, but before the last 21 calendar days of the semester, then the instructor determines the grade. The faculty member will at this time record a grade of “W” if passing (not computed in GPA) or “WF” if failing (computed in GPA).
- Students who drop a course, yet remain in one or more other courses during the last 18 calendar days of the semester, will receive a grade of “WF.”
- Students who completely withdraw from the University at any time during the semester may be given a grade of “W” on all courses.

If students do not initiate the withdrawal process, the instructor is required to initiate the administrative process and to record a grade of “W” or “WF” for the course depending on the date the faculty member drops the student from the course. Students who register for a course as an audit, but then withdraw, will be assigned a grade of “W” for the course.

Terms and phrases
Each lesson includes a set of terms and phrases for you to learn. This exercise is to help you develop and expand your biblical and theological vocabulary as you proceed through the eight lessons and to help you focus on the context of the content you are reading. Examinations will specifically test your mastery of the basic terminology of this course. Many students find looking over vocabulary words just as they go to bed at night and as they arise in the morning helps commit them to memory. Be sure to review your definitions before an examination.

For some terms and phrases, we have given a scriptural link. We selected the NKJ, the New King James Version, as our default for scriptural text. When alternate scriptures appear, we provide the appropriate link as NASB, KJV, RSV, NIV, and the like.

Study tips
Distance learning emphasizes self-motivation. Your instructor functions as a facilitator with you as the driving force in mastering course content. Do not put off completing your readings and assignments. While there are many different learning styles the following strategy should serve the needs of most students.

- Look over assigned readings.
- Read the assigned readings making notes before viewing the assigned lecture.
- Define terms in the assignment. The exams will specifically test basic terminology. Develop your biblical and theology vocabulary as you proceed assignment by assignment.
- As you view lectures complete your notes.
- Complete your answers for the writing assignment.
• Each week review your notes, geographical terms and locations, and the words you defined.
• If you have a question, ask. Questions should arise in the teaching-learning process. By bringing questions to our attention you not only acquire assistance but you also maintain the interaction necessary in higher education. Use the Inbox on your course home page to send questions.

Textbooks
In this course, there are three required textbooks. We also have listed three optional books that we believe can help you consider the realities of the biblical world in Jesus’ day. In the lessons we have provided you with links to electronic copies of various booklets and articles that are either required or optional reading, so your basic cost is the three textbooks. If you decide to purchase the three optional books we suggest paperback copies. There is no cost for the electronic copies of the booklets and articles.

Required Textbooks


For those who do not wish to purchase this volume of the Harmony, there is a link on the Info Tab of the class page under Links for this ebook online. The page numbers correspond with the printed copy.

Optional Textbooks
If you would like to have an optional harmony in modern English, the following has references in the lessons but the order of this NASB Thomas & Gundry harmony is at times different than that of Robertson.


There are four other books, available in paperback, that we believe can be helpful in your consideration of some of the topics in this course and which should assist you in your study in other LU theology courses. These books are optional, that is we list them for your consideration but they are not in any way required. They are:


For theology courses, students must have a Bible in addition to their textbooks. The theology faculty recommends a New King James edition of the Bible (NKJ). There are many editions available, but for student use, we suggest the *NKJV Study Bible* (2nd edition) in either the regular or large print editions.

- The regular edition is available in Bonded Black Leather (ISBN 9780718020804) at Amazon through the University Bookstore for about $22 plus sales tax and shipping charges.
- The large print edition is available in Black Bonded Leather (ISBN 9781418542108) and sells for about $72 plus sales tax and shipping at Amazon through the University Bookstore.

Commentaries normally can help you with a writing assignment. We have found three that have proven useful. You might consider adding them to your library over time. The prices below are approximate. They are:


The textbooks, commentaries and reference books in this course are commercial publications. They represent the views and ideas of their authors, editors, and publishers. Living University does not endorse these publications nor does it vouch for their accuracy. We simply employ them in helping students master the content of the course.

As a Bible student, one needs to consult Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and biblically related magazine or journal articles for information. When doing this a student has to sort out the wheat from the chaff. That is, the student must have sufficient grounding in the Bible to sort out the correct from the incorrect, the plausible from the implausible. This is a critical thinking skill, one we want students to develop further in this course and in all LU courses.

The basic textbook we selected, Elwell and Yarbrough’s *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey,* is a conservative approach written in an easy to read and well laid out fashion. This book has some material that is helpful, and some that is not. In the setting of this course, we want students not only to discern the difference but also to know why there is a difference. Our quest is to help students to “rightly divide the word of God” (2 Tim. 2:15 KJV).

Moreover, in daily life and particularly in the life of ministers, you will encounter people who identify with the thinking of this book’s authors. For example, many if not most Protestants and Roman Catholics believe that the Kingdom of God exists today and equate it with the church or salvation. We hold that Jesus and the Apostles taught primarily that the Kingdom of God was not to come into being until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Part of a good theological and biblical education is coming to understand what others believe and why they believe it. You need to develop sufficient understanding and skills that you can demonstrate and effectively communicate what the truth of God is in such matters.
We will only deal with Chapters 2, 3, and 9 in this course. We plan to use this same text in THL 136 (Acts and the Writings of Paul), THL 332 (The Biblical Text) and other Living University classes, therefore, you should get a reasonable return on your investment. Our suggestion is that you take the time to mark the text, correct errors and underline helpful points, so it can be a useful handbook for you. The paper the publisher selected for this text and its wide margins lend themselves to note-taking. We suggest you use a fine point Pilot pen.

Course Requirements

Due dates and extensions
Submit assignments on or before the due date. No late or make-up assignments will be allowed except for extreme circumstances (permission of instructor is necessary). Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

Icebreaker assignment
To officially begin this course you must complete an icebreaker assignment by which you introduce yourself to your classmates through posting a short autobiography on course Discussions. A student will earn points by posting the Icebreaker assignment on time. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing this course.

- The icebreaker assignment must be submitted not later the assigned deadline.
- Post your biography as a reply to the "Icebreaker" topic on the lesson “Welcome and Overview” Discussion.
- Please read and comment on at least two other bios by the due date in order to get credit.
- Full credit for this assignment will only be given if all three of the above requirements are met.

Do NOT create a NEW discussion. Simply tell the class about yourself and your goals. This is not the place for a profession of faith, or the details your conversion experience, or problems you have had with previous fellowships, as that information is more of a private nature. Here you inform your classmates what you would like them to know about you. As we have people from all over the world enrolled in this course, each autobiography will help us to know, understand and appreciate each other.

Reading assignments
Refer to the “Course calendar” section for information about reading assignments. Final reading assignments are located on the lesson pages at the course website.

Discussion forums
Each student will have the opportunity to post online comments to a Forum question for each lesson. This will enable students to interact with each other and with the instructor.

Writing assignments
All writing assignments in this course should follow MLA 8 format, common to many universities. Documents and links to learn this format are provided in the course. Please cite your sources and use quotation marks where needed. The Files feature on an assignment submission page allows you submit your work so your instructor can have it handy for download, review, and grading.


**Lectures**
This course includes lectures by Dr. Meredith. Links to lectures are on the individual lesson webpages. The lectures in this course are expositions of the Gospels, using Robertson's *A Harmony of the Gospels*, providing students with a verse-by-verse analysis and explication of the Gospels. The focus is the literal content and meaning of the written gospel texts in their first-century context. Students should use the opportunity to make notes in their harmonies.

**Quizzes and examinations**
Each of the eight lessons has an associated online quiz of no more than 20 questions. They are open book quizzes, but under no circumstances are students to print the quiz. An open book quiz is not a workbook exercise. It is a test where the student can consult his or her notes and books. Students have one hour to complete each quiz. Quizzes are multiple-choice questions covering lectures, readings, vocabulary words, and geographical terms and places.

The three exams in this course are all to be taken as closed book; however, you are only required to have a proctor for Exam 3. For more information on the proctored exam, see Proctored Exams below.

**Course evaluation**
Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by email is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. We want to make e-learning courses as effective as we can. At the end of the course, students have the opportunity of assessing the course. By completing the assessment, you can earn points toward your final grade. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student’s experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners.

**Proctored Exams**

One of the three online exams (Exam 3) in this course requires a proctor. A proctored exam is one that is overseen by an impartial individual (called a proctor) who monitors or supervises a student while he or she is taking an exam. The proctor ensures the security and integrity of the exam process. The proctoring process helps assure that the student who takes a proctored examination in a course is the same person who enrolled in the course and that examination results reflect the student’s own knowledge and competence.

Students should present valid government-issued photo identification to their proctor before taking an exam to confirm their identity unless the proctor personally knows the student being tested. In order for a proctored exam grade to be recorded, a signed Proctor’s Signature Form (PSF) must be sent to LU. The form is unnecessary in the case of ProctorU. No graded proctored exam will be returned to the student or to the exam proctor.

Students have several choices for completing the proctored exam:

1. A student can come to campus for an exam. The instructor will establish a specific campus classroom, date and time for the student to come to LU and complete the exam with the instructor or his or her representative. To make an appointment, contact your instructor by email or telephone.
2. A student can utilize a Living Church of God church officer (i.e. elder, deacon or deaconess), or an appointed, minister-approved church leader. In the case of the latter, the minister should provide an email endorsing the appointed proctor.

3. A student can use ProctorU online. ProctorU is a service that LU faculty may utilize for proctoring online exams. ProctorU allows students to conveniently and securely complete assigned exams using almost any webcam. With a computer and approved webcam, a student can take online exams at home, at work, or almost anywhere they have Internet access. ProctorU connects students directly to their proctor via webcam so they can both see and talk to one another. ProctorU can also monitor the student’s computer while they complete the exam. Students pay ProctorU directly for this service. LU does not reimburse students for proctoring fees incurred. To view the demo video on how this service works, or to sign up and schedule testing appointments, the Living University portal is located at www.proctoru.com/portal/livinguniv. For ProctorU, no Proctor's Signature Form (PSF) is needed.

4. A student can use a college or university testing center. There is usually a fee for this service which students pay directly. LU does not reimburse students for proctoring fees incurred.

5. A student can have an approved proctor. This may be a school official, such as a teacher or registrar, or a librarian who is not related to the student.

All university students should present proper photo identification to their proctor before taking an exam unless the proctor personally knows the student being tested. In order for a proctored exam grade to be recorded, a signed Proctor’s Signature Form (PSF) must be sent to LU. Provide the approved proctor with a copy of the Proctor’s Signature Form (PSF) and a stamped envelope with appropriate postage paid, addressed as follows:

Registrar’s Office
Living University
2301 Crown Centre Drive
Charlotte, NC 28227-7705

Grading
A course grade will be determined based on the number of points a student has earned over the semester as follows:

- Icebreaker Assignment (25 points)
- Writing Assignments (three, each worth 60 points, for a total of 180 points)
- Discussions (five, each worth 30 points, for a total of 150 points)
- Quizzes (eight, each worth 40 points, for a total of 320 points; online, open book)
- Exams (three, each worth 100 points, for a total of 300 points; online, closed book; Exam 3 must be proctored)
- Course Evaluation (25 points)

**TOTAL 1,000 points**

Grades are in the traditional American style of an A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning, we believe that the measure of mastery of course subject matter is completion of 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want students to earn at least 800 points in this course. If they do not do so then they have not achieved the level of the mastery we would like them to have. We want this course to be competency-
based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or a B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades. Mastery of the material is what one’s goal should be.

Grades, assigned by points, are as follows:

- **A** 900 and over
- **B** 800-899 points
- **C** 700-799 points
- **D** 600-699 points
- **F** Below 600 points

**Academic Irregularity**

Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another’s ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were the writer’s own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned. In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members may refuse to grade such papers or examinations, completely or in part, and to record each of them as a failure. If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

1. Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
2. Place the student on academic probation; and/or
3. Dismiss the student from the University.

**Course Overview**

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<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Readings (This is not an exhaustive list. Some additional readings will be added during the semester.)</th>
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<td><strong>Lesson 1 Introduction</strong></td>
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</table>
| Topic 1 The Near East in the Days of Jesus | Elwell & Yarbrough *Encountering* Chapter 2 (pp. 21-51)  
Elwell & Yarbrough *Readings* (pp. 17-23, 25-30)  
*Comments on Elwell & Yarbrough* Chapter 2 |
| Topic 2 The Gospel Accounts | Robertson §1 (p. 1) or Thomas & Gundry §1 (p. 19)  
Elwell & Yarbrough *Encountering* Chapter 3 (pp. 53-61)  
Elwell & Yarbrough *Readings* (pp. 30-37)  
*Comments on Elwell & Yarbrough* Chapter 3 |
| Topic 3 His Pre-Existence and Birth Preparations | Robertson §2 (p. 2)  
Armstrong *Is Jesus God?*  
Meredith *Who Was the God of the Old Testament*?  
Meredith *Your Ultimate Destiny* |
| Topic 4 Jesus’ Birth, Boyhood, and Baptism by John | Robertson §§3-24 (pp. 3-20)  
Ogwyn *Is Christmas Christian?* |
| **Lesson 2 Christ at Jerusalem, in Samaria and His Arrival at Galilee** |                                                                                                  |
| Topic 1 The Temptation & His Travel to Capernaum | Robertson §§25-30 (pp. 20-24)  
Meredith *Do You Believe the True Gospel?* |
Lesson 3 Beginning of Christ’s Ministry in Galilee

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<td>Meredith What Is a True Christian?</td>
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EXAM 1 Covering Lessons 1-3.

Lesson 4 Jewish Conflicts & The Kingdom of God

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<td>Comments on Elwell &amp; Yarbrough Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Topic 2</td>
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<td>Public Rejection by Jewish Leaders</td>
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<td>Parables and The Kingdom of God</td>
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<td>Meredith God’s Kingdom is a REAL Government!</td>
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<td>Ogwyn Lessons from the Parables of the Kingdom</td>
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Lesson 5 The Ministry of Christ Around Galilee

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Lesson 6 Concluding Ministry in Judea, Perea and Jerusalem (Nov. 8-21)

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<td>Ames Have You Committed the Unpardonable Sin?</td>
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<td>Perean Ministry</td>
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<td>Buth That Small-fry Herod Antipas, or When a Fox is Not a Fox</td>
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<td>Topic 3</td>
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<td>Lazarus and the Rich Man/Resurrection of Lazarus</td>
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<td>At Jerusalem Before Passover</td>
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<td>Meredith Prophecy Fulfilled: God’s Hand in World Affairs</td>
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## EXAM 2 Covering Lessons 4-6.

### Lesson 7 The Last Supper, His Arrest and Trial

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<td>Topic 4 Jesus’ Trial</td>
<td>Robertson §§154-162 (pp. 209-226)</td>
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<td>Hoeh Twelve Reasons Why Jesus’ Trial was Illegal</td>
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### Lesson 8 The Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic 1 The Crucifixion and Burial</th>
<th>Robertson §§163-168 (pp. 226-238)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Germano Draft Section of The First Christians Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Tzaferis “Crucifixion: The Archaeological Evidence” Biblical Archaeology Review 11:01 (Jan/Feb 1985)</td>
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<td>Kloner “did a Rolling Stone Close Jesus’ Tomb?” Biblical Archaeology Review 25:05 (Sep/Oct 1999)</td>
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<td>Topic 2 The Resurrection</td>
<td>Robertson §§169-172 (pp. 239-242)</td>
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<td>Ogwyn The Resurrection Was Not on Easter Sunday!</td>
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<td>Topic 3 Post-Resurrection Appearances</td>
<td>Robertson §§173-183 (pp. 242-251)</td>
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<td>Elwell &amp; Yarbrough Encountering Chapter 8 (pp. 118-119)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic 4 The Ascension</td>
<td>Robertson § 184 (pp. 251-252)</td>
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## EXAM 3 Covering Lessons 7-8. PROCTOR REQUIRED.