
THE538 The Theology of Knowing (Graduate)

3 credits

Description:

Do you know how you know? Have you ever sat down and consciously examined your system for knowing what the truth is in any area? Have you ever thought about the possibility that God has a way that He wants you to learn the Truth, and that any other way might leave you in the dark?

That is the purpose of this course: to look at some of the standards we might have used in the past and ones we may embrace now to determine how reliable they are. But most importantly, we will meditate on the Scriptures to find out what God has to say about Truth and how it is known. You will have the opportunity to evaluate your personal paradigm in the light of the Word and give the Spirit a place to teach you a new one in which He is central. (Prerequisite: REN103/503 Communion with God)

Course Objectives

Academic:

- When you complete this course, you will:
 - Quote of the following Scriptures in the translation indicated:
 - ✓ John 14:6
 - ✓ 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11 BSB
 - ✓ John 16:13

- ✓ Proverbs 2:6
 - ✓ Isaiah 1:18
 - ✓ Colossians 2:3
 - ✓ Hebrews 10:14 NIV
 - ✓ Psalm 119:130 NASB
 - ✓ Psalm 119:18
 - ✓ 1 Timothy 1:5 NASB
 - ✓ Jeremiah 7:24 NASB 1995
- You will discuss what it means that Truth is not detached information but is found in a Person.
 - You will embrace the desert experience as an essential part of the Spirit's guiding you into Truth.
 - You will state the biblical goal of "knowing."
 - You will discuss the price you will pay if you do not love the Truth.
 - You will discuss the options you have when you know the Truth, and choose wisely.
 - You will discuss and accept the price you may have to pay if you do love the Truth above all else.
 - You will commit to becoming intimate with the Truth so you can be free.
 - You will establish safety nets in your search for Truth.
 - You will state and reject seven lies satan uses to steal the Bible and the Spirit from us.
 - You will have faith that you can know the Truth through the illumination of the Holy Spirit.
 - You will explain the difference between "true knowledge" and "what is falsely called knowledge."
 - You will always seek true knowledge, not settling for anything less.
 - You will put God's approval above man's approval.

- You will discuss what God wants you to do with your brain.
- You will purpose in your spirit that you will only reason together with God in the future.
- You will state and rejoice in the twelve exchanges that Jesus accomplished for you on the cross.
- You will see yourself as flawless because you are complete in Christ.
- You will discuss the meaning of the Greek word translated “study” in the King James Version of 2 Timothy 2:15 and the meaning of the word “study” at the time the King James Version was written.
- You will state and practice all the facets of meaning included in the Greek and Hebrew words translated “meditate” as you meditate on the Scriptures.
- You will discuss and use the seven steps of biblical meditation.
- You will discuss the role of religious instruction in knowing how to draw near to God.
- You will allow the adversities that come into your life to purify you and strengthen your faith, accomplishing all that the Lord wants to do within you.
- You will honor the teachers in your life who are equipping you for the work of ministry, building you up, and helping you reach spiritual maturity.
- You will discuss the importance of using a biblical epistemology.
- You will state and use the Leader’s Paradigm for making decisions and discovering Truth.
- You will have an epistemology for discovering truth about issues not mentioned in the Bible.
- You will discuss the spheres of authority that God has established.

Course Texts:

How Do YOU Know? teaching series – Mark Virkler

LEARN How Do YOU Know? – Mark and Patti Virkler

How Do You Know? – Mark and Patti Virkler

Sound Doctrine Through Revelation Knowledge – Dr. Gary Greig and Dr. Mark Virkler

Course Requirements:

1. Carefully listen to or watch the entire teaching series “*How Do YOU Know?*” by Mark Virkler as assigned, taking notes.
2. Prayerfully complete the entire *LEARN How Do YOU Know?* as assigned. Write out all verses, answer all questions and complete all two-way journaling. The “Personal Application and Journaling” exercises at the end of each Chapter will be submitted to your instructor.
3. Prayerfully complete the entire *How Do YOU Know?* textbook as assigned. Only some of the exercises will be submitted to your instructor so read the instructions in each lesson carefully! NOTE: The full *How Do YOU Know?* Workbook is an in-depth examination of what the Bible teaches about “how one knows.” Mark Virkler meditated on 5,500 verses in preparation for writing the book, and he will guide you through a few thousand of them to see what approaches the Bible says we are to use in discovering Truth. The video sessions and *LEARN* are a distillation and practical explanation of the revelation he received. The full book is designed for you to allow the Spirit to give you revelation for yourself so that you may fully own it. It is Scripture-heavy and requires you to give the Spirit time to speak to you.

4. Prayerfully read the entire *Sound Doctrine Through Revelation Knowledge* text as assigned and answer the “Personal Application” questions at the end of each chapter. These answers will be submitted to your instructor. (Your instructor can be the person you share them with as you are told to do in the questions.)
5. Earn at least a “B” on the two tests.
6. Submit a paper describing the epistemology that the Lord has taught you and that you will use to discover Truth in the future. Biblically support your position. This paper is to be a minimum of three pages and is due in the final lesson.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

Lesson One

Reminder: Save your answers into a digital document to be emailed to your instructor. Use Microsoft Word, Google Docs, any other word processor or even just save it as an email draft or in the Notes application of your mobile device. Handwritten work will be not be accepted without prior approval from your instructor.

Assignment to be completed:

Listen to or watch teaching Session One. It would be wise to take notes as you do.

Complete Chapter One of the LEARN *How Do You Know?* notebook. Complete all “Personal Application and Journaling” exercises. These will be submitted to your instructor.

Read the Preface and Introduction of the *How Do YOU Know?* full workbook, and complete Chapters One and Two according to the instructions in the text. NOTE: This main workbook does not follow the order of the video sessions and LEARN chapters. Therefore, there will not be a direct correlation between the two parts of the course. However, they complement and build on each other so that by the end of the course, you will have a strong, solid foundation in biblical epistemology.

Assignments to be submitted to your instructor from *How Do YOU Know?* workbook: Chapter One “Group Activities” questions 4, 5, 6, 7; Chapter Two summaries from pages 9 and 13 plus journaling “Assignment” #3.

Prayerfully read Chapter 1 of *Sound Doctrine Through Revelation Knowledge*. Answer the “Personal Application” questions at the end of the chapter. These will be submitted to your instructor.

Memorize John 14:6 – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Complete and correct the Self-Test.

Subjects to be explored:

Do You Know How You Know?

How I Have Known

“Truth” Biblically Speaking

Revelation Knowledge vs Reasoned Knowledge and the Implications for Bible Schools

Related objectives:

- You will quote John 14:6.
- You will recognize paradigms you have used in the past to discover truth.
- You will discuss what it means that Truth is not detached information but is found in a Person.
- You will embrace the desert experience as an essential part of the Spirit’s guiding you into Truth.
- You will state the biblical goal of “knowing.”
- You will discuss the meaning of the Hebrew word lamad and what a lamad method of learning looks like.

Self-Test

1. Quote John 14:6.
2. Truth can be found in detached knowledge. True / False
3. Biblically speaking, knowledge arises from _____
_____.
4. _____ is the chief cornerstone of biblical epistemology.
5. Truth can best be discovered through man's logic and reason.
True / False
6. Revelation of Truth may come to us: (select all of the following that are true)
 - When the Spirit opens Scripture to us.
 - Through spontaneous flow of thoughts from the Spirit.
 - Through dreams and visions.
 - Through His creation.
 - Through divinely ordained encounters.
 - Through teachers He has placed in the body.
 - By our own efforts.
7. The Lord chose to prepare many of His leaders such as Moses, David, John the Baptist, and Paul:
 - By giving them opportunities to study with leading scholar
 - By leading them into the largest cities of their time so they were exposed to the best their culture had to offer.
 - By leading them into the desert where He taught them one-to-one.
8. The biblical goal of "knowing" is:
 - To have proof texts for your theology.
 - To know God's thoughts through the Spirit.
 - To grow into a position of leadership.

Answers to Self-Test

1. Quote John 14:6
Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
2. Truth can be found in detached knowledge. False
3. Biblically speaking, knowledge arises from personal encounter.
4. Revelation knowledge is the chief cornerstone of biblical epistemology.
5. Truth can best be discovered through man’s logic and reason.
 True
 False
6. Revelation of Truth may come to us: (select all of the following that are true)
 When the Spirit opens Scripture to us.
 Through spontaneous flow of thoughts from the Spirit.
 Through dreams and visions.
 Through His creation.
 Through divinely ordained encounters.
 Through teachers He has placed in the body.
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8. The biblical goal of “knowing” is:
 To have proof texts for your theology.
 To know God’s thoughts through the Spirit.
 To grow into a position of leadership.