



Spring 2026 Course Catalog

Theology 240 – Theology of Suffering (1 credit)

This course examines the biblical theology of suffering with attention to themes developed across the New Testament. The course traces how Scripture presents suffering as a defining feature of the Christian life in the present age. Topics include suffering as a part of Christian identity, suffering and ministry, suffering and sanctification, divine providence in suffering, the role of suffering in the church's witness to the world, suffering and spiritual warfare, and the role of the church in bearing suffering together. Throughout, the course also considers the relationship between suffering and eschatological hope, showing how present affliction prepares believers for future glory and the consummation of God's kingdom. Assessments include quizzes, a final exam, weekly exercises designed to help students reflect upon and implement what they learn each week, and a final ministry/service project of the student's choice. Guidance for each assignment and options for the final assignment will be presented in class.

Spring 2025 Course Details:

Days and Times:	Fridays from 5pm-7pm
Location:	Hope Community Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Room 105.
Meeting Dates:	05/08/2026 – 06/26/2026.
Course Tuition:	\$75
Prerequisites:	None

Required Reading Materials:

- Bible (unless otherwise specified, you may use the translation of your choice)
 - Lecture notes and quiz blanks will use the ESV translation.
- [Suffering: A Biblical and Historical Approach, Craig S. Keener, ISBN: 978-1540969439](#)

Course Instructor:

- Professor: Michael Jones
 - o Instructor Profile: Michael R. Jones is originally from the deep South and has lived in Metro Detroit since 2000. He is a graduate of William Tyndale College, Michigan Theological Seminary, Moody Theological Seminary – Michigan, where he received the Faculty Award in Systematic Theology, and the University of Chester where he wrote his dissertation on Paul's theology of suffering. He has served as pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Taylor, MI since 2000 and is a long-time board member of the largest food pantry in Michigan. He and his wife, Tondra, have two grown children.

Ministry 110 – Christian Life & Discipline (3 credits)

This course covers seven main areas of Christian discipline: Scripture, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, worship, Christian service, and stewardship. The course is structured with lectures and discussions on these topics with an emphasis on personal application. The class time also features interactions with experienced Christians sharing from their life and walk with Christ. Evaluation will be based on four written exercises (4-6 page papers) and completion of the assigned reading material. The papers will be on the following topics: biblical lessons from the book of Titus, the Christian life and disciplines, and two papers on spiritual lessons from biographical examples.

Spring 2026 Course Details:

Days and Times: Mondays & Thursdays from 7pm-10pm
Location: Hope Community Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Room 105.
Meeting Dates: 05/11/2026 – 07/02/2026.
Memorial Day Break: 05/25/2026.
Course Tuition: \$225
Prerequisites: None

Required Reading Materials:

- Bible (unless otherwise specified, you may use the translation of your choice)
- [Rees Howells: Intercessor, Norman Grubb, ISBN: 978-1619582286](#)
- [The Calvary Road, Roy Hessian, ISBN: 978-1444455663](#)
- *One of the following:*
 - [A Voice in the Wilderness, Loran Helm, ASIN: B000HAVWEG](#)
 - [Appointment in Jerusalem, Derek & Lydia Prince, ISBN: 978-1603745741](#)
 - [The Normal Christian Life, Watchman Nee, ISBN: 978-0842347105](#)
 - [The Father Heart of God, Floyd McClung, ISBN: 978-0736912150](#)

Course Instructor:

- Professor: Paul Manwiller
 - o Instructor Profile: Paul Manwiller grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. He went to the University of Michigan and later Wayne State University to earn his bachelor's in education. He went on to earn his Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He has been a pastor for over 30 years, first in a bush village in Alaska and then in church-planting efforts in the Detroit area. Since 1993, he has served as the founding pastor of Hope Community Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan.