

THE MASTER'S SEMINARY

...the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

"Preach the Word"

4 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in

Ro 4:23-24; 2Pe 1:20; 17-1Ti 6:1-2Ti 2:21; Heb 1:2-3; 4:1-1Ti 5:21-2Ti 2:14-Ac 10:42; 2Th 2:9-2Ti 1:10-4:3; 2Li all; Gal 6:6; Col 4:3; 1Th 1:6-1Ti 5:20; Tit 1:13; 2-15-2Ti 3:10; 3-2Ti 3:1-1Ti 1:10-2Ti 1:13; 4-2Th 2:11; Tit 1:14-1Ti 1:4; 5-1Pe 1:13-2Ti 1:8-Ac 21:8-9

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM



“Since there is no higher calling in life than to be a proclaimer of God’s Word, there is no more worthy enterprise than training faithful men to carry out that charge.”

“A low view of the functions of the ministry will naturally carry with it a low conception of the training necessary for it....And a high view of the functions of the ministry on evangelical lines inevitably produces a high conception of the training which is needed to prepare men for the exercise of these high functions.”¹ This century-old quote by Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield summarizes why The Master’s Seminary (TMS) offers a Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) degree. In fact, it is why The Master’s Seminary exists. Since there is no higher calling in life than to be a proclaimer of God’s Word, there is no more worthy enterprise than training faithful men to carry out that charge.

Upon graduation, men from TMS are uniquely equipped to serve the Lord as pastors, professors, and missionaries. The truth is, churches, Christian colleges, and seminaries around the world are in need of such leaders—men faithful to Christ and His church; men called by God, prepared to lead others in the Savior’s service; men with a deep conviction that they are under a divine mandate to teach God’s Word to others. These are the leaders for whom we designed our Th.D. program.

For more than two decades, The Master’s Seminary has been producing godly leaders—sending them to pulpits and peoples around the globe. Having laid a firm foundation of academic excellence and practical ministry opportunities, our dedicated and accomplished faculty is well-prepared to “equip the clergy to minister to a media age without elevating self-image above Christ’s centrality.”²

Keeping the person and work of Jesus Christ in the forefront of our training is how we ensure that every Th.D. student has the proper perspective to interact with today’s world. From our program distinctives to our firm belief that it is solely God’s power that changes lives, we see God’s grace working at TMS both in the classroom and in the individual lives of men. Indeed, grace transcends scholarship—it develops spiritual understanding,

love, and wisdom. One writer described the early Princeton theologians as “men of intelligence, theological insight, pastoral concern, and practical wisdom.”³ We’re convinced that our Th.D. program will produce such men—men who persevere in Christ’s service, preaching and teaching God’s Word. This confidence comes from our deep conviction that Scripture is powerful and effective in equipping the man of God for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17).

The program’s creative blend of the best elements of European and American models provides the student with a framework that allows the curriculum to be tailored to the individual student’s dissertation.

Areas of Specialization

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Systematic Theology

Academic and Spiritual Standards

The Master’s Seminary’s Th.D. program is characterized by high standards regarding academic quality, spiritual vitality, and ministerial integrity. Located on the campus of Grace Community Church—pastored by world-renowned preacher and author, Dr. John MacArthur—TMS offers students the opportunity to observe and minister in a local church environment committed to the same high standards.

Just as the call to enter full-time ministry is not for everyone, neither is our doctoral program. We offer only a select number of highly qualified students the opportunity to attain the apex of theological training. Carl F. H. Henry once advised seminary administrators to “discontinue any program that makes every preacher think he ought to have a doctorate.”⁴ For our Th.D. program we want faithful men of the Word who are characterized by grace, holiness, and endurance. Our three-to-five-year program (including writing qualifying exams and completing residency) is predicated upon previous completion of a validated Master of Theology degree.

“Where the languages are not prized and pursued, care in biblical observation and biblical thinking and concern for truth decreases.”

Biblical Languages

A distinctive of our doctoral program is that it is founded upon the study of the original language texts of Scripture and a comprehension of the entire sweep of historical, biblical, and systematic theology. It is our conviction that expertise in the biblical languages makes Scripture clearer to the expositor and helps him avoid the pitfalls of erroneous translations and misleading commentaries. We agree with John Piper, “Where the languages are not prized and pursued, care in biblical observation and biblical thinking and concern for truth decreases.”⁵

One-on-One Mentoring

The basic architecture of this program consists of one-on-one mentoring coordinated with directed studies, research seminars, and the writing and defense of a dissertation. The program’s creative blend of the best elements of European and American models provides the student with a framework that allows the curriculum to be tailored to the individual student’s dissertation. Students will develop depth by engaging in original research specializing in an area of biblical and theological study. At the same time, the breadth of their knowledge will be expanded beyond the scope of their specific discipline. Our goals for the Th.D. student include proficiency in exegesis, exposition, classroom teaching, and writing.

The Doctor of Theology program is designed for individuals preparing to continue in or to enter vocations requiring ordination. Our emphasis is on training the next generation of professors to staff seminary and college/university Biblical Studies faculties—especially for assignments in educational institutions requiring doctoral-level credentials. Our doctoral program provides teachers and pastors an opportunity to sharpen their exegetical and theological skills beyond Master of Theology studies.

Doctoral Faculty

Our superb faculty ensures the depth, intensity, specialization, and scholarship of the Th.D. program at The Master's Seminary. All are seasoned, graduate-level faculty with terminal degrees in their disciplinary area. In addition, they are published authors.

To insure academic excellence, doctoral dissertations will feature two TMS professors as readers plus a third reader from an external institution. Leading professors at a number of recognized institutions have indicated their willingness to participate as external readers in their area of specialty.

Program Resources

A world-class theological research library, pertinent information technologies, and state-of-the-art facilities provide the resources required by our Th.D. program. The library houses over 250,000 volumes and more than 600 periodical titles. Computer access and special collections provide our faculty and student body with up-to-date resources.



The doctoral program faculty (from left to right):

Dr. Richard L. Mayhue, Dr. F. David Farnell, Dr. Irvin A. Busenitz,
Dr. William D. Barrick, Dr. Michael A. Grisanti, Dr. Paul W. Felix,
Dr. James R. Mook, Dr. Kelly T. Osborne, Dr. Michael J. Vlach,
Dr. Bryan J. Murphy

¹ B.B. Warfield, "Our Seminary Curriculum," in *Selected Shorter Writings*, ed. J. E. Meeter (Phillipsburg, PA: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1970), 1:369.

² Carl F. H. Henry, "Preparing to Serve the Church: Advice and Comments from Carl F. H. Henry," *Christianity Today* 25/3 (Feb 6, 1981), 22 [158].

³ Mark A. Noll, "The Princeton Theology," in *The Princeton Theology: Reformed Theology in America*, ed. by David F. Wells (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989), 17.

⁴ Henry, "Preparing to Serve the Church," 23 [159].

⁵ John Piper, *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy* (Westchester, IL: Crossway, 2000), 97-98.

THE MASTER'S SEMINARY

We Train Men as if Lives Depended on It



Dr. John MacArthur President

Dr. John MacArthur has served as pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, since 1969. He became president of The Master's College in 1985 and inaugurated The Master's Seminary in 1986.

Dr. MacArthur's more than forty years of ministry at Grace Church has extended around the world through radio and tape ministries plus numerous books. His preaching emphasizes verse-by-verse exposition of God's Word, with practical attention to the authority of Scripture and the divine call to personal holiness. It is this dynamic, aggressive approach to church life that distinguishes education at The Master's Seminary and prepares each student for a unique work of God.

Location

The seminary is located twenty miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley. It is situated conveniently on Roscoe Boulevard, between the Hollywood and San Diego freeways.

The Master's Seminary, accredited as the seminary division of The Master's College and Seminary by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, nationality, handicap, or ethnic origin in its admission policies, educational policies, employment policies, services, or scholarship and loan programs.

For more information or an application for admission, please contact:

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