

*Watch Your
Life and Doctrine
Course*

Falls Church - An OPC Family

2020

Falls Church - An OPC Family "Watch Your Life and Doctrine" Course 2020			
on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sep. 29 - Dec. 8, 2020 at church and livestream			
	Watch Your Life	Watch Your Doctrine	
	<i>Disciplines..GodlyMan</i> by Hughes	<i>Westminster Conf.Faith</i> by Williamson	
9/29/2020	Overview/character int	WCF 1	
10/6/2020	DGM, ch.1	WCF 2,3,4	
10/13/2020	DGM, ch. 2, 3, & 4	WCF 5,6,7	
10/20/2020	DGM, ch. 5 & 6	WCF 8,9,10	
10/27/2019	DGM, ch. 7 & 8	WCF 11,12,13	
11/3/2020	DGM, ch. 9 & 10	WCF 14,15,16	
11/10/2020	DGM, ch.11 & 12	WCF 17,18,19	
11/17/2020	DGM, ch.13 & 14	WCF 20,21,22,23, 24	
11/24/2020	DGM, ch.15 & 16	WCF 25,26	
12/1/2020	DGM, ch.17 & 18	WCF 27,28,29	
12/8/2020	DGM, ch.19	WCF 30,31,32,33	
12/15/2020	catch up week built in	just in case	

Appreciating The Gift of The Bible, WCF, Ch. 1

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We benefit from God’s gift of the Bible by appreciating it.

1. We appreciate being rescued. we appreciate the Bible because without it, we would not have access to salvation! (WCF 1:1)

2. We appreciate knowing... what is not attainable anywhere else.

...what to believe. We appreciate knowing, without doubt, the truth about our God, ourselves, our world. (WCF 1:2)

...how to live. We like knowing how to live in God’s world. (WCF 1:2)

...which books are the gift. We can enjoy the gift from God even more, knowing for sure which writings are not in the gift. (WCF 1:3)

...that it is official. What a joy that God Himself wrote us. (WCF 1:4)

...the evidence to satisfy our reasoning capabilities. We are more convinced and joyful because of abundant evidence. (WCF 1:5)

...that Scripture is enough. We feel safer knowing the roles of a) the Bible b) the Spirit and c) the hints in creation. (WCF 1:6)

...that the Bible is clear, not a puzzle. We are thankful that the Bible can be understood by any reader, not just scholars. (WCF 1:7)

...the way to settle disagreements. It is satisfying to have a) the authentic source, and b) permission to translate the Bible. (WCF 1:8)

...the unified nature of one message. It makes sense to explain hard passages with clearer ones, without contradictions. (WCF 1:9)

3. We appreciate relating to God ‘live’. It is exhilarating to consider the concept of live communication - that the Spirit of the Living God speaks to us now in the living Word! (WCF 1:10)

Applying: thinking it through and making a change in our daily lives:

- a. Apply the ‘high view of Scripture.’ What does it mean for your life?
- b. What are some things you enjoy knowing...that you still want to know?
- c. How much do you appreciate hearing ‘live’ from God in His Word?

Getting to Know God Better, WCF, Ch. 2

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As we get to know God better, God is enabling us to live as we were designed to live – in growing awe of God.

1. God set it up so that we would keep bumping into Him. God designed us to discover that God exists, by making the evidence impossible to escape - we are part of the evidence and we live within the evidence! (WCF 2:1)
Psalm 19:6
Psalm 139:7-8
God designed us to seek Him. Acts 17:24-31. Hebrews 11:6
... and to seek Him spiritually, since God is a Spirit. John 4:23-24.

2. God made us to reflect certain aspects of Himself, not others. (WCF 2:2)
Cannot be reflected in man.
Omnipotent – power to do anything. Daniel 4:35, Ephesians 1:11
Omniscient – knows everything. Psalm 147:5 Isaiah 48:5
Psalm 139:6 Romans 11:34
Eternal and unchangeable – Hebrews 13:8
Can be reflected in man.
Being, Wisdom, Power, Holiness, Justice, Goodness, Truth
So, there remains this gap between God and man. Acts 17:25

3. God made us able to know but not able to fully understand that God is one God but three persons.
We know there is one God – Deuteronomy 6:4. John 10:30
Yet we know He is three persons. Matthew 3:16-17 2 Cor. 13:14
Ephesians 2:18 Acts 2:32-33

Applying: what does it mean for us:

- a. What happens if you try to run from God?
- b. What is wise about trying to imitate God? Ephesians 5:1
- c. How would you speak to someone disappointed about not understanding the Bible's teaching about the Trinity?

God Planned It All To Be Just Like This! WCF, Ch. 3

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We are comforted to know that God has always had the whole world in His hands.

THE DECREE (3.1) God predetermined everything.

Seek the Lord. Acts 15:16-18. Rest in God. Ephesians 3:7-11.

Hope in God. Hebrews 6:17-19. Chosen by God. Ephesians 1:11

Fear not, for our Father rules! Matthew 10:29-30

We know what will happen, & who is guilty. Matthew 18:7

We know God's purpose for Jesus to die /rise. Acts 2:22-24. 4:27-28

We delight that God is at work in us for His goals! Phil. 2:12-13

GOD DECIDED AND SEES ALL (3.2) God decided, foresees, knows all.

Bad trees produce bad fruit; good trees produce good fruit. Mt 7:17-19

Unbelievers inevitably do evil; it is what they want. Gen.6:6 Ps. 14&53

Certain people (we Christians) are made holy. Ephesians 1:4

God makes us holy by His Spirit. 2 Thessalonians 2:18

WHO GOD SAVED? (3.3) God showed His greatness by choosing who

lives/ dies! Exodus 8:23 Rom. 9:11,18,20-21; 11:6, Lk 10:21, Eph.2:8-9

HOW MANY GOD SAVED? (3.4) He already set the number who live.

WHY GOD SAVED? (3.5) God showed His great unconditional grace.

Not saved because of foreseen faith, good works, or anything in man.

HOW GOD SAVED? (3.6) The way was God's idea; the cross. Ac.27:14-44

WHAT ABOUT OTHERS? (3.7) God showed His greatness in justice.

Ephesians 5:6 John 3:36 1 Peter 2:7-8 Romans 9:20

WHERE TO TEACH THIS? (3.8) God revealed His decree so we may be comforted, and we must be wise in using this knowledge. 2 Peter 1:20

Daily Living: where does this teaching impact your life?

- a. On what occasions are you comforted to know God is in control? Romans 8:28
- b. What is God doing in your life? Philippians 1:6 and 2:12-13
- c. What is the basis on which hope is offered to us? Hebrews 6:18-19

The Eternal Decree WCF Chapter 3

The Decree (God decided all that has happened.)(3.1)

Defined: God predestined, foresaw, & foreknew all (3.2)

While the decree applies to absolutely everything,
we now look at how it applies to salvation.

Question: Why is it that some men only, and not all, are actually saved in the end?

saved

not saved

who (3.3)

how many (3.4)

why (3.5)

how (3.6)

What
about the
rest? (3.7)

where is this knowledge to be used? (3.8)

God made everything. WCF, Ch. 4 Of Creation

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We celebrate knowing how we got here – God told us.

WCF 4.1 We celebrate knowing who created us and the world. Can it be shown from the Bible that all three persons of the Godhead were involved in the work of Creation? Father - I Corinthians 8:6, Hebrews 1:2. Son - John 1:1-2 Colossians 1:16. Spirit - Genesis 1:2 Job 26:13 Job 33:4.

We celebrate knowing the duration of creation. Was there a time when the world was not (existent)? Yes. John 17:5, 24. Psalm 90:2. Is this created world eternal? No. It did not exist in this form previous to the act of creation. Nor did its substance even exist eternally. Nor will it continue forever.

We celebrate knowing the relationship of Creator to creation. Is this world self-existent? No, God governs it. Rom. 9:17,22,23 Eph. 3:9-11,16,20. Did God also create invisible things, such as gravity, the seasons, the wind, and magnetic forces? Yes.

We celebrate knowing the process and purpose of the creative work. What elements of matter did God use to create the world? None. He used the power of His Word. Hebrews 11:3 Psalm 33:6 148:5. How long did this process take? It was completed “in the space of six days.” Exodus 20:11 (See A.A. Hodge pages 82-83.) What was the quality level of the original creation? God said all that He had made was very good. Genesis 1:31. Was everything created at this high level of workmanship? God said all that He had made was very good. Genesis 1:31. WHY did God create everything? For Himself, and for His own glory. Colossians 1:16 Proverbs 16:4 Romans 11:36 Revelation 4:11; Romans 11:36. Ephesians 1:5,6,12.

WCF 4.2 We celebrate knowing how the creation relates to the acts of re-creation. How many men did God create from the dust of the earth? One, just Adam. How was Eve created? Using a rib from Adam. How did the rest of the human race come into existence? By ordinary childbirth. Who is the one exception? Jesus Christ. What is unique about the Birth of Jesus Christ? He was born of a virgin. He was a descendant of Adam and Eve, in body, and yet remained the unique Son of God.

We celebrate knowing the design of creation that continues to us. What does it mean to be created after the image of God? a) having a reasonable and immortal soul b) being given knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness c) having dominion over the lower creatures. How did God guide Adam? He wrote the law on His heart, and also gave him a special revelation of His will concerning the forbidden tree. Was Adam created capable of obedience? Yes. Was Adam created capable of falling into sin? Yes. When God subjected Adam to a special test of obedience, what happened? God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but Adam ate. Genesis 2:16,17 Genesis 3:8.

Take Home Benefits: what is the practical meaning of these truths?

- a. Where did you come from? John 1:1-2
- b. How did the Creator do His work? Hebrews 11:3
- c. How should you respond? 1 Corinthians 10:31 and 1 Peter 4:11 and Acts 4:23-24