

# ***Are you a serious Bible student?***



**How serious?**

# THE WHOLE BIBLE INSTITUTE

Revised 1/20/2018

## WHAT IS WBI?

The *Whole Bible Institute* is a teaching ministry of Bible Baptist Church of Sharon, Tennessee, where James L. Melton is the pastor.

WBI majors in the Bible itself, rather than just *parts* of the Bible, as is the case with most Bible schools. WBI students have the opportunity to study through the entire Bible in verse by verse exposition—every book, every chapter and every verse—under the teaching of an experienced independent Baptist pastor and teacher. A person who completes the entire institute program will have spent some 2,000 hours in classtime study and passed tests on all sixty six Bible books of the Bible. We recommend that students try to maintain about a 50/50 balance between verse-by-verse studies and topical studies since all 66 books of the Bible (over 1,000 hours) must be studied through before one can graduate.

We are not an accredited school offering degrees. Instead, we are a church ministry teaching God's word to those who want to learn. Our mission is to be a friend of individuals, families and churches by strengthening God's people through sound Bible teaching in both audio and printed media.

Most of our materials are in audio format and have been recorded through the years during regular and special church studies. Some WBI materials are studies that we print and make available through our publishing ministry. We also offer credit for some materials that we do not publish, such as fine books by historians or theologians.

Our mission is to make it possible for Christians to learn God's word very soundly without having to relocate, and we believe this will make families and churches stronger for the Lord's work.

## THE RANKING SYSTEM

Since God's word equips the Christian soldier to be more productive in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-18, Heb. 4:12, Psa. 149:6, II Tim. 2:1-4, etc.), we will offer *military ranks* instead of degrees. New students will begin with the rank of *Private*. Graduates will have the rank of a two star *General*. A graduated General may opt to take final exams if he chooses. His grade on these exams will determine his (or her) final rank. The highest rank, a seven star General, may only be obtained by making a perfect score on the final exam.

This system will not appeal to some since it is unique and offers no degrees, but that's actually part of the plan. Many Bible schools today are burdened with dead weight Christians who are more interested in pursuing a degree, a job in the ministry or a prospective spouse than they are in learning God's word. *The Whole Bible Institute* will only appeal to those who love God's word and want to learn it well and apply it in their walk with the Lord. The people who have other motives will be unimpressed and turned off immediately.

Each student who enrolls in the institute will be ranked a *Private* and will remain a Private until 140 credit hours have been earned. A credit hour is one hour of actual audio listening and study time. After the first 140 hours, the student is promoted to Corporal. The following table shows the number of credit hours required within each rank and the accumulated credit hours at the time of the student's promotion to the next rank:

| <b>STUDENT RANK</b> | <b>HOURS REQUIRED</b> | <b>HOURS ACCUMULATED</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>PRIVATE</b>      | <b>140</b>            | <b>140</b>               |
| <b>CORPORAL</b>     | <b>170</b>            | <b>310</b>               |
| <b>SERGEANT</b>     | <b>200</b>            | <b>510</b>               |
| <b>LIEUTENANT</b>   | <b>230</b>            | <b>740</b>               |
| <b>CAPTAIN</b>      | <b>260</b>            | <b>1000</b>              |
| <b>MAJOR</b>        | <b>290</b>            | <b>1,290</b>             |
| <b>COLONEL</b>      | <b>330</b>            | <b>1,620</b>             |
| <b>GENERAL</b>      | <b>380</b>            | <b>2,000</b>             |

With each promotion the student will receive a *Certificate of Honor* from The Whole Bible Institute. This certificate will state the student's new rank and the number of credit hours that the rank represents. Students who complete 2,000 hours of study and pass all corresponding tests will receive an *Honorable Discharge* (I Tim. 5:17) stating their graduating rank of a two star General and the studies that this discharge represents.

## **THE CURRICULUM**

Over half of the 2,000 hour course will consist of verse by verse teaching on the 66 books of the Bible. Over 1,000 hours are dedicated to verse-by-verse teaching alone. The remaining hours will consist of elective topical studies, both in audio and printed form.

We have had studies of all 66 books of the Bible available since 2007, and we are presently adding to our list of available topical studies, both in audio and print format.

A student may enroll by simply completing the enrollment form and ordering the MP3 disc on the book of Romans. Please see our online catalog for all current available studies and prices: <http://www.biblebaptistpublications.org/home.html>.

After completing the Romans study and passing the Romans test, a student becomes "registered" with WBI and may select his own studies in the future. That is, we choose your first study (Romans), and you choose all the rest in any order you desire.

## **CREDIT FOR PASSING TESTS**

Upon receiving audio studies, the student should listen to the recordings carefully, following along in his Bible and taking *good* notes—*very* good notes. Once a study has been completed, the student should take a few days to study his notes and the Scriptures in preparation for the test. Then he may contact WBI by mail or e-mail and request a test. Within a few days the test will arrive in the mail. The test should be taken immediately and returned to WBI for grading. Each test has a credit hour value, so upon passing a test the student is credited for those hours.

## **CREDIT FOR WORKSHEETS AND NOTES**

There are no tests for the printed studies that we offer and there are no tests for the topical studies. Tests are given only on the verse-by-verse audio teaching.

Once a student is ready to begin a *printed* study, he should contact WBI for the appropriate worksheets. These worksheets are to be filled out as the printed material is studied through. The completed worksheets are then sent to WBI for credit. WBI will return the worksheets after they have been reviewed and credit has been given.

Students may earn credit for all other studies, such as individual sermons or any sermon series, by simply taking good notes on the material and sending us the notes, or at least copies of the notes. WBI will return the notes after they have been reviewed and credit has been given. *Copies* of notes will not be returned, unless requested. Individual sermon titles, such as the hundreds listed in our catalog, are worth 1 credit hour each. The verse-by-verse credit hours are listed in the catalog along with each of the 37 Genesis thru Revelation Mp3 discs. All students should keep a catalog handy, either the printed or online version, in order to know what studies are available.

## **TEST RULES**

All tests may be taken with an open Bible, but the Bible must be a plain text Bible with no notes or references. The student must take the test in the presence of a witness, and both the student and the witness must sign each test affirming that all rules have been followed. The actual Student Agreement on each test reads as follows:

*Please do not take this test unless you have studied through the Bible chapters or topics which this test represents. If you have either listened to the recorded studies or you have attended the studies in person, you may take the test and receive due credit upon passing. Please sign below if you have met the study requirements. Unsigned test papers will be returned to you ungraded. The Whole Bible Institute reserves the right to refuse test papers or even cancel the enrollment of any student who is found to be dishonest or deceitful.*

*A witness of your choice must watch you take the test and sign their name below. This is only to help insure honesty and fairness, and not for any legal reason. Tests not signed by a witness will be returned ungraded.*

*Your graded test paper will be returned to you, while a copy will be kept on file.*

*You may use a plain King James Bible while taking this test, but you may not use any notes or former test papers. If your Bible has notes in it, please use another Bible without notes, and do not listen to your study discs while taking the test. If you pass the test, you will be credited for the appropriate credit hours, and you may move on to other studies. If you fail the test, you may take the test over after thirty days.*

The student and the witness must then sign their names to the following statements:

*I, the above named individual, have met my study requirements for this test. I understand and will abide by the above agreement, and I wish to have The Whole Bible Institute add to my record the credit hours listed below if I should pass this test.*

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*I, the chosen witness for this test, personally opened the test envelope and did not show or read this test paper to the student before he/she took the test. I have read the Student Agreement, and I give my word that the above student has taken this test honestly and has not violated any part of the Student Agreement.”*

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## **OBTAINING STUDY MATERIALS**

Most study materials are available through the regular publishing ministry of Bible Baptist Church, and **all checks should be made payable to Bible Baptist Church**. Please do *not* make checks payable to WBI or to Bro. Melton. Some studies will have to be obtained through other sources, both secular and religious.

Our financial policy remains the same: donations appreciated but not required. We do our best to accommodate all serious students, but our best service and effort is reserved for those who fully pay their own way. We reserve the right refuse service to anyone whom we feel is taking unfair advantage of our financial policy.

If a student knows someone who owns some of our study materials, he may study that material, if he chooses, without ordering new studies from us. We care not how many students share our materials so long as each student studies for himself and passes all tests honestly.

## **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**

Don't get in a hurry. To rise from a Private to a graduating General (two stars) one must study through 2,000 hours. This will include every book of the Bible and over 900 hours of topical studies. The table below shows the approximate number of years one can expect to be enrolled in the institute based on the average number of hours he or she studies per week:

|                          |      |     |     |     |
|--------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Hours Per Week</b>    | 3    | 5   | 7   | 10  |
| <b>Years to Graduate</b> | 12.8 | 7.7 | 5.5 | 3.8 |

## **COMMITMENT NOT NECESSARY**

No one has to buy any books or pay any registration or tuition fees. A student can start when he chooses and take as much time as he chooses. He can climb the ranks and go through the whole institute, or he can study only the books or topics of his choice.

Please understand that this institute exists for those who love God's word and want to learn it well. We are not a diploma mill. If you should one day graduate from The Whole Bible Institute, you will have well earned your rank. To the world and to most Christians your accomplishments will mean nothing, but to God you will be one of the chosen few who took His word seriously and got serious about learning it. Very few Christians ever even read the Bible through, much less *study* it through. May the Holy Spirit guide you to a wise and sensible decision.

# **WBI ENROLLMENT FORM**

Dear WBI,

I have read the preceding pages and I understand how WBI works. I know the Lord

Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and I hunger for a greater knowledge of his words. Please enroll me in WBI and send me the study on the book of Romans as soon as possible.

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Last Name:  |                 |
| First Name: | Middle Initial: |
| Address:    |                 |
| City:       |                 |
| State:      | Zip:            |
| Phone:      |                 |
| E-mail:     |                 |

Please write your initials to the left of one of the statements below:

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | I have enclosed the suggested donation for the Romans study, and I hope to be able to send donations for most all future studies.                         |
|  | I am not able to enclose the suggested donation this time, but I plan to make donations for most of the studies that I order in the future.               |
|  | I have not enclosed a donation, and I probably will not be able to donate much in the future, but I love God's word and I would like to be a WBI student. |

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Signature

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Date