

# Northeast Institute for Biblical Studies Newsletter

Spring 2025

Defending the Word of God through the Spirit and careful study

## note from our President

Welcome to the first edition of the **Northeast Institute for Biblical Studies** newsletter. By the grace of God, the Institute launched its first courses this past fall, offering four classes taught by four experienced Bible teachers and pastors. The board of directors and I could not be more grateful. What began as a simple idea several years ago has now taken shape, and we are humbled to see God's clear fingerprints on this past semester. We trust that He will continue to bless the work as we move forward.

I would like to briefly share how the idea for the Institute began, as well as our prayer for its continued

## Student Spotlight: Shirley Moyer — Growing Deeper in God's Word

This month, we are delighted to highlight one of our Institute students, **Shirley Moyer**, whose enthusiasm for learning and love for Scripture reflect the heart of what our program hopes to cultivate.

### A Desire to Grow in Scripture

When asked what first drew her to the Institute, Shirley shared that she was *"excited to hear about the Institute being developed"* and eager for an opportunity to learn more about God through His Word. She was especially grateful that the courses were designed not only for seasoned ministers, but also for everyday Christians who simply desire to know the Lord more deeply. *"I was pleased to find out that the courses would be offered to the average layman,"* she said. That accessibility opened the door for her—and many others—to pursue meaningful biblical study.



### Life Experiences That Shaped Her Hunger for the Word

Shirley's desire to dig deeper into Scripture has grown over many years and through many areas of life.

*"Family life, church life, work life—meeting various people, those obviously needing Christ, and those who have set good examples—have all drawn me closer to Christian values,"* she explained.

Through listening, evaluating, studying, and learning, Shirley found herself wanting more than surface-level understanding. These experiences continually nudged her toward a richer knowledge of God's truth and a stronger foundation for her faith.

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**Northeast Institute for Biblical Studies**  
1749 Orwell Hill Rd.  
Rome, PA 18837

## Winter Semester Starts February 9th

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success. The idea began in a few minds as we saw local Bible colleges closing down and the cost of running a full scale, state credited institution making it impossible to keep these institutions going. Did the early church need state creditation? Well, the idea of a stream lined process to educate christians for ministry was born.

In Ephesians 4, Paul describes how God equips His people with various gifts for the work of the ministry, “so that we may be full grown in our faith.” **This growth into spiritual maturity is at the heart of our Institute’s mission.**

In past generations, much of this training took place through Christian colleges or universities. Yet we live in a rapidly changing time, and many traditional pathways for equipping believers have become limited, inaccessible, or increasingly scarce. Our vision as a local Bible Institute is to stand in that gap—to support the ministry of our local evangelical churches by offering sound, biblically accurate, affordable Christian education to men and women of all ages.

We are only at the beginning, but by God’s grace we hope to expand our course offerings, add new locations, and eventually provide full eight-week online courses. Each step is aimed at strengthening the faith and effectiveness of local church members and leaders.

We ask you to continue praying for us and supporting this mission. You can partner with us by taking a course, sponsoring someone in your church, or giving toward the work. Pray that we will follow God’s will and timing, and that we remain faithful to Christ in our daily lives and ministry.

Thank you for joining us as we pursue this calling. May God be glorified in all we do.

## A Transformative Classroom Experience

Last semester, Shirley enrolled in the course on **The Gospels and Acts**, a study that proved both inspiring and eye-opening. While she has always valued reading the Gospels, she discovered that gaining a deeper understanding of the historical context, literary framework, intended audiences, and unique purposes of each book brought the Scriptures to life in new ways.

*“I learned that I need and want to learn more ... and more!”* she said. The class not only deepened her appreciation for the New Testament but also sparked an eagerness to continue learning.

## How Others Can Benefit from the Institute

Shirley believes that many believers like her would find tremendous value in the Institute’s courses. She noted several meaningful benefits, including:

- **Fellowship and shared purpose** — Studying alongside like-minded Christians creates a rich environment for spiritual growth and thoughtful discussion.
- **Greater historical and geographical understanding** — Learning the world behind the Bible enriches every passage.
- **Reliable and trustworthy content** — From sound study materials to biblically grounded instruction, students receive teaching they can depend on.
- **Experienced, godly instructors** — The character and scholarship of the professors make the learning experience both rigorous and spiritually uplifting.
- **Accessible cost and location** — Courses are reasonably priced, allowing anyone to participate, and the location is convenient for local students.



**"How we got our Bible" - We are bringing this popular class back for those students who were not able to take it in the fall semester**

**"The Ministry of Being a Shepherd" A practical class comparing traditional bedouin shepherding to divine shepherding**



# Photos from this past Semester

Pictured below is Pastor Dr. James Buchanon and the "Developing a Biblical World View" class



Pictured Above is Pastor Richard Vieldhouse and the "Ministry of Prayer" class.

Pictured below is Dr. Chris Gardner and the "Intro to the New Testament" class



Pictured Above is Pastor Glenn Hulburt and the "How we got our Bible" class.



**"Mastering Discipleship" - Pastor and Bible Professor James Buchanon teaches a class on how to be a disciple who discipled others**

**"Intro to New Testament, Romans to Revelations" Learn what themes dominate the individual epistles and the book of Revelations**

**"How to Study the Bible - Level 1 Observation" Professor Chris Gardner teaches you how to observe the text of the Bible**

# Upcoming Spring Classes

## **“Mastering Discipleship: Being a Disciple and Discipler”**

taught by Dr. James Buchanan and held on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:25 pm.

**cost \$80**

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are called to be a disciple, a follower of His way, a participant in His mission in the world. Ministry leadership, in all of its variances, is about helping people become such followers of Jesus Christ. This course will focus on facilitating discovery of what it means to (1) be a follower of Jesus and (2) lead people toward their own personal progressive sanctification.

## **“Intro to the NT: Romans to Revelation”**

taught by Dr. Chris Gardner and held on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:25 pm.

**cost \$80**

As believers in Jesus Christ, we need to be students of God’s Word. In order to improve your ability to rightly divide the Word of God, a good student of the Word needs to understand the basic purpose of each New Testament book. This course will focus on gaining a grasp of the purpose of each of the epistles and the book of Revelation.

## **“ How to Study the Bible: Level I - Observation”**

taught by Dr. Chris Gardner and held on Mondays from 7:30 to 8:55 pm.

**cost \$80**

All serious Christians want to study the Word of God, but discerning what the biblical text is all about is not easy. This course will provide guidance in the first of three steps of solid Bible Study: observation. Before you can apply the Scripture to your life or teach the Bible, you need to learn to seriously observe the biblical text.

## **“The Ministry of being a Shepherd”**

taught by Pastor Richard Vieldhouse and held on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:25 pm.

**cost \$80**

A study of Bedouin and Divine shepherding. This class will primarily be in a discussion format. Required textbook is “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks,” Timothy S. Laniak. We will also use “A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm,” Phillip Keller. This class is aimed at helping parents, teachers, pastors, and other leaders care for those in their flocks.

## **“How We Got Our Bible”**

taught by Pastor Glenn Hulburt and held on Mondays from 7:30 to 8:55 pm.

**cost \$80**

This course seeks to strengthen the student’s conviction that the Bible is truly the Word of God, and as such, it is absolutely reliable, authoritative, and effective in all that it teaches. To accomplish this, the student will be instructed on the nature of God’s word and the process by which this book has become the foundation of our faith and practice.

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