

# Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc.

## Application Packet:

### Enclosed:

- Application for Admissions (2 pages)
- Christian Character Reference Form (2 pages)
- Doctrinal Statement
- Program Information
- Mini Catalog

*FLORIDA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND  
BIBLE COLLEGE, INC.*



Preparing The *Called*  
For Ministry

*Founded in 1901*

## **Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc.**

Dr. Alex Harper, President

### **Welcome to Florida Theological Seminary!**

All roads lead to Lakeland, Florida, the home of the “Best Kept Secret, Now Revealed.” There is no better place to prepare for ministry than at FTS!

A recent poll, according to the Association of Theological Schools, revealed that there are over 200 theological institutions in the United States. So, why should you make FTS your choice of preparing for ministry? I’m glad you asked.....

**Location:** FTS is located among some of the best known churches and ministries in the state. You can begin your ministry on the growing edge! Providing you with endless opportunities to sharpen your skills, broaden your perspectives and expand your understanding. Learning at FTS promotes self-knowledge, appreciation of our intellectual and cultural heritage. Regardless of the size of your local church, something awaits you here!

**Leadership:** At FTS, we’re committed to developing leaders who will serve as impact players in the life of Christ’s church. Our goal is to produce leaders who are making a difference, providing the leadership tools that are needed in times like these.

**Learning:** Our goal is to make a difference in you and in the church where you serve. Our commitment to you is, learning that makes the difference! Whether you’re studying a biblical text, reflecting on Church history or learning new skills in preaching, our objective is to relate your learning to practical ministry experience.

### **Mission Statement**

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. is a Biblical Institution committed to:

- **Pursue and practice what is true;**
- **Excel in its educational programs;**
- **Collaborate as partners in learning and preparation;**
- **Integrate Christian faith into every aspect of life; and**
- **Nurture every person toward Christian maturity**

**Our Vision** is to prepare leaders who will faithfully serve Jesus Christ with evangelical passion and missionary skills in biblically grounded and culturally relevant ministries

For more information please call the seminary at (863) 683-3879 or write to P.O. Box 1275, Lakeland, FL 33802

# Florida Theological Seminary

## DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament are verbally inspired by God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life. (Matt. 5:18; John 10:35; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:21)
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 2:9; Acts 4:3-5)
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man. (Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:18, 25; John 5:18; Luke 2:52)
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is separation from God. (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7; 3:6,7; Rom. 5:12-21)
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all that believe in Him are justified on the grounds of his shed blood. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 2:6; Rom. 3:24, 25; 5:1; 1 John 2:2; 1 Pet. 2:24)
6. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and His present life for us, as High Priest and Advocate. (Matt. 28:7, John 21:13, 14; Acts 1:9; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1)
7. We believe in “The Blessed Hope,” the personal pre-millennial and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51, 52; Titus 2:13; Rev. 20:4-6; 1 Thess. 1:10)
8. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Dan. 12:2; John 5:29; Matt. 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15)
9. We value the worth and dignity of all persons as created in the image of God. We affirm the priesthood of all believers and the responsibility of every Christian woman and man to take an active role in edifying the Church. For that purpose, the Holy Spirit distributes ministry gifts to believers without distinction of any kind. That reality imposes the responsibility on every believer to fulfill ministry consistent with God’s grace. (Gen. 1:27; Gal. 3:28; Rom. 12:5-6a; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; Eph. 2:10; 2 Cor. 9:8)
10. We distinguish between ministry functions and church office. While upholding the necessity of mutual respect and affirmation as those subject to the Word of God, understanding that the biblical office of elder/pastor in the early church was gender specific. Therefore it maintains that it is consistent with that understanding of Scripture that those church offices should be limited to the male gender. (Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3:1-2, Titus 1:7-9)

*Florida Theological Seminary is an Equal Opportunity Institution open to any qualified individual without regard to race, religion, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability. This non-discriminatory policy includes admission policies, and other school administered programs, except where required by specific religious tenets held by the Florida Theological Seminary.*

# ADMISSIONS

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College's courses of study are designed in such a way as to provide graceful growth, starting with the certificate level and continuing through the doctorate level. We offer academic programs that lead to Certificates; Associate of Arts degrees; Bachelor of Science degrees in Biblical Studies, Christian Education, Biblical Exposition, and Theology; Master of Art Degrees in Biblical Studies and Christian Education; Master's Degree in Theology and Doctorate of Ministry.

We at Florida Theological Seminary value the worth and dignity of all persons as created in the image of God. We affirm the priesthood of all believers and the responsibility of every Christian man and woman to take an active role in edifying the Church. For that purpose, the Holy Spirit distributes ministry gifts to believers without distinction of any kind. That reality imposes the responsibility on every believer to fulfill ministry consistent with God's grace. (Gen 1:27; Gal 3:28; Rom 12:5-6a; 1 Cor 12:1-11; Eph 2:10; 2 Cor 9:8)

Florida Theological Seminary distinguishes between ministry function and church office. While upholding the necessity of mutual respect and affirmation as those subject to the Word of God, Florida Theological Seminary understands that the biblical office of elder/pastor in the early church was gender specific. Therefore it maintains that it is consistent with that understanding of Scripture that those church offices should be limited to the male gender. Consequently pastoral/preaching curriculum/courses are offered to males only. (Eph 4:11; 1 Tim 3:1-2; Titus 1:7-9)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Application for admission may be made at any time. To be admitted, all prospective students are required to complete the Application for Admission Form and mail it with the applicable documents and fees to the Seminary.

For students applying for the Adult Bible Studies Program there is no academic requirement to enter, just an honest desire to study and learn God's Word. However, before the student can enter any Certificate, Associate of Arts or Bachelor's Degree program, the student must possess a high school diploma, or GED.

Students applying for any of the Certificate or Degree Programs must provide a high school diploma, or a GED, and arrange for transcripts from any previously attended college or seminary to be sent to Florida Theological Seminary

### EVALUATION OF CREDIT FOR MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE

Pastors can receive 10 to 20 credit hours depending on years of pastoral experience. Those who are seeking Masters or Doctorate degree will be allowed to obtain 15 credits hours by completing a thesis or dissertation.

### TRANSFER CREDITS

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College will accept transfer credits received from other Theological and secular schools subject to review and evaluation by the officers of Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College.

The transfer of credits to another institution is at the discretion of the accepting institution, and it is the student's responsibility to confirm whether or not credits will be accepted by the institution of the student's choice.

\*Note: All transcripts must be mailed to Florida Theological Seminary directly from student's former school(s).

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Tuition Schedule (Effective August 3, 2015)

FEES	Amounts	Withdrawal Policy
Application Fee	\$25.00	non-refundable
Reactivation Fee	\$25.00	(any student returning after 2 – 5 year absence)*
Registration Fee	\$20.00	non-refundable
Tuition (per Semester Hour)		100% refund – 1 <sup>st</sup> week; 50% refund after 2 <sup>nd</sup> week; 25% after 3 <sup>rd</sup> week; and no refunds after 4 <sup>th</sup> week,
Undergraduate	\$40.00	
Master's Degree	\$45.00	
Doctorate Degree	\$55.00	
Graduation Fee	\$200.00	non-refundable
Transcript Fee	\$25.00	non-refundable
Auditing Fee (per course)	\$85.00	non-refundable

\*Any former student who has been absent for more than 5 years must reapply for admission

### Payment Plans

All tuition and fees are due and payable by the third week of class. Pre-approved financial assistance is granted on a case-by-case basis as approved by the Dean and the Business Office. Payments may be made by cash, checks or money orders. Failure to pay all tuition and fees by the beginning of the fourth week will result in the delinquent student being expelled and not allowed to resume attendance until all tuition and fees are paid in full.

***A charge of \$25 will be assessed for all returned checks.***

### Financial Aid Programs

Students attending FTS do not have access to any federally sponsored student aid, grant programs, or VA benefits. *The generosity of individual Christians, churches, associations, and conventions helps students receive quality training at a cost much less than that charged by many institutions. FTS strives to help every student receive the education they desire*

# **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College Offers the Following Programs of Study for Those Interested in the Adult Bible Studies Program or the Certificate, Associate of Arts, Bachelor and Master's Degrees and Doctor of Ministry Programs.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDIES PROGRAM  
BIBLICAL STUDIES PROGRAM  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM  
THEOLOGY PROGRAM  
THE MASTER'S PROGRAM  
THE DOCTORATE PROGRAM**

Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College Offers the Following Programs of Study for Those Interested in the Adult Bible Studies, Biblical Studies, Christian Education and Theology Programs.

## **Adult Bible Studies**

The Adult Bible Studies Program is designed for those Christian men and women who desire to advance their biblical knowledge without entering a college level program.

## **Biblical Studies Program**

The Biblical Studies Program is designed for those Christian men and women who desire to further their biblical knowledge. This program may be considered as an entry-level program because it provides for one to receive a basic biblical education without committing to a specific discipline.

## **Christian Education Program**

The Christian Education Program is designed for those Christian men and women who are currently in or desire to serve in the area of Christian Education. This program extends the entry-level program by including courses specific to Christian Education.

## **Theology Program**

The Theology Program is designed for those Christian men who have been called into the preaching ministry and who are serving as pastors or presently pursuing a pastoral position.





**Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc.**  
115 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street (PO Box 1275)  
Lakeland, Florida 33805  
Tel (863) 683-3879 Fax (863) 683-2726

**CHRISTIAN CHARACTER REFERENCE**

**TO THE APPLICANT:**

This questionnaire is to be completed by a church leader who is not a relative.

<b>To Be Completed by Applicant</b>	
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	<b>Dr.</b>
	<b>Rev.</b>
	<b>Mr.</b> _____
	<b>Miss</b>
	<b>Mrs.</b>

**TO THE LEADER:**

Your comments will be given serious attention and will be regarded as confidential. Please mail this directly to the Office of Admissions, Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc. 115 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street (PO Box 1275) Lakeland, FL 33805.

**PLEASE DO NOT GIVE THIS FORM BACK TO THE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT. RETURN TO THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE.**

1. How well do you know the applicant?  only slightly  casually  fairly well  
 quite well How long? \_\_\_\_\_years.

2. To the best of your knowledge, has the applicant made a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ?  Yes  No  Unknown

3. To what extent has the applicant participated in the activities of the church?

---

---

---

4. In your estimation, does the applicant exert a good influence on his/her peers?  
 Yes  No If not, please explain on the reverse side.

5. Are you aware of any personality traits which hinder the applicant in relationships with others? [ ] Yes [ ] No If yes, please explain on the reverse side.

6. Please comment on any special circumstances, home conditions, health, etc., which might prove helpful in considering applicant's admission to the college/seminary.

---

---

---

7. Please circle your recommendation of the applicant for admission to Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc.:

**Highly Recommended**

**Recommended**

**\*Recommended with Reservations**

**\*Not Recommended**

**\*Please indicate the reason(s) for this recommendation on a separate sheet.**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

**Phone number where you can be reached from 9 AM – 4 PM:**

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Office of Admission:**

**Florida Theological Seminary and Bible College, Inc.**

115 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street (PO Box 1275)

Lakeland, Florida 33805

Tel (863) 683-3879 Fax (863) 683-2726