

# Making Biblical Decisions

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## Student Syllabus

ACADEMIC  
PACKET

RESOURCES FOR GROUPS  
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS



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#### **ABOUT THIRD MILLENNIUM MINISTRIES**

Founded in 1997, Third Millennium Ministries is a non-profit Evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to providing:

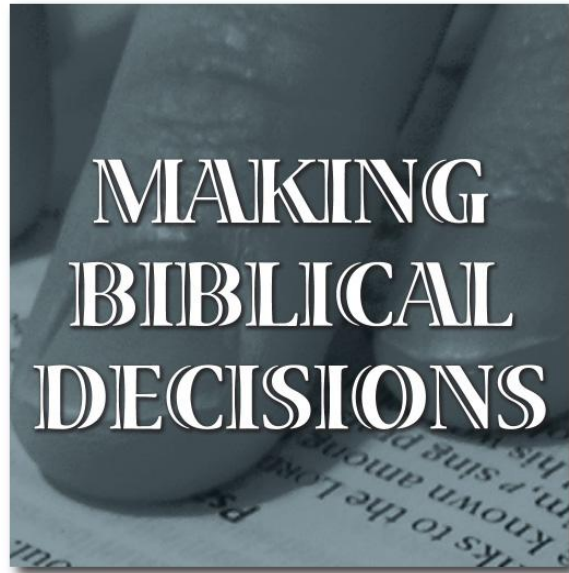
#### **Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.**

Our goal is to offer free Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry. We are meeting this goal by producing and globally distributing an unparalleled multimedia seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Our curriculum is also being translated into more than a dozen other languages through our partner ministries. The curriculum consists of graphic-driven videos, printed instruction, and internet resources. It is designed to be used by schools, groups, and individuals, both online and in learning communities.

Over the years, we have developed a highly cost-effective method of producing award-winning multimedia lessons of the finest content and quality. Our writers and editors are theologically-trained educators, our translators are theologically-astute native speakers of their target languages, and our lessons contain the insights of hundreds of respected seminary professors and pastors from around the world. In addition, our graphic designers, illustrators, and producers adhere to the highest production standards using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques.

In order to accomplish our distribution goals, Third Millennium has forged strategic partnerships with churches, seminaries, Bible schools, missionaries, Christian broadcasters and satellite television providers, and other organizations. These relationships have already resulted in the distribution of countless video lessons to indigenous leaders, pastors, and seminary students. Our websites also serve as avenues of distribution and provide additional materials to supplement our lessons, including materials on how to start your own learning community.

Third Millennium Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation. We depend on the generous, tax-deductible contributions of churches, foundations, businesses, and individuals. For more information about our ministry, and to learn how you can get involved, please visit [www.thirdmill.org](http://www.thirdmill.org).



## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Christian morality has always been challenged and rejected by unbelievers, but today even many believers have lost their moral footing. Moreover, believers who want to live ethically are frequently confused by the complexities of ethical decisions. Even so, with proper study of the Bible's system of ethics, Christians can learn how to evaluate problems in ways that lead to biblical solutions. This course is based on the lecture series, [\*Making Biblical Decisions\*](#), produced by Third Millennium Ministries and presented by Dr. John M. Frame.

## **DR. JOHN M. FRAME**

Dr. Frame received degrees from Princeton University (A.B.), Westminster Theological Seminary (B.D.), Yale University (A.M. and M.Phil.), and Belhaven College (honorary D.D.). He has served on the faculty of Westminster Theological Seminary and was a founding faculty member of their California campus, and as of 2007 he holds the J. D. Trimble Chair of Systematic Theology and Philosophy at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. His key books are *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*, *The Doctrine of God*, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*, and *The Doctrine of the Word of God*. He has published numerous articles. He is also a classically trained musician and a critic of film, music, and other media.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **GOALS**

In this course, we would like to accomplish the following:

1. We hope you grow in your desire to make more biblical decisions and to live your life in a way that honors Christ more fully.
2. We hope you will understand the biblical and theological principles that should orient your ethical decisions.
3. We hope that you will apply the biblical and theological principles properly in your process of making biblical decisions and living your life to honor Christ.

## OBJECTIVES

When you have done the following, it will show that the goals are met:

1. Obtain satisfactory grades on the tests, demonstrating that you can identify the biblical and theological principles of making appropriate ethical decisions. You will be able to distinguish the three ethical perspectives presented in the lesson: normative, situational, and existential, you will be able to identify many biblical passages related to ethical decisions, and you will be able to discern the difference between incorrect ethical principles and correct principles.
2. Answer the application questions of the study guides, expressing your own thoughts and attitudes regarding making biblical decisions, and showing that you are applying the teachings of the course to your own life.

## THE FACILITATOR

This course is designed to be studied in a group with a facilitator, supervisor, or mentor. If you do not have a facilitator, you may wish to speak with your pastor or some spiritual leader in your church. The facilitator should read the "General Guidelines for Facilitators."

## OTHER MATERIALS

Besides this syllabus, there are other resources you will need for this course. They should be available in the same place, or same folder, where you found this file. If not, talk to your facilitator.

## CREDIT

Third Millennium does not offer credit for their courses. However, the materials are offered freely to any institution that would like to use them. If the student would like to seek credit for the course, he needs to find an institution that will supervise his studies and give him credit. He should consult with them to see about their requirements and expectations.

## THEMATIC OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

NOTE: This course is longer than most Third Millennium courses, with a total of ten video lessons. Therefore, you may prefer to study the course in two parts. Or you may prefer to give the students twice the credit of a typical course.

1. Ethics in Scripture
2. The Normative Perspective: God and His Word
3. The Normative Perspective: The Attributes of Scripture
4. The Normative Perspective: Parts and Aspects of Scripture
5. The Situational Perspective: Revelation and Situation
6. The Situational Perspective: Pursuing Our Goal
7. The Situational Perspective: Understanding the Facts
8. The Existential Perspective: Being Good
9. The Existential Perspective: Intending Good
10. The Existential Perspective: Choosing Good

## **GENERAL EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

The guidelines for assignments below are meant to be suggestions. Each group or academic institution may customize the course according to the needs of their students. For example, some may prefer to require the additional reading, while others may not. The same applies to the optional written project. Furthermore, some may prefer to meet once a week, while others prefer to meet more often or less often. Some groups may prefer to restructure the assignments to fit a regular pattern of classes, possibly a period of eight weeks, for example.

Don't worry about the details now, since they will be given to you as you go through the assignments of each session, but in order for you to know what to plan for, the suggested assignments can be summarized as follows:

### **The Lectures**

1. Watch the video lectures (or listen to the audio, or read the text version).
2. Complete the study guides for each section of each lesson. This includes writing notes on the lesson while using the outline provided, answering the review questions, and answering the application questions.
3. Take the tests on each lesson. These will be administered in the classes. (For credit, they must be graded by the authorities of the academic institution where the student is seeking credit.)

### **Optional Additional Reading**

Read the additional reading. This may be done in two different ways, according to the agreement you have with the facilitator or academic institution. Option 1: Read the selected additional reading provided for this course, and take the test on it. Option 2: Read at least 300 pages of additional reading that you select from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." In this case, you should turn in a written report on each book or article, using the "Form for reading reports." (For credit, these reports must be turned in for evaluation.)

### **Optional Written Project**

Write an 8-10 page project, following the instructions found below. (For credit, this must be turned in for evaluation.)

## **GRADES**

We recommend calculating the final grade as follows, depending on the option selected:

- a) Without the additional reading or written project:

Each test is 10%.

- b) Including the additional reading, but without the written project:

Each test is 8% (total: 80%).  
The additional reading is 20%.

c) Including the written project, but without the additional reading:

Each test is 8% (total: 80%).  
The written project is 20%.

d) Including both the additional reading and the written project:

Each test is 7% (total: 70%).  
The additional reading is 10%.  
The written project is 20%.

## SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH SESSION

These plans are only suggestions. Your facilitator may decide to modify them, as he talks things over with the group.

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### INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

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The first meeting is a brief orientation for the course. There is no homework before the first meeting. The student will receive the materials he needs and talk over plans for the course.

NOTE: If the group is studying a series of courses, we recommend that you take advantage of the last session of each course to make arrangements for the following course, thus avoiding unnecessary extra meetings.

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### LESSON 1

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Watch the first lesson in the video series from *Third Millennium*, "Making Biblical Decisions," by Dr. John Frame. The first lesson of this series is called "Ethics in Scripture." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

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#### SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the first video lesson, called "Definition." (The video time is from the beginning to 17 minutes and 15 seconds, 00-17:15.)

Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.

2. Use Study Guide 1.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

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#### SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Threefold Criteria" (Video time: 17:16-39:21), using Study Guide 1.2.

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#### SECTION 3

1. Follow the same procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Threefold Process" (Video time: 39:22-1:02:31), using Study Guide 1.3.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

NOTE: If you are going to do the additional reading, we recommend that you begin to do part of it now, to avoid reading a lot at the end of the course. See the assignments below.

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## **LESSON 2**

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Watch the second video lesson of the series, called "The Normative Perspective: God and His Word." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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### **SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of this second video lesson, called "God as Standard" (00-24:54).
  2. Use Study Guide 2.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.
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### **SECTION 2**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Word as Standard" (24:55-1:09:55), using Study Guide 2.2.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.



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**LESSON 3**

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Study the third video lesson of the series, called "The Normative Perspective: The Attributes of Scripture." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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**SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the third video lesson, called "Divine Authorship" (00-34:49).
  2. Use Study Guide 3.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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**SECTION 2**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Human Audience" (34:50-1:17:29), using Study Guide 3.2.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

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## LESSON 4

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Study the fourth video lesson of the series, called "The Normative Perspective: Parts and Aspects of Scripture."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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### SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the fourth video lesson, called "Variety of Scripture" (00-28:04).
  2. Use Study Guide 4.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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### SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "God's Law in Scripture" (28:05-59:48), using Study Guide 4.2.

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### SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Unity of Scripture" (59:49-1:27:11), using Study Guide 4.3.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

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## **LESSON 5**

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Study the fifth video lesson of the series, called "The Situational Perspective: Revelation and Situation." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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### **SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the fifth video lesson, called "Content of Revelation" (00-21:32).
  2. Use Study Guide 5.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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### **SECTION 2**

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Nature of Revelation" (21:33-36:19), using Study Guide 5.2.

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### **SECTION 3**

Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Strategies toward Revelation" (36:20-1:13:49), using Study Guide 5.3

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### **SECTION 4**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 4 of the video lesson, "Application of Revelation" (1:13:50-1:39:48), using Study Guide 5.4
2. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

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## LESSON 6

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Watch lesson six in the video series from *Third Millennium*, "Making Biblical Decisions," by Dr. John Frame. The sixth lesson of this series is called "The Situational Perspective: Pursuing Our Goal." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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### SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Circumstances of the Kingdom" (00:35:43). Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.
  2. Use Study Guide 6.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.
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### SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Life in the Kingdom" (35:44-54:17), using Study Guide 6.2.

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### SECTION 3

1. Follow the same procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Program of the Kingdom" (54:18-1:26:55), using Study Guide 6.3.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

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**LESSON 7**

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Watch lesson seven of the video series, called " The Situational Perspective: Understanding the Facts." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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**SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of this video lesson, called "God" (00-33:46).
  2. Use Study Guide 7.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.
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**SECTION 2**

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Creation" (33:47-56:25), using Study Guide 7.2.

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**SECTION 3**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Humanity" (56:26-1:30:27), using Study Guide 7.3.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

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**LESSON 8**

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Study the lesson eight of the video series, called " The Existential Perspective: Being Good."  
We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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**SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Creation" (00-22:39).
  2. Use Study Guide 8.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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**SECTION 2**

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Fall" (22:40-49:24), using Study Guide 8.2.

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**SECTION 3**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Redemption" (49:25-1:13:11), using Study Guide 8.3.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

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## **LESSON 9**

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Study the ninth lesson of the video series, called " The Existential Perspective: Intending Good."  
We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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### **SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Importance of Motives" (00-21:59).
  2. Use Study Guide 9.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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### **SECTION 2**

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Motive of Faith" (22:00-53:30), using Study Guide 9.2.

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### **SECTION 3**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Motive of Love" (53:31-1:41:48), using Study Guide 9.3.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

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**LESSON 10**

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Study lesson ten of the video series, called "The Existential Perspective: Choosing Good." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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**SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Acquiring Knowledge" (00-24:42).
  2. Use Study Guide 10.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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**SECTION 2**

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Assessing Knowledge" (24:43-44:03), using Study Guide 10.2.

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**SECTION 3**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Applying Knowledge" (44:04-1:06:30), using Study Guide 10.3.
2. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.



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## ADDITIONAL READING

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Option 1:

1. Read Robert Mackintosh, *Christian Ethics*.
2. Use the study guide to help find the most important points.
3. Take the test in the next class on this reading.

Note: Some groups may prefer to require only portions of the additional reading.

Option 2:

1. Read at least 300 pages of additional reading, selecting from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading."
2. Fill out a separate written report on each book or article, using the "Form for Reading Reports."
3. Prepare to share what you are learning from your reading and *turn in your written reports*.

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## OPTIONAL WRITTEN PROJECT

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Some groups may require a written project. If so, we recommend an essay of 8-10 pages, using the following guidelines:

1. Read the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."
2. Choose a topic related to the subjects studied in this course. You may choose from the following suggestions, or you may choose another topic that is of special interest to you, as long as it is related to the subjects covered in this course.

- 1) Abortion
- 2) Homosexuality
- 3) Divorce and Remarriage
- 4) Euthanasia
- 5) Human Cloning
- 6) Situation Ethics
- 7) The Ethics of Liberation Theology
- 8) Postmodern Ethics
- 9) The Ethics of \_\_\_\_\_ (choose a philosopher)
- 10) How to Fight Poverty
- 11) How to Promote Justice
- 12) Economic Ethics
- 13) The Ethics of Contemporary Politics
- 14) How to Use the Old Testament Law Today
- 15) Legalism Versus Grace in Ethics
- 16) War
- 17) The \_\_\_\_\_ Commandment Today. (Choose one of the Ten Commandments.)

3. Do the research and planning for the essay. Think of questions that you want to answer in your essay and write them down. This will guide your research. You may find resources for your research by looking at the list of "Recommended Extra Reading."

4. Prepare an outline, with some notes about your ideas for the content.

5. Write a rough draft of the project.

- a. Be very careful to follow the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."
- b. Make sure you include an introduction that stirs interest in the study.
- c. Explain the questions that you are especially researching. In the main body, you should include possible answers to your questions that others offer, then give your own conclusions and back them up.
- d. Include a conclusion, summarizing your answers.
- e. Make sure to add footnotes where you have used ideas from another source (even if you do not quote the source directly), and include a bibliography at the end.

6. Finish the final version of the written project. Correct any grammatical errors or spelling mistakes. Read it aloud and make sure it is easy to understand. Polish it until it is publishable. *Be prepared to turn it in.*