

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY®

COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY



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MOVING FORWARD

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” -Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Scripture is persistent in keeping our attention on things of primary importance to God. In Hebrews 12:1-3 we are reminded of a straightforward and honest understanding. In times of great trial, it can become second nature to recount the state of disorder rather than the blessings. Pursuing a path of disorder can cause us to reside in a negative space. It is important to remember that we have a better option to pursue, which delivers a greater result.

In the context prior to Hebrews 12, a history is shared of those who were stirred to action by faith (see Hebrews 11). The passage presents the understanding that faith is a confident belief which encourages an active response. If one had faith in the understanding that God could defeat an army, they pursued a battle in accordance with that perspective.


Today, if one has faith in the understanding that a great outcome is possible, they will live their life in pursuit of that perspective. Moving on to Hebrews 12, the disorder experienced by Jesus is used as an example for us. One might argue that the disorder faced by Jesus is greater than our own. In sharing this example, the author provides the understanding that the extent of disorder is of no consequence to the pursuit of those who follow Jesus the Christ.


In pursuing Christ, we come to believe that the state of disorder is of little consequence to the greater outcome of the Gospel. It is this belief that should prompt our active response. As you read through this newsletter, take note of the things that the College of Theology is doing within a generation of students, instructors, and local connections that are focused on moving forward within the Phoenix Valley.


NEW TRENDS

The following course has been recognized as one which supports the vision of this newsletter. Please take a moment to read the new trends outlined below.

The College of Theology seeks to encourage all students, teachers, alumni, and scholars to participate in the development of the Christian faith within our world today. This section includes the improvement of theological resources that are being advanced for the development of COT students!

 The Barnabas Pastoral Program was designed for students who are seeking to pursue a career in pastoral ministry. It is an accelerated degree program, which allows students to obtain an undergraduate degree in theology and a Master of Divinity within approximately five years. The program launched in the Fall of 2020 and was met the excitement of over 80 freshman students! For more information contact cot@gcu.edu

 The Canyon Worship album is a priority for the recording studio. This includes rehearsals, tracking, mixdown, and post-production. Most of the student album's recording and production takes place in the Grand Canyon University Recording Studio where students are able to collaborate with professional producers and musicians. For more information, please visit: <http://centerforworshiparts.com>

 The College of Theology has made a repository of resources available to students of Christian worldview. TheologyCommons.org focuses on biblical, theological, philosophical, and practical topics. The content is available to anyone who is interested in obtaining a comprehensive perspective about the Christian worldview. For more information visit: <https://theologycommons.org>

- » Find out more about the **Center for Worship Arts!**
- » Like us on **Facebook** and follow us on **Twitter**
- » More information/blog posts **here**

PUBLISHED WORKS

The College of Theology seeks to encourage the continuous development of theological and academic knowledge amongst our students. The publications below present resources for those that intend to pursue ministry from an academic perspective.

"It's the Wrath of God": Reflections on Inferring Divine Punishment (By James S. Spiegel, Ph.D.)

If God still exercises wrath today, is it possible to identify instances of this? If so, then what sorts of criteria might one use to assess whether a particular event is a case of divine wrath?



This publication can be found on JBTSOnline.org

- » For more publications [click here](#)
- » Send nominations to cot@gcu.edu

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

The efforts pursued by the Barnabas Pastoral Program are in director correlation with the concept of moving forward within the church. Please take a moment to look at the details of the academic spotlight outlined below:

BARNABAS PASTORAL PROGRAM

The Barnabas Pastoral Program is designed for young men and women preparing for vocational ministry within the context of a local church. The program exists to meet the needs of the vibrant local churches in Phoenix, the Southwest U.S. and beyond.

As an Accelerated Undergraduate to Master of Divinity pathway, the Barnabas Pastoral Program allows students to complete their bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity in as little as five years. Being a part of the Barnabas Pastoral Program also offers:

- Fifth-year full tuition scholarship for all participants*
- Training, mentorship and support from a pastoral community during and after degree completion
- Real-world pastoral preparation activities including co-curricular events and experiences, mentoring, internships, accountability, and career preparation and placement support

The Christian church faces a need for skilled, insightful pastors who commit to serving God while they are young and continuously pursue Him throughout their lives. Individuals who sense that God has begun to call them towards ministry in a local church, should apply for the Barnabas Pastoral Scholarship Program as soon as possible!

THE CENTER FOR WORSHIP ARTS

The College of Theology is proud to support worship ministry in the local church through The Center for Worship Arts. This past quarter has been met with exciting musical releases and developments as the program seeks to expand its horizons around the globe. Take a look below to find out more!

Canyon Worship 2020

The wait is over. Both students and faculty joyfully embraced the new CWA Landing Page as their digital home for information regarding the program. Featuring Canyon Worship Music, event information and so much more, the new landing page was well worth the wait. Check it out at: www.CenterforWorshipArts.com

- » Find out more about the [Center for Worship Arts!](#)
- » Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#)

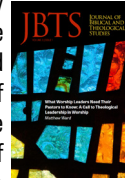
PUBLICATIONS FROM THE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

The College of Theology has a blog that interacts with a variety of biblical, theological, and practical topics written by Grand Canyon University's College of Theology faculty and special guests of the college. Our content provides practical and biblical advice from a Christian worldview for living our faith in an increasingly secularized world. In addition, our content wrestles with cultural topics and issues that challenge how we live out our faith as believers. For this reason, contributors to our Christian blog strive to write with compassion and apologetic concern to honor Christ and edify the church in every way possible.

- » [Access all publications here](#)
- » To receive additional information email cot@gcu.edu

What Worship Leaders Need Their Pastors to Know: A Call to Theological Leadership in Worship (By Matthew Ward, Ph.D.)

Many pastors today do not understand their role in their church's worship—they have not received training in the principles of corporate worship and someone else on staff has the title of "Worship Leader." While there are many examples of a theology of worship available to consider, there are few examples of a contextualized theology; this article offers two that are still general enough to glean benefits and pitfalls.



This publication can be found on JBTSOnline.org

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Noah Wolfe

Noah Wolfe is currently the Director of Alumni Relations and Engagement at Grand Canyon University. Noah is responsible for building relationships with nearly 200,000 alumni through connection engagement and opportunities to give back. [Learn More](#) how he serves alma matter through his role.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Austin Rockwell

Recently, we were able to catch up with Austin Rockwell and ask about his time at GCU and all that he has done. [Learn More!](#)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Dwayne Pedroza

Dr. Dwayne Pedroza grew up in San Antonio, Texas. He has been married to his wife, Michelle, for 29 years and has 2 grown children. [Learn more](#) about the work that he is currently doing with COT.



DIG DEEPER

The concept of "Moving Forward" was developed with a recognition towards the concept of relying on God as one's source of strength despite the difficult circumstances that one might face. An interview conducted with the Dean in the College of Theology, Dr. Jason Hiles, prompted the understanding of things offered through the pursuit of this relationship. See his responses here. [Learn More!](#)

