

ATS Christian Counseling Department

Biblical Counseling 2.0

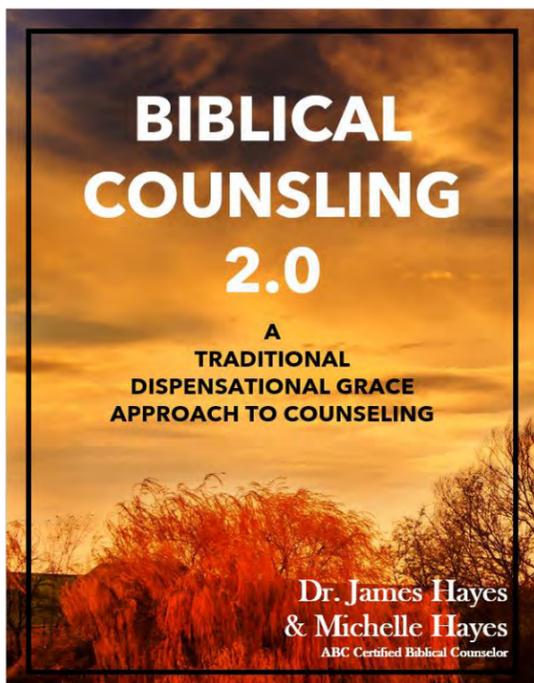
New Counseling Book by ATS Biblical
Counselors

Dr. James L. Hayes is in the latter stages of editing a biblical counseling textbook that he has co-authored with Michelle Hayes, his wife and staff member of the ATS Christian Counseling Department. Dr. Hayes holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice College & Seminary, and Michelle is licensed by the National Christian Counselors Association and currently is working towards her certification with the Association of Biblical Counselors in Fort Worth, Texas.

The textbook's primary purpose is to illustrate how to apply a biblical passage to real counseling situations. While the process requires thorough and careful exegesis of the passage(s) under consideration, the method provides an immensely practical approach to aiding those who are suffering mental and spiritual distress.

While any passage could have been selected to illustrate the method, the authors chose Ephesians 1:1-14, a passage that is rich with biblical counseling implications. Currently, the book stands at over 130 pages, and approximately three chapters and the conclusion remain to be written. The chapters that have been completed explain the underlying theological framework for applying the biblical text to the counseling session. The remaining chapters will illustrate the application of the method as utilized in actual counseling sessions.

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Scheduled to be released in Summer of 2023, Biblical Counseling 2.0 offers an alternative to Reformed theology in biblical counseling sessions.



Biblical counseling offers hope to those suffering distress in their day to day lives by grounding advice in the word of God.

Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs

New Biblical Counseling Certification in 2023

From Bachelor through Doctor of Ministry in 2023

Andersonville is partnering with the Association of Biblical Counselors (ABC) to offer ATS students the opportunity to earn both an ATS degree in Ministry and an ABC certification in Biblical Counseling.

Unlike Christian counseling, which is often based upon secular theories and resources that have been “Christianized,” biblical counseling primarily follows a Bible-only approach. Also, rather than non-directive methods (such as the Rogerian method), biblical counseling offers directive methods (think the Book of Proverbs) that apply the Bible to specific situations within the counselee’s life.

ABC offers three distinct levels of training, with each level building upon the preceding. Known as the “Certification Pathway,” ABC’s program offers Level 1 certification, focusing upon knowledge, Level 2 certification, focusing upon experience, and Level 3 certification, focusing upon specialization.

Andersonville will require Level 1 Certification in the Bachelor of

Ministry program, which will lead seamlessly into the Master of Ministry in Biblical Counseling program. In the master’s program, the ATS student will be required to complete Level 2 Certification in the Biblical Counseling major. Also, ATS will offer a new Biblical Counseling major in the Master of Divinity program, which will require both Levels 1 & 2. And, finally, in the Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Counseling program, the student will be required to complete Level 3 Certification. For students entering the Biblical Counseling program at an advanced level, such as the Master of Ministry level, but have not completed Level 1 prior to enrolling into the program, special arrangements will be made to assist the student in earning his certifications.

Dr. Cherry Hayes, supervisor of the ATS Christian Counseling Department, and Michelle Hayes, who assists current students undergoing the certification process, will gladly go over the details of the new program when it is made available.

The Certification programs are scheduled to be opened to ATS students in Summer of 2023.

2022 Graduation Challenge

Dr. James Hayes’s challenge to the graduates at the 2022 Spring Commencement Ceremony given at Albany, Georgia. **Page 2**

“In Christ” & The Counseling Session

By Michelle Hayes
A quick primer of Michelle’s application of “in Christ” to the Biblical counseling session as used with actual counselees. **Page 2**

ATS Featured by NCCA ATS Counseling Program Highlight

By Cherry Hayes
A copy of the article posted in the NCCA’s publication in June!
Page 3

Dr. James L. Hayes

A Pastor's Warning

A Challenge to the Graduating Class of 2022

I'm reminded of a little story that I read earlier this week. It goes something like this: In 1978 during the firemen's strike in England, the British army took over emergency firefighting. On January 14th, they were called to an elderly lady's home in South London to retrieve her cat. They arrived with impressive haste, very cleverly and carefully rescued the cat, and started to drive away. But the lady was so grateful she invited the squad of heroes to have tea with her. Later, as they were driving off with fond farewells and waving of arms, they ran over the cat and killed it.

Now, while the story has a touch of humor to it, it is in truth a tragic story. Yet, it is far less tragic than that error committed by most Christians in the church today. Too often, men and women who claim to be Christians, who claim to have accepted Christ as Savior, do not share or defend the gospel of Jesus Christ. Instead, when the occasion is just right, they will claim the title of Christian, but then by their actions they will run over and kill the very faith they have claimed. In other words, by their lifestyle, they kill the effectiveness of their testimony

We must not be like the British firemen of the little story. We must be men and women of God who "earnestly contend for the faith." And this involves more than mere academic pursuits and arguments. We must contend for that faith by first holding to the right set of doctrines, and then we must allow that doctrine to affect us to the point where we cannot but help to live it out practically in our day to day lives. And so, Jude writes as a pastor, a shepherd to the sheep of God, to warn them to strive for the defense of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

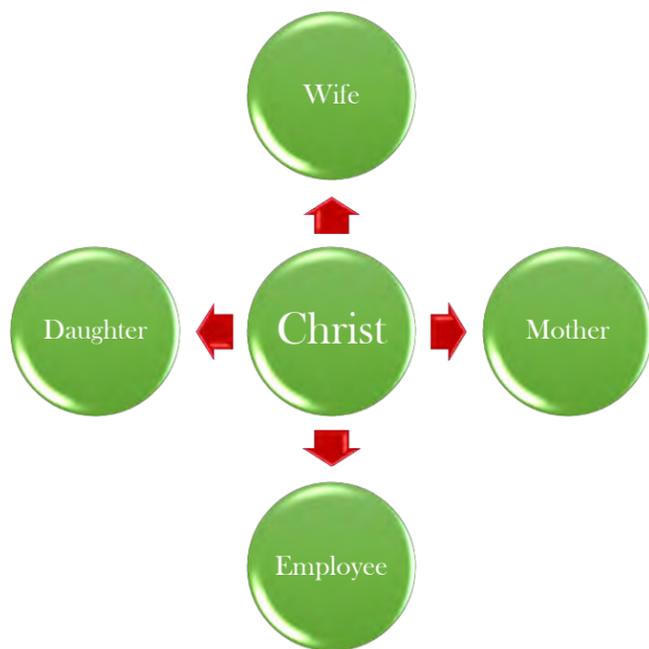
Now, today, I want us to look closely at Jude 3, and I will make four brief points from the text, and then we'll go home.

Firstly, I see the Love in Jude's Warning. Notice the words closely: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you...." Notice firstly that Jude calls his audience "Beloved." And from this I see an amazing fact: the audience was loved by God.

This afternoon, I want you to know that each one of you is loved, too. God loved you so much at Calvary that He sacrificed His own Son to pay your sin-debt. No greater love than this could ever be given. It was a giving of the Righteous for the unrighteous; the Sinless One for the sinner.

But not only does God love you, but this preacher loves you as well. In fact, I love you so much that I am willing to tell you the things you might not want to hear. But I am doing it for your own good. It is not always easy, but it is always my duty. One philosopher once said, "A man who neglects his duty as a citizen is not entitled to his rights as a citizen." Now, let me apply this to the preacher: "A preacher who neglects his duty as a preacher is not entitled to the rights as a preacher." In Ezekiel 33:1-7, Ezekiel put it this way: God has put watchmen upon the wall. If he sounds the alarm, he has done his duty and is free of the guilt of those who fail to respond. But if he fails to sound the alarm, he is responsible for the souls of those

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Michelle Hayes

Getting Relationships Right

The Christocentric Life is the Key

The young lady walks in, a look of uncertainty on her face. She is coming to her first biblical counseling session, and she is unsure of what to expect. She is at her rope's end with her marriage on the rocks and her other relationships feeling the strain and pull of life's demands. She has talked with friends and searched the Scriptures for herself, but she just cannot seem to find a way to apply the Bible to her own situation. So, she comes in and sits down, hope fading. What can this counselor do for her?

Michelle has experienced situations very similar to the one described above. While the situation may seem desperate to the counselee, she knows there is hope in God's word. And one of the greatest truths in the Word is that Christ must be at the center of our lives if we are to live the life that He intends for us to live in this world. No unsaved person has the potential for this relationship with Christ Jesus. She has enthroned Self on the throne of her life and placed Self at the center of all her relationships. Everything is done from selfish motives due to the effects of sin. This does not mean that she cannot be self-sacrificing at times or that she cannot love deeply, but it does mean that she cannot perform these actions as God intended. (Continued on Page 3)

Office of the Registrar ATS Graduate Earns M.Div. from SBTS

An alumnus of ATS recently emailed the seminary with an encouraging report concerning the acceptance of ATS credits and of the preparation it gives students seeking to further their education. The email in part reads as follows:

"Dr. Hayes, My name is Evan M. ... About five years ago I spoke with you ... I wanted to let you know that I was able to get into the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary through a program that they call the diploma program. Recently, I was on campus for a modular course, and I had breakfast with another student who had also completed his undergraduate at Andersonville. Because he had also completed an M.Div. and a doctorate at Andersonville, he was working on his Th.M. We had good fellowship over breakfast and discussed your Greek classes ... Thanks for your help."

Congratulations, Evan! Your success with the ATS degree illustrates the strong standing that ATS has within the Christian academic community. Although ATS is primarily a pastor's and counselor's school, we have produced many theologians over the years. Our success rate is quite astonishing when one considers that ATS began in the corner of a kitchen with a typewriter and a one-tape duplicator. Now, we have professors from highly recognized seminaries and students from all fifty states and over twenty foreign countries, including Australia!

Alumni, do not forget to recommend ATS to your fellow pastors and counselors! This is the best way to keep Andersonville strong for years to come.

ATS Christian Counseling Featured in NCCA Publication

Special Thanks to Michelle Hayes

By Cherry Hayes

The following article was featured in the National Christian Counselors Association ** June 2022 ** publication.

“At Andersonville Theological Seminary, May is an exciting month since we host graduation for all the graduate that wish to participate. In the Christian Counseling Department, we always look forward to meeting and talking with our students. This past Friday, May 27th, we had the opportunity to do just that for the first time in three years since COVID had prohibited our having a large gathering. Both the graduates and the staff enjoyed it immensely. We had a well-known quartet, Gold City, to entertain the families while the graduates prepared to march in. During the ceremony, the students heard from Dr. Jimmy Hayes, the founder of the school, who inspired them by reminding them not to let troublesome times deter their mission. The graduates were then challenged by Dr. James Hayes from the Book of Jude to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.” The graduates were then awarded their degrees, which was the most exciting time of the service for those who had worked so diligently.



Christian Counseling Student Receives Degree



Director Cherry Hayes (Center) with Amanda Willie (Left) and Abby Johnson (Right)

For over thirty years, I have been working as a counseling advisor for Andersonville Theological Seminary. At the seminary, one of my jobs is to work with students who are being trained as NCCA counselors. This has been a great experience and has allowed me to get to know many people who have a heart for helping others to enjoy peaceful and productive lives as children of God. It has been amazing to watch the Lord work in the lives of students as they become better prepared for this mission. One thing I did not know, however, was God’s plan for the future of Andersonville Theological Seminary’s counseling program. He had a very special blessing in mind for us.

Approximately one year ago, my daughter-in-law Michelle let it be known that the Lord was calling her into the ministry of counseling. She had been working in health care for the past thirty years and had a very specialized job that paid well; however, she felt the Lord was calling her to do more. The Lord led her to give up that job and come to work at Andersonville Theological Seminary as my associate and to enroll in the NCCA license program through the seminary. Once Michelle made some progress in the NCCA program and started working with clients, she became convinced that the Arno Profile System was a very helpful tool that allows her the following advantages:

- Allows her to have insight into the temperament of the person coming for counseling
- Allows her to determine the proper approach for the client, keeping in mind that my biblical advice will not change, but my approach can vary greatly according to the temperament of the client

- Allows her to discuss the client’s strengths, giving her a platform that she may build upon
- Allows her to be aware of the client’s weaknesses, while being careful not to focus too keenly on these weaknesses, thereby not giving the client an excuse for negative actions or attitudes
- Allows her to choose Bible selections that will address both strengths and weaknesses.

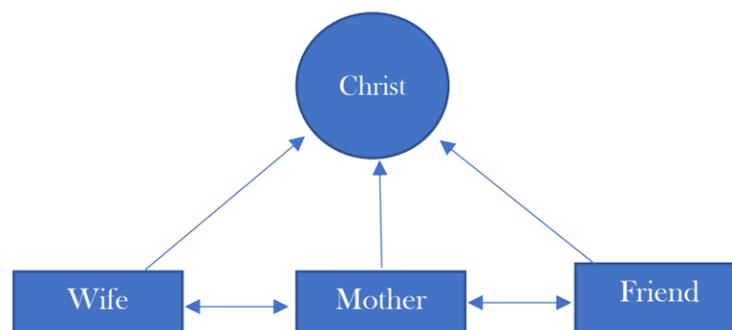
Michelle has been gifted with a wonderful spirit from the Lord! She meets the client where they are and makes them feel comfortable with making changes that would honor our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you are a student at Andersonville or if you plan to become one, Michelle will be a special encouragement to you since she has so recently completed the classes that you will be taking.”



Photo of Michelle with Mini K.

Christ Centered

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Therefore, the first and greatest necessity of the biblical counselor is to share the Good News of the gospel with her counselee. Only once Christ has taken up residence within her heart can she have the potential to place Him at the center of all her relationships.

But once the counselee has Christ in her life, then she must be instructed on the necessity of seeing each of her earthly roles as vitally connected to and flowing from her new relationship to God. As a mother, she must reflect upon how Christ would have her to nurture her children, reflecting the love of Christ to them in her every action. As a wife, she must reflect upon how Christ would have her submit to her husband, reflecting the love of Christ in her marriage relationship.

In essence, as the above diagram illustrates, the counselee must learn to connect each human role to Christ. As she accomplishes this task or fails at this task, it will affect how she performs her earthly roles. Her earthly roles, however, are interconnected so that if she fails to connect her role as wife to Christ, it will affect her role as mother and friend, for example. Only by submitting to God’s design of placing Christ upon the throne of her life can she remove the spiritual and mental stresses created between her and the Lord and between her roles here upon this earth.

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2022 Challenge

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lost due to his negligence. So, I am your watchman, and I am sounding the alarm this afternoon because I love you.

From this thought—that to delay is to place in danger those whom we love—I want to note that it is right that preachers should warn their churches of these dangers, too. Sometimes church members get upset when preachers preach sermons against false teaching, but the Bible warns throughout its pages, especially in the NT, that wolves have crept in among the sheep. And these wolves disguise themselves by wearing sheep skins, and pastors must guard the flock of God! Even Paul himself warned the church in Acts 20:31 with such earnestness that he shed tears in warning them. So, following Paul's example, I too much warn you of false teachers.

But not only are pastors compelled to warn their churches, but every graduate here is to be on guard against false teachers as well. At the risk of getting ahead of myself, I want you to look at the last phrase of the verse: "which was once delivered unto the saints." It is the saints who are the safekeepers of the faith. It is the saints—each and every one—who are responsible for guarding the faith of the Christian church!

Secondly, I see the Importance of Jude's Warning. Jude writes for the saints to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." So, Jude is writing upon aggressively defending the gospel message. This gospel message has been handed down from the Apostles to the saints, and from those early Christians to us through an unbroken chain of transmission. Now, the chain has had its shares of kinks over the centuries. So called Christian churches have added to the gospel or they have taken away from it, but these churches and these wolves in sheep's clothing will have to answer one day for their sin.

Thirdly, I see the Necessity of Jude's Warning. Now, while Jude does not say explicitly say who his opponents were, we can know certain things about them from the remainder of the letter. These false teachers have "crept in" the churches, or as the NLT puts it, "they have wormed their way into the church." But what do these men believe and teach? Briefly notice verse 4: They are ungodly men; They say that God's grace allows the saints to live immoral lives; They deny God as Master; and, They deny Jesus as the Messiah and as the Lord. In other words, they are preaching a gospel that the world wants to hear: A salvation that requires no sanctification; A salvation without sacrifice; A salvation without laws of morality; A salvation without a judging God; And a salvation that denies the necessity of the finished work of Christ. This is a comfortable gospel—but it is not the Bible's gospel!

While a person is saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, his obligation does not end there. Jesus did not command His church to go and get people saved in the Great Commission. NO! He commands His church to go and make DISCIPLES. Notice the words of Matthew 28:20—"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Sharing the gospel is understood. Baptism is understood. But the command is to make disciples, and discipleship is hard work: It requires reading and studying God's word daily; It requires praying fervently and frequently; It requires living a godly life; and, It requires being belittled and suffering for God. It is hard work! But it is worth it!

Finally, this afternoon, I see the Jude's Actual Warning. Jude writes "that you should earnestly contend for the faith." As I just noted, false teachers were teaching



Dr. James Hayes speaking with an Andersonville graduate and her family prior to the Spring Commencement ceremony.

ATS faculty and staff always enjoy putting a name and a face together at the graduation ceremonies.

another gospel. Paul says that those who teach any other gospel than that which he himself taught were to be accursed. So, what is the Gospel for which we are to earnestly contend? The answer is clearly found in the Scripture, but for the sake of clarity and brevity, Dr. J.B. Hixson's definition is a good summary of the true gospel message. He defines saving faith in this way: "Saving faith is the belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who died and rose again to pay one's personal penalty for sin and the One who gives eternal life to all who trust Him and Him alone for it." To add anything to this is to pervert the faith once delivered unto the saints. To remove anything from this is to pervert the faith once delivered unto the saints. You graduates, then, must learn this definition, believe this definition, and share this definition with your churches and your communities around you.

May God help us to do this with zeal, for we are the watchman set upon the wall! It does no good to know the enemy is coming, is at work, unless we sound the alarm. Earnestly contend for the faith!

Notice, too, that this faith was "delivered" unto the saints. Who delivered it? The answer is God Almighty. The gospel was not discovered by man. I Corinthians 2:24 says that the natural man cannot perceive or understand the things of God. So, if God had not condescended to share the gospel with man, man would be still in darkness. Hebrews 1 speaks of this matter: God first delivered it by His prophets, but now He has delivered it by His own Son. I beg you today, hear the faith, the gospel message, today, and then earnestly fight for it!

Finally, notice that it is the faith delivered "once for all." No other faith will ever be given. No new doctrines are to be added regardless of the cultures, empires, and ideologies which rise and fall. Jude calls this salvation "the common salvation," for it is available to all and is shared by all Christians. And it is delivered by God to us.

This afternoon, I want to ask you a question: For those of you who do believe the gospel, are you willing to fight for it? Jude says, "earnestly contend" for the faith. Are you willing to do this? Or will you let the gospel message be belittled and attacked in your

presence? Our world today has taught us that all beliefs are equal, but the Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by me." Are you willing to take a stand and to say, Jesus is the only way?

In 1978 during the firemen's strike in England, the British army took over emergency firefighting. On January 14th, they were called to an elderly lady's home in South London to retrieve her cat. They arrived with impressive haste, very cleverly and carefully rescued the cat, and started to drive away. But the lady was so grateful she invited the squad of heroes to have tea with her. Later, as they were driving off with fond farewells and waving of arms, they ran over the cat and killed it.

You see, the story actually is not funny at all when you understand what is at stake. Don't let the faith die because of your negligence. Earnestly contend for the faith in your own life and in the life of your church for the sake of God's name and the sake of your community. Let us pray.

Christ-Centered

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Of course, what I have been describing is really the process of experiential sanctification, which is the goal of all true counseling. Moving Christians from salvation to sanctification, from child of God to disciple of Christ, must be the aim of every counselor.

If you have never thought about sanctification and counseling in these terms, maybe this article will give you food for thought and assist you with your counseling. If you have considered the gist of this article before, it never hurts to be reminded that our right relationship with Christ is the key to our spiritual and mental health.

Biblical Counseling 2.0

Continued from Page 1

James and Michelle acknowledge the great debt owed to the early biblical counseling movement founded by Jay Adams, but they disagree with the underlying theology of the early movement. Adams and other biblical counselors most often are Reformed in their theology. This Reformed theological framework has a great effect upon the counselor and the counseling session. Instead of a Reformed foundation, the ATS counseling staff rely upon the Traditional Dispensational Grace theological foundation. Thus, Biblical Counseling 2.0 is an attempt to rescue biblical counseling from the Reformed tradition.

Like the Reformed tradition, the Traditional Dispensational Grace position holds the Bible in highest esteem, teaches the sovereignty of God, and relays the necessity of His grace for salvation and sanctification. Unlike the Reformed position, however, Traditional Dispensational Grace as presented in the book does not hold to any of the five points of the traditional Reformed T-U-L-I-P as defined by Calvinists.

Whether an experienced biblical counselor seeking sound biblical exegesis centered upon counseling applications or a new counselor searching for a method that utilizes Scripture alone, the book is an excellent resource for any pastor or counselor. Even for those who disagree with its theological underpinnings, it is the authors' hope that the book will provide much food for thought and aid in applying Scripture to the hurting counselees who come to them for counseling.

The textbook is scheduled to be released in Summer of 2023.



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Word of Mouth: The Best Advertisement

Students Recommending to Friends Still Best Recruiting Method for ATS

While Andersonville advertises with many fine outlets and agencies, such as Sermon Central, the best recruiting tool that ATS has had for over four decades is students telling students about the seminary. If every student recruited just two students over their career with ATS, the school would grow exponentially, which will only help you as a graduate!

ATS has been going strong for over four decades, and it is getting ready once again to make major upgrades in its programs, upgrades that will help strengthen the seminary's reputation and acceptance in the Christian community. With new professors once again being recruited and the addition of the Association of Biblical Counselors credentials being added, ATS will only get stronger. Also, video courses at the Associate of Biblical Studies level will soon be forthcoming, with the target date being in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023. The first video course to be released is "Preaching through Peter & Jude," a course that will go verse-by-verse through those three books and then present a method for preparing sermons or teaching lessons from select passages within the books. Not only will students be given a fish, but they will be taught how to fish as well. The course will be taught by Dr. James L. Hayes.

And, as promised, ATS will soon have a podcast that will discuss biblical issues in today's world. Hosted by Dr. Hayes, plans are in the works to have special guests appear on the podcasts as well. The first planned podcast is tentatively scheduled to deal with Bioethics from a Christian worldview.

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