



THEOLOGY FOR LIFE IN 2021



BGST
BIBLICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY



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Many concerns that we face today require a multi-faceted response, across various disciplines. By approaching issues in this way, Christians will not only have a fuller and more complete understanding of the issues, we can also shed the light of God's word there. This series, "Theology for Life" aims to not only equip Christians individually and corporately, to be able to live life well and fully, embracing all the complexities and challenges, but also equip us to **give life to others and society**.

In 2021, BGST presents these lectures and discussions, which will both explore a variety of subjects, and encourage deep Christian theological reflection so as to enable us to respond and act well, in order for Christians to be **salt and light in society**. For each topic, there will be a speaker, and a respondent who will root the subject in the **local context**. All lectures will be conducted virtually with a live Q&A segment where possible. Do look out for more publicity early next year on the Theology for Life (TFL) Lecture Series.



8 JANUARY 2021

7:30PM - 9:00PM

IS A DIGITAL CHURCH A REAL CHURCH?

DR PETE PHILLIPS

In the post-pandemic world, the digital church has become prevalent. How can this form of church be **meaningful** and **worshipful**?



Dr Phillips is Director of the Centre for Digital Theology and pioneered the first MA in Digital Theology in the world. With a PhD in John's Gospel and many years' experience of teaching and researching the New Testament, he now explores the interface between all things digital and theological. His key areas of interest include Bible in the Digital Age; Human Adaption; Transhumanism; *Imago Dei* research; Artificial Intelligence (AI); and Digital

Humanities and its intersection with Theology.

During the pandemic, Dr Phillips has been actively involved in promoting digital expressions of church, focusing especially in the concept of the Hybrid Church. Dr Phillips enjoys exploring new applications of technology and developing new opportunities for research. Dr Phillips is also Head of Theology at Premier Christian Media.



24 APRIL 2021

9:30AM - 11:30AM

WORKPLACE DISCIPLESHIP IN A MULTICULTURAL CONTEXT

DR DAVID W. GILL

Christians find meaning in their everyday work by looking at it as given by a Creator God who is involved in work at all times. Since Christians work in a secular world, with others who have different convictions, how should Christians respond when there is a clash of values? Furthermore, while some Christians in professional jobs may have the luxury of considering how to apply biblical principles in their work, other blue-collar workers or even gig workers may not have such choices. How then can the Church share its values in the places we are put so that others too can have a meaningful view of work?



Dr Gill is a writer and speaker based in Oakland, California. He recently retired from his position as Mockler-Phillips Professor of Workplace Theology & Business Ethics and Director of the Mockler Centre for Faith & Ethics in the Workplace at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton and Boston, Massachusetts (2010 – 2016).

He is the author of seven books including a two-volume introduction to Christian Ethics: *Becoming Good: Building Moral Character* and *Doing Right: Practicing Ethical Principles* (InterVarsity, 2000 & 2004) and a general market business ethics book, *It's About Excellence: Building Ethically Healthy Organizations* (Wipf & Stock, 2008/2011).



23 JULY 2021

7:30PM - 9:00PM

MAKING ROOM: EXTENDING CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

DR CHRISTINE POHL

The question "Who is my neighbour?" continues to challenge us today, in a world where we have become suspicious of people who are different from us, whether in skin colour, language, socio-economic class, or religion. The Christian practice of hospitality has deep theological and historical roots, and has been a basis for sustainable ministry and outreach.



Dr Pohl was Professor Emerita of Church in Society at Asbury Theological Seminary. She retired in 2018 having taught there for close to 30 years. She first learned the practices of hospitality from her grandparents, and that inspired her life-long research and writing on the subject. She has written *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as Christian Tradition* (Eerdmans, 1999) and *Living into Community: Cultivating Practices that Sustain Us* (Eerdmans, 2012).



11 SEPTEMBER 2021

9:30AM - 11:30AM

SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP AS DISCIPLESHIP

REV DR WESLEY HILL

Even before these days of "social distancing", many have spoken of the experience of loneliness. It doesn't have to be this way, and especially not in the church community. While our present culture pays more attention to romantic love, marriage, family, and other forms of relationship, Wesley Hill challenges us to retrieve - from Scripture and tradition - a rich understanding of friendship as a spiritual vocation, and explains how the church can foster friendship as a basic component of Christian discipleship. He helps us reimagine friendship as a robust form of love that is worthy of honour and attention in communities of faith, and suggests practical ways for all Christians to cultivate stronger friendships.



Rev Dr Hill is Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, and author of *Paul and the Trinity: Persons, Relations, and the Pauline Letters* (2015); *Spiritual Friendship: Finding Love in the Church as a Celibate Gay Christian* (2015); *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality* (2010, 2016), and *The Lord's Prayer: A Guide to Praying Our Father* (2019). He is a columnist for "Christianity Today", and contributes to other periodicals and blogs.