

GETTING STARTED

First Instructions for using *Birmingham Theological Seminary* online courses.

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1. Registration

To make full use of the courses, you need to register for the whole site. Make sure you have clicked on the link called "Create new account" under the "Login" button and that you have followed the instructions to register.

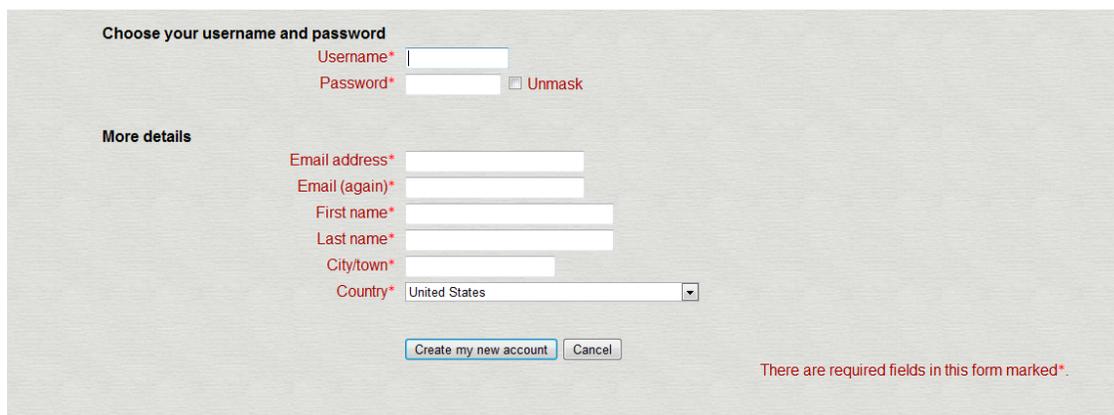


The screenshot shows the Birmingham Theological Seminary website header with the logo and the text "in partnership with THIRD MILLENNIUM MINISTRIES". Below the header is a "Login" form with fields for "Username" (containing "thirdmil") and "Password", and a "Login" button. A red arrow points to the "Create new account" link below the login form. To the right of the login form is a "Welcome to Birmingham Theological Seminary Online!" message and a "Instructions for NEW USERS!" section. The "Instructions for NEW USERS!" section contains the text: "New users, first read 'Getting Started.'" Below the instructions is a link to "Non U.S. residents may take courses in the Certificate in Christian Ministry curriculum for academic credit and".

You just need to create your own username and password, then give some basic information: your email, first name, last name, city and country where you live. Then click on "Create my new account."

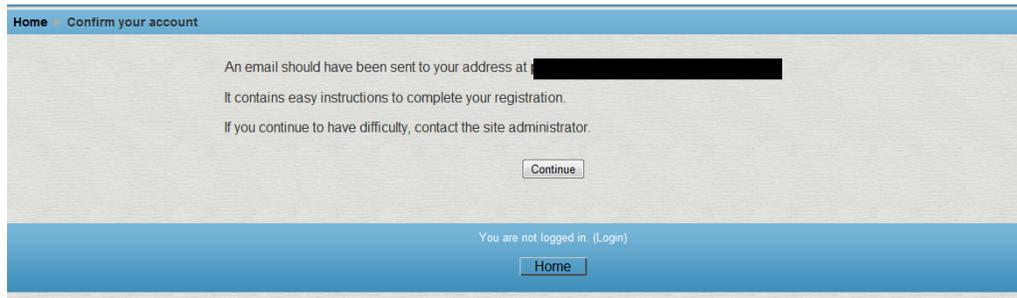
Write down your personal ID and password. Each time you open the site, you will need to login by giving this information.

This information will only be visible to the administrator of the site, not to other students.

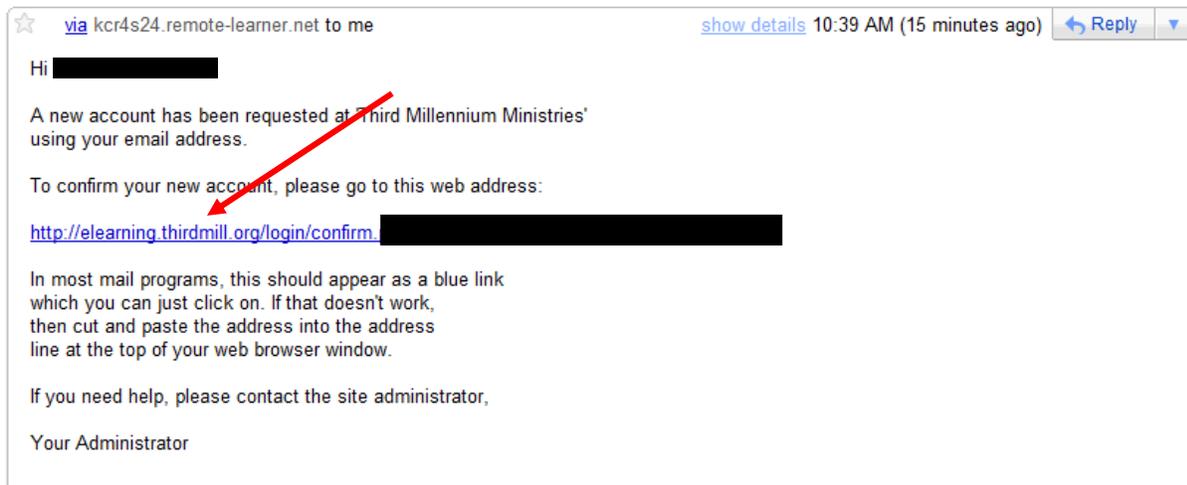


The screenshot shows the registration form on the Birmingham Theological Seminary website. The form is titled "Choose your username and password" and has two main sections: "Choose your username and password" and "More details". The "Choose your username and password" section has fields for "Username*" and "Password*" with an "Unmask" checkbox. The "More details" section has fields for "Email address*", "Email (again)*", "First name*", "Last name*", "City/town*", and "Country*" (a dropdown menu set to "United States"). At the bottom of the form are "Create my new account" and "Cancel" buttons. A red note at the bottom right says "There are required fields in this form marked*."

Then click "Continue."



Within a few minutes, you should receive an email to confirm your registration. Click on the hyperlink provided in the email.

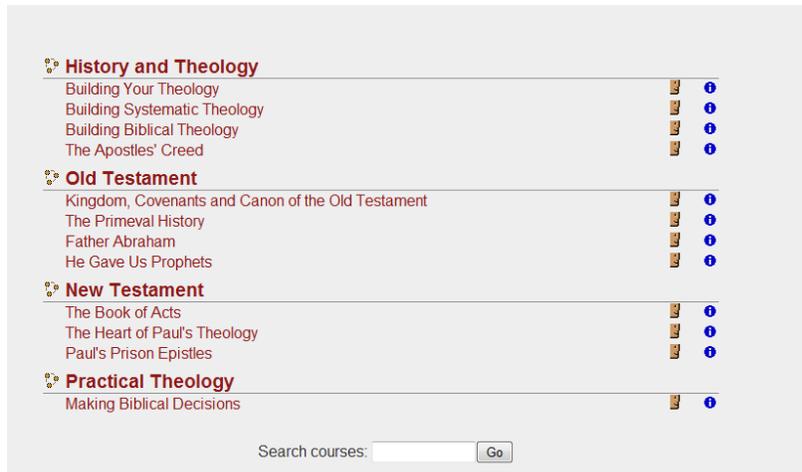


Click on the "Courses" button.



2. Selecting a Course

From the main home page, you can select a course from the menu.



The screenshot shows a menu with four main categories: History and Theology, Old Testament, New Testament, and Practical Theology. Each category lists several courses with a small icon and a blue information icon to the right. At the bottom, there is a search bar with the text "Search courses:" and a "Go" button.

- History and Theology**
 - Building Your Theology
 - Building Systematic Theology
 - Building Biblical Theology
 - The Apostles' Creed
- Old Testament**
 - Kingdom, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament
 - The Primeval History
 - Father Abraham
 - He Gave Us Prophets
- New Testament**
 - The Book of Acts
 - The Heart of Paul's Theology
 - Paul's Prison Epistles
- Practical Theology**
 - Making Biblical Decisions

You may want to browse through a description of the courses. To do that, click on the name of the department, such as "History and Theology." This will open a list with the descriptions of the courses in that department. From here you may also choose one of the courses.



The screenshot shows the Birmingham Theological Seminary website header with the logo and the name "Birmingham Theological Seminary" in a cursive font. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with "Home" and "Course categories" leading to "History and Theology". A search bar is also present. The main content area displays a list of courses under the "History and Theology" category. Each course entry includes the course title, the teacher's name, a small icon, and a detailed description. The courses listed are "Building Your Theology", "Building Systematic Theology", and "Building Biblical Theology".

Building Your Theology
Teacher: Ra McLaughlin

Does theology sometimes seem complicated, dry and abstract to you? It shouldn't be that way, if it is done properly. This course will help you learn to build your theology on the certain foundation of the Scriptures, but also with pathos and practical application. As an introduction to theology, this course teaches the purpose and importance of doing theology, the different sources of revelation, the meaning of inspiration, the proper interpretation of Scripture, and the key distinctive emphases of reformed theology. It is based on the video lessons of Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr.

BUILDING YOUR THEOLOGY: Click here to go to the first page of the course.
HOME: Click here to see ALL our free online courses.

Building Systematic Theology

Many of us have read systematic theology, but we seldom consider the process behind its development. This course analyzes the steps of building systematic theology, especially the formation of technical terms, theological propositions, and doctrinal statements. It examines the legitimacy of systematic theology, the place of human logic in the process, and the dangers and benefits of this tool. It is based on the video lessons of Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr.

BUILDING SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: Click here to go to the first page of the course.
HOME: Click here to see ALL our free online courses.

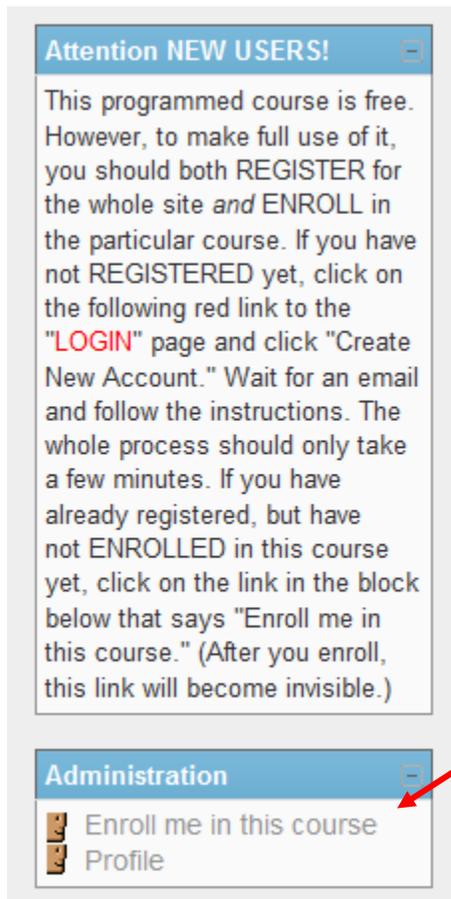
Building Biblical Theology

While it is often overlooked, Biblical Theology can greatly enrich our study of the Scriptures. It focuses on the historical development of theology as it progresses throughout Scripture, analyzing the acts of God as they are recorded in different periods of time. This course explains the meaning of Biblical Theology, examines the way it is developed, defends its legitimacy, and gives examples from both the Old Testament and from the New Testament of how it can be beneficial. It is based on the video lessons of Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr.

BUILDING BIBLICAL THEOLOGY: Click here to go to the first page of the course.
HOME: Click here to see ALL our free online courses.

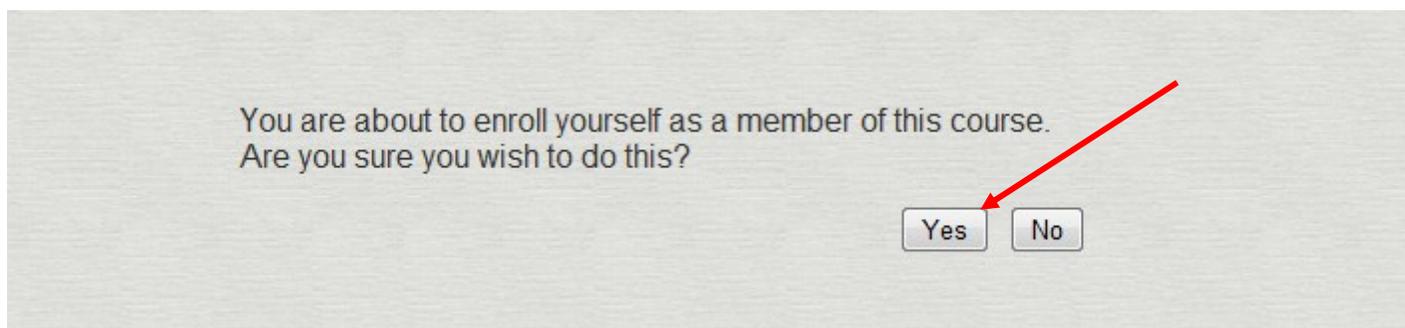
3. Enrolling in a Course

Once you register and choose a course, you need to *enroll*. Otherwise, you will be considered a "guest," and you will not be able to use some of the activities, such as quizzes and questionnaires. To enroll, find the "Administration" block in the left margin, and click on the link "Enroll me in this course."



The screenshot shows a course page with two main sections. The top section is titled "Attention NEW USERS!" and contains a message explaining that the course is free but requires registration and enrollment. It provides instructions for new users to create an account and for existing users to enroll. The bottom section is titled "Administration" and contains two links: "Enroll me in this course" and "Profile". A red arrow points from the "Enroll me in this course" link to the right.

Then click "Yes."



The screenshot shows a confirmation dialog box with a light gray background. The text reads: "You are about to enroll yourself as a member of this course. Are you sure you wish to do this?". Below the text are two buttons: "Yes" and "No". A red arrow points from the top right towards the "Yes" button.

Now that you are both registered for the whole site and enrolled in a particular course, you can use all of the activities of the course, and your grades will be recorded.

4. Starting a Course

To begin a course, click the "Start Here" button. This will open a page of basic instructions for the course.



5. Tutorial: Navigating Through a Course

We highly recommend that you watch one of the video tutorials, "Navigating Through a Course," or that you read the PDF document by the same name. These tutorials explain how to use all the elements of the course. There are two versions of the video: a) the first one is an "embedded" video, which opens more quickly, but the resolution of the image is not quite as clear, and b) the second one takes longer to open, but has a higher resolution. If you prefer to just read the PDF file, it gives basically the same explanations.

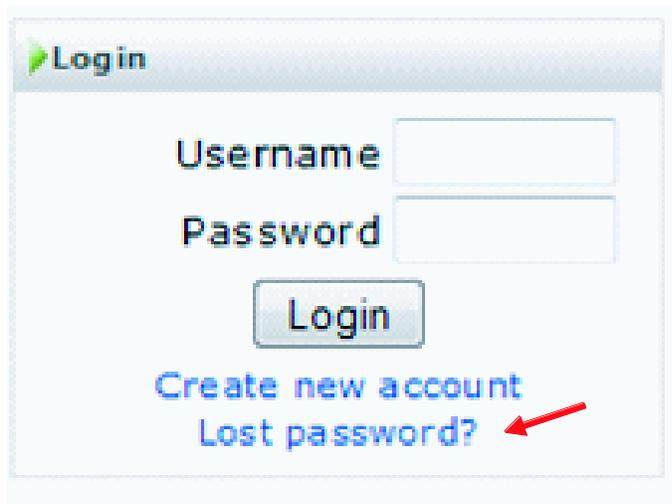
6. Web Browsers

The courses should operate properly with various different browsers, including *Explorer*, *Firefox*, *Google Chrome*, and *Safari*.

However, some problems may occur with files such as PDF documents or videos in some versions of these browsers. We recommend always keeping your software updated with the latest versions, both of the browser and of *Adobe Reader*.

7. Lose Your Password?

If for some reason, you forget your password, you may click on "Lost password?" in the Login block. An email will be sent to you giving you instructions.



The image shows a login form with a title bar that says "Login". Below the title bar are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". Below the input fields is a "Login" button. At the bottom of the form, there are two links: "Create new account" and "Lost password?". A red arrow points to the "Lost password?" link.

8. Virus Protection and Ad Blockers

If you have not already done so, we recommend that you install some kind of virus protection for your computer and an ad blocker. We recommend that you investigate the options and speak with somebody who has experience in this area, but some of the most popular protection programs are: "Kaspersky," "Norton," and "McAfee." The more complete versions of these software programs include ad blockers. There are also free ad blocking devices such as "AdBlock" or "NoAds."