I’ve always identified with the apostle John. I began my ministry as a “Son of Thunder,” prepared to take the truth of Scripture to the world, whether I was ready or not. Over time I came to understand that my intellectual knowledge of the gospel had not led me to fully know and love God or His people. I learned, through experience, study, and mentorship that a true understanding of the scripture leads us to the person of Christ, the grace of God, and the power of His Spirit. This understanding led me to love the church and its people in a way that I could never have found on my own.

This is why at Phoenix Seminary we have chosen to practice “Scholarship with a Shepherd’s Heart”. When we say this, we refer to rigorous study of the biblical text and its origins which leads to a deeper understanding of God’s character and then calls us to serve His people. Only by developing the minds, the hearts, and the practical capacity of new leaders can the church be supplied with healthy leadership that will take the gospel to all nations. It is my desire that you will partner with us in exactly this difficult, but important, task.
WHY Seminary?

Our global society is increasingly being defined as rudderless. Thus, there has never been a more poignant time for clarity and direction for emerging leaders. God’s mission to the world is the Church, and Phoenix Seminary exists for the well-being of the church. Phoenix Seminary crafts men and women for ministry with the needed foundational tools so that, as pastors, missionaries, and counselors, they can carry out their biblical calling and significantly impact the world through the Church on its mission.

Our approach to theological education integrates biblical scholarship, practical ministry experience through local churches, and one-to-one character mentorship. We have recognized the importance of retaining professors and instructors who are well-authored scholars, and yet are also ministry technicians that give our students a rigorous, successful, holistic education. We augment this teaching by partnering with local churches to provide the hands-on skill development that simply doesn’t come from the classroom. As a result, our graduates are prepared to lead in the midst of challenging new cultural and ministry settings with a solid foundation of biblical understanding.

Our graduates are prepared to lead in the midst of challenging new cultural and ministry settings with a foundation of biblical understanding.
To be adequately prepared to influence culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, one must wholeheartedly commit to rigorous study in the interpretation of the biblical text. We take seriously the admonition of the Apostle Paul:

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

The Scriptures teach us that it is the Word of God, through the Spirit of God, that changes lives. Therefore, to be effective in changing lives, churches, communities, and the world for Christ, our students must be able to understand the Word and communicate it accurately. They must think “textually.” The demand and discipline of study at Phoenix Seminary serves our graduates well regardless of their final career pursuit. Rather than relying on the words of other theologians, they can apply Scripture with confidence, nuance, and clarity for themselves.
The Biblical Languages (BL) element of my M.Div. at Phoenix Seminary (PS) was difficult. Yet, people who do difficult jobs require difficult preparation. The BL program at PS gave me—and gives me—an advantage in textual analysis and argumentation that I employed in my Juris Doctor program at Cornell and employ today as a legal scholar and practitioner.

JOSHUA D. BROOKS
The eGovernment Fellow of Cornell Law School
M.Div. – Phoenix Seminary 2012
Doctor of Law – Cornell University 2015
As the New Testament defines leadership, the emphasis is primarily on character development. Academic understanding of the Scripture is key, but unless we tune our heart to follow His, our message is hollow. At Phoenix Seminary, we prioritize one-to-one relationships with the faculty, staff and local pastors. In these relationships, students develop and practice important spiritual disciplines not always conveyed or received in classroom situations.

Many of the pivotal character issues of ministry involve concepts best gained and understood in a mentoring relationship—issues such as developing grace, growing in patience, curbing anger or frustration. Firmly understanding the many faces of biblical love, unity, community, authenticity, integrity and compassion make for a rounded and grounded individual.

We don’t want our students to do seminary alone. That’s why every degree student has a mentor who models Christlike character and cares for their souls as much as they do for their academic studies.

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other”

Colossians 3:12-13a
The time with my Phoenix Seminary mentor was invaluable for me in processing all that I was learning. God used these mentoring times to shape my character and prepare me to lead in the church from a place of confident humility: confident in the power of God and my knowledge of His Word, and humbly aware of my limits and need of Christ’s grace in my life.

PRESTON HANCOCK
Senior Pastor, Red Mountain Community Church
Succeeding in ministry is more than achieving academic excellence. It involves acquiring practical skills of ministry: Learning how to speak to a culture and a worldview that is increasingly antagonistic to Jesus Christ; Understanding and gaining skills in pastoral care, counseling, mentoring, building, and leading staff and teams. Imparting truth with empathy and compassion is a necessary skill set that builds authenticity.

Phoenix Seminary is fully committed to ensure that our graduates are prepared to serve His Church with the skills necessary to pastor and lead their churches and ministries. We believe that these skills can best be developed by practicing what students learn in the classrooms within the context of the local church. By partnering with local churches, our students gain “hands-on” experience in applying the truth of God’s Word in practical, relevant, real time shepherding.

“The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them... But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.”

For the last two years, I have seen practical ministry at the heart of every class and lecture. I have learned what, “scholarship with a shepherd’s heart” means through the personal investments made in me by the faculty. With their help, I understand that each assignment is not for the gain of understanding only, but rather a tool to help serve my family, church, and community better.

MEAGAN HAWK
Current Student
Featured on these pages are just a few of the world-class theologians and ministry leaders who daily work to form the next generations of leaders for His Church. Visit ps.edu for a complete list of faculty and staff.

MEET the Faculty

BRIAN J. ARNOLD, PhD
Assistant Professor – Theology
*Justification in the Second Century* (deGruyter, 2017).

JOHN DELHOUSAIE, PhD
Associate Professor – New Testament
"Who are the Women Prophets in the Bible?" in *Mutuality* 16 (2009).

WAYNE GRUDEM, PhD
Research Professor – Theology & Biblical Studies
*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Zondervan, 1994).
General Editor of the *ESV Study Bible*. 

Visit ps.edu for a complete list of faculty and staff.
Development of strong doctrine requires examination from multiple angles and from original sources, rather than working only from the conclusions of scholars that have come before. To develop a complete view of Scripture, our professors represent different denominational backgrounds and traditions. Likewise, students are encouraged to develop their individual beliefs in an environment where iron sharpens iron. Only through the competition of ideas will doctrine be strengthened and core ministry philosophies be developed.

Our faculty has demonstrated top-tier theological credentials in addition to their care for their students as individuals. Graduates express gratitude for the time spent in development with these high level thinkers who challenge them both directly and through their writings.

JOHN MEADE, PhD
Assistant Professor – Old Testament

STEVE TRACY, PhD
Professor – Theology and Ethics
Mending the Soul (Zondervan, 2005).
Caring for the Vulnerable Child: Welcoming Children Who Have Experienced Neglect, Abandonment, & Abuse (Mending the Soul, 2014) (coauthored with Celestia Tracy)

JUSTIN SMITH, PsyD
Associate Professor – Professional & Pastoral Counseling
PROGRAMS of Study

Doctor of Ministry

Designed for experienced ministry practitioners, our Doctorate of Ministry is a flexible program designed to increase the effectiveness of those already engaged in church, para-church, local and global ministry. The combination of study and research, 4-5 day intensive residencies, and post-residency assignments allow currently serving leaders to not only continue their work, but to integrate it into their Doctoral program.

Master of Divinity

At the core of Phoenix Seminary is our Master of Divinity Program, which offers effective and practical learning for leaders in all areas of ministry. Study includes biblical interpretation, theological analysis, church history, and effective use of skills in preaching, church leadership, counseling, and cross-cultural ministry. We also offer accelerated programs for students that have finished a four-year bible or theological degree in the last five years. This is all offered alongside a 1:1 mentor relationship that develops the whole capacity for ministry in the student.

Areas of Emphasis:

- Biblical & Theological Studies
- Counseling and Family
- Leadership Development
- Spiritual Formation
- Interdisciplinary Studies
Master of Arts

The MA program at Phoenix Seminary gives an opportunity for working professionals in both ministry and secular applications to study scripture and ministry skills without the impact of a typical full-time educational schedule. Programs are offered as a hybrid of classroom and online, with our Biblical and Theological Studies degree available as 100% online if desired.

Areas of Emphasis:

- Biblical & Theological Studies
  - 100% Online
- Counseling
- Ministry
  - 11 available concentrations

Diploma in Biblical Studies

Our graduate diploma provides foundational biblical education for leaders in support roles or non-vocational ministry. Lay elders, team and group leaders can all benefit from a deeper understanding of the meaning of scripture, and training in common leadership situations such as conflict resolution in the church.

My theology classes reflect a level scholarship on a par with the most respected institutions in the world, with professors who have never lost sight of the importance of practical application in the local church and in the community.

DON ENEVOLDSEN
Current Student,
Master of Arts in Ministry
Why travel to Phoenix for Seminary education? There are both unique challenges and opportunities that make it the perfect place. As a relatively young and fast growing city, Phoenix is growing faster than the ability of the local church to plant and multiply. The possibilities for new ministry is everywhere you look. These opportunities are enhanced by our unique mix of resources, including the largest theological library in the southwest.

Aside from this, it’s a great place to live. There are many reasons that it will soon be the fourth largest city in the United States. The great climate lends itself to outdoor adventure, Phoenix is near ski resorts, forest recreation, theme parks, and the Grand Canyon. Some of the best golf courses in the world are here, and can be played year-round. While it may be a desert, you can drive to the beach in several hours, making Phoenix a great hub for any activity you choose.
Come join a community of theological experts who will develop your knowledge of Scripture, your heart for God, and your capacity to serve the church. It is Scholarship with a Shepherd’s Heart and it starts with you taking the first step. Contact us today to begin your journey.
Engage in deep study of the scripture, and understand the culture and setting in which it was originally written. By understanding the truth of the gospel, you will be moved to...

**KNOW His Word**

Scripture reveals to us not just the truth of the gospel, but the nature and character of God. Through mentoring and interpretation, you will grow in Christlikeness, which will grant the capacity to...

**FOLLOW His Heart**

Academic knowledge of Scripture is important, but ministry happens in relationship. Phoenix seminary will teach you skills for leading teams, managing budgets, counseling, and other critical skills for effective ministry.

**SERVE His Church**