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ROCHESTER  
BIBLE INSTITUTE

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NEW YORK

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**Handbook**  
**2018/2019**

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS 2

INTRODUCTION 3

VISION 3

MEET THE DEANS 3

STUDY PROGRAM 4

TIMETABLE 5

CLASS TIMES 6

COURSE SELECTION 6

PRACTICAL INFORMATION 7

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 10

CODE OF CONDUCT 11

A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTENT OF EACH COURSE 12

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the official handbook of the Rochester Bible Institute, a Bible school that is focused on raising leaders to impact this world with the gospel. In this handbook you can find more information about the school, different courses, the vision and more. If you are considering attending RBI, let the vision and information in this handbook speak to your heart and stir a desire in you to follow the plan of God for your life!

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## VISION

Rochester Bible Institute is a school that will equip you to be the person that God has called you to be. By completing the courses in this school you will achieve three primary goals:

1. Build a firm foundation for your relationship with God.
2. Gain a comprehensive understanding of God's Word.
3. Be able to minister to other people with confidence.

There are many benefits to achieving these goals. Discovering your purpose, walking in greater blessing & prosperity, receiving healing in your body and soul, are just a few of the benefits. The courses and requirements of this school are designed to empower you to accomplish more with God than you ever thought imaginable.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Rochester Bible Institute has been founded with the great commission as its purpose: to make disciples of Jesus that will go make more disciples of Jesus.

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## MEET THE PASTORS

Jeremiah and Julia Thomas graduated from River Bible Institute in Tampa, FL in 2010 and 2013 respectively. They met at the church where they attended Bible school and were married in 2013. Just over a year after getting married they planted The River at Rochester Church (River Church) in 2014 with a vision to see the New York State impacted with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah having grown up in church was profoundly impacted by the presence of God when he was 13 years old. Since then his hunger for God and desire to see God to touch more lives like his was, has only increased. This burden to see more lives impacted by God and His Word is what caused Jeremiah to

enter into full-time ministry with his wife Julia and start a church, Bible school, and whatever else God leads them to do.

Julia attended a Christian conference and heard the gospel preached for the first time in 2010 and was gloriously saved by Jesus. Her whole life flipped around, leaving her old life behind she became a disciple of Jesus. Shortly after this encounter with Jesus she felt the call to ministry and left everything she knew behind to go to Bible school and pursue God's plan for her life. Her life went through a radical transformation and within 5



years of being saved she graduated from Bible school, was married, and entered full time ministry.

To help accelerate the vision of seeing God move in this state and beyond, a generation of believers that are trained in the Word of God and the move of His Spirit is being created. There is no telling what God can do with your life if you will just surrender completely to Him!

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## **STUDY PROGRAM**

The study program of Rochester Bible Institute consists of three years.

Year 1 & 2 is designed to awaken a desire for more of God. It is for those who hunger after a deeper knowledge of the Word of God, and after a deeper knowledge of God Himself. This knowledge is not only based on theory but it's about practically experiencing the presence of God and about the fulfillment of the work that God wants to do in each student. The lives of the students will be grounded in the Word of God and a deep foundation will be laid for years to come. These years are crucial, even if you have known the Lord for many years. It is truly a time of transformation of the student's heart and their Christian walk. Each student will be required to be involved in their home church's helps ministry as well as participate in soul winning and outreach events at River Church.

Year 3 is a part time internship within the ministry. It is a hands-on program in which you will be doing work in the ministry. The character of the student will be further developed and he/she shall learn to preach the Word of God. This is an opportunity for the student to take what they have learned in the 1st and 2nd year, and to practically apply it. This year is focused on developing leadership and the practical aspects of ministry.

## TIMETABLE SCHOOL YEAR 2018-2019

The year is divided into 4 Quarters, and in each Quarter there are 3 different subjects, with a total of 12 subjects per year.

<b>TIMETABLE 2018-2019</b>		
<b>2018/2019 Kickoff Week</b>	RBI Kickoff Services	September 5th - 7th
	Orientation	September 10th
<b>1st Quarter</b>	<b>September 10th - November 5th</b>	
	Midterm	October 2nd 2018
	Fall Holiday	October 22-27th 2018
	Final Exam	November 5th 2018
<b>2nd Quarter</b>	<b>November 6th - January 15th 2018</b>	
	Thanksgiving Holiday	November 19-24th
	Midterm	December 10th 2018
	Christmas Holiday	December 24th - January 5th
	Final Exam	January 15th 2018
<b>3rd Quarter</b>	<b>January 21st - March 18th 2019</b>	
	Midterm	February 12th 2019
	Winter Holiday	February 18 - 23rd 2019
	Final Exam	March 18th 2019
<b>4th Quarter</b>	<b>March 19th - May 16th 2019</b>	
	Midterm	April 15th 2019
	Spring Holiday	April 29th - May 4th 2019
	Final Exam	May 14th 2019
	RBI Banquet	May 17th 2019
	Graduation Ceremony	May 19th 2019

Class Times	
1 Class	6-6:45 PM
Break	6:45-6:50 PM
2 Class	6:50-7:35 PM
Break	7:35-7:40 PM
3 Class	7:40-8:25 PM
announcements	8:25-8:30 PM

2018-2019 Courses			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Spiritual Growth	New Creation Realities	Authority of the Believer	Christian Lifestyle
Submission and Authority	Helps	New Testament Survey	Old Testament Survey
Soul Winning	Matters of the Heart	Christ the Healer	Worship as a Lifestyle

2019-2020 Courses			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Faith	The Name of Jesus	The Love Walk	Ministerial Excellence
The Fruit of the Spirit	The Blood Covenant	Leadership	Healing and Miracle Ministry of Jesus
Soul Winning	Stewardship	Old Testament Men of Faith	Prayer

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## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

School Contact information:

Website: [www.riverrochester.com/rbi](http://www.riverrochester.com/rbi)

Email: [rbi@riverrochester.com](mailto:rbi@riverrochester.com)

Phone: 585-484-0026

### **Requirements:**

Bible School is for every believer who wants to grow in the plan of God for their lives, and we believe that this should be accessible to everyone. RBI does not have high requirements in which to enroll into the school, but we do believe in dedication and perseverance. RBI is not a accredited, but is a training year in which the student sets aside the year for devotion to God, and to be equipped. We believe that with this attitude an atmosphere is created in which God can work, and because of that there will be a great transformation in the life of the student. The student does not have to have pre-education or a certain level of knowledge.

Students must be at least 16 years old. If they are under 18 then they need written permission from their parents or guardian.

These are the further requirements for enrollment:

- The student needs to fill out the application form.
- The student needs to pay the enrollment fee, which is a one-time fee, during the first quarter.
- The student must be a born again Christian.
- The student must be motivated to follow the curriculum and to finish it.
- The student maintains a strong moral Christian character and shows adherence to RBI code of conduct.

### **Visitors**

Visitors who are interested in joining RBI are welcome to attend an evening of classes. Visitors need to contact the school staff to schedule a time to attend.

### **Meeting with Teachers**

The teachers are available for prayer, questions and answers, and counseling. These meetings must be approved and scheduled in advance.

### **What the Students Can Expect from the Teachers**

The teachers shall share the Word of God in purity. They will proclaim the Word; reproving, rebuking, and exhorting, with all longsuffering and teaching. Teachers stay yielded to the Holy Spirit and will follow the Holy Spirit in the lessons.

## **Absences/Tardy**

If the student cannot attend one of the services they are scheduled to be at, or one of the classes, they will need to email the school at least one hour before the beginning of the class at. The school staff will decide if it is a valid reason to

If the student misses a lesson it is their responsibility to get the notes of what they missed. Under certain circumstances students can miss 1 evening per quarter without receiving a reduction of their GPA, there must be prior approval of this absence. (For prior approval an email explanation must be sent to [rbi@riverrochester.com](mailto:rbi@riverrochester.com) at least 24 hours in advance)

This is the grading system:

Students that are not in their seat when the class starts will be marked tardy.

3 tardies make up one absence.

Students that are not in their seat within the first 5 minutes of class will be marked absent.

1 absence: 5% deduction of the final grade

2-3 absences: 10% deduction of the final grade

4+ absences: 20% deduction of the final grade, and they will have a meeting with the dean. (Absences are counted per quarter)

## **Requirements for Activities**

Outside the time of the lessons there are different activities that the student is required to attend, and they fall within the lesson materials. These are crucial for the development of the student, for his/her character, to apply in a practical way what they have been learning in class. Other requirements for activities are as follows:

- Faithfully attend Sunday mornings at your own church.
- Serve in helps ministry on Sundays or Wednesdays.
- Attend the conferences that take place during the school year at River Church and serve during these conferences. (Absences from conferences must have prior approval or else they will count towards your quarterly absences)
- Active participation in outreaches during the school year. (Students are required to participate in a RBI soul winning event once every month during the school year).

## **Examinations**

In each quarter and for each subject there will be midterm and final exams.

Beside this there will be required readings, lesson materials, and practical assignments. These need to be completed successfully at the given time.

When the student finishes the school year, he or she will receive a certificate of completion. This certificate is not recognized as a legal diploma (e.g. high school diploma).



## **Make-Up Exams**

If the student misses a midterm or final, he or she needs to take the test within 3 days of the original date.

If the student missed a midterm or final and does not have a valid reason then there is a fee of \$10 per test in order to take them.

If the student missed an exam for a valid reason (RBI will determine the validity of a reason) then it does not count as a make-up exam.

If a student misses tests in multiple quarters within the same school year then it will affect his or her final grade.

## **Liabilities**

The River/RBI is not responsible or liable for lost or damaged belongings on school/church premises.

## **Confidentiality**

Your personal information will be kept secure and will not be shared with any third parties.

## **Requirements to Succeed**

The graduation ceremony is a time in which the students will be acknowledged for their hard work, their time and devotion during the school year.

To succeed within RBI the student needs to fulfill the requirements, which are as follows:

- The student must have a passing GPA.
- The student must have attended a sufficient amount of lessons as specified in the handbook.
- The student must pay the required school fees.
- The student must maintain strong morals and a professional character during the school year of RBI.
- The student must have participated in the extra-curricular activities as specified in the handbook: i.e. soul winning participation and attending/serving during church services and conferences.

The graduation ceremony will be held at the end of the school year.

The School reserves the right to deny a student participation in the graduation ceremony if deemed necessary.

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## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Overview of Costs		
Application Fee	\$25 per person	Pay with application
General Fee	\$275 per student per year \$375 for married couples This cost will cover the activities during the school year	Pay within the 1st Quarter
Study Materials	Every quarter, a number of books must be read. It's the student's responsibility to purchase those books. (The approximate cost is about \$35 per Quarter.)	Purchase yourself.

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## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **We love God**

The students maintain a strong personal relationship with God.

### **We love people**

The student is part of a healthy local church and active within it, and is submitted under pastoral authority.

### **We are excellent**

The student needs to do their best to get the most out of the lessons, as unto God and not people.

The student needs to be on time for each lesson.

The student needs to be professional, and behave respectfully, and dress in accordance with a Christian leader.

### **We live pure and holy**

The student needs to act impeccably to other students of the opposite sex.

The use of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited for any students.

The student will devote themselves to a Christian Lifestyle, and this means he/she will refrain from sexual relationships outside of marriage.

### **We are committed**

The students are responsible to get the notes from any lessons they may have missed.

### **We show respect**

The use of cell phones during the lessons is not permitted.

You are not allowed to eat during the lessons. There are 2 five minute breaks each night in which you can eat or drink something.

The students are to be respectful to each other and their belongings.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Authority of the Believer** – As believers we have authority that some of us may not be aware of. We may even be walking in it and not knowing it. This course is to help us open God’s Word on the subject of “Authority” so that as believers we may not only live out our God given authority, but also begin to see God’s perfect plan unfold in our lives on a daily basis.

**Christ the Healer** – This course will help to establish, from the scriptures, that it is God’s will to heal all today and to correct wrong thinking about certain passages of scripture misunderstood by those who oppose divine healing.

**Christian Lifestyle** – What are the outward and inward evidences of a Christian lifestyle? When we truly practice a Christian lifestyle, the inward evidence becomes obvious. God’s glory and power pours out upon all those around us. Those who live the Christian lifestyle live a pure and confident life on the inside and outside. In the epistles we find what is expected of us inwardly and outwardly.

**Faith** – An understanding of the different types of Faith that are required to enable the student to minister in a way that will not only impact their lives but most importantly, the lives of others.

**Helps** – This course will give the student a biblical understanding of the helps ministry in relation to the local church which works in conjunction with a world wide ministry.

**Leadership** – This course will develop a biblical foundation for leadership. Students will discover principles that will help them to develop leadership qualities in their lives.

**Matters of the Heart** – A study on the heart of the believer and its importance in the Christian walk. The course will show how to develop one’s heart and what it means to keep one’s heart with all diligence.

**Ministerial Excellence** – The purpose of this course is to set forth Biblical principles which will assist the man and woman of God in achieving their potential in the realm of their calling to the ministry. The student will obtain a greater understanding of the attitudes, ethics, and integrity that must be operative in the lives of God’s servants.

**New Creation Realities** – An investigation into the Hidden man of the Heart, the spirit man, according to the great plan of redemption. This course will scripturally unveil who we are in Christ through the new birth.

**New Testament Survey** – The student will obtain a general knowledge of the theme and contents of each New Testament book and gain an understanding of the meaning and significance of the historical events and messages of the New Testament.

**Old Testament Men of Faith** – In this class you will gain insight into the lives of many of the Old Testament saints and become aware that they utilized faith and its principles in a living and dynamic way.

**Old Testament Survey** – The student will obtain a general knowledge of the theme and contents of each Old Testament book and gain an understanding of the meaning and significance of the historical events and messages of the Old Testament.

**Prayer** – This course will study what prayer is and how to get prayers answered; the purpose, the necessity, the possibilities, the power, the weapons, and the essentials of prayer.

**Soul Winning** – This is a course on introducing Christ to others in the workplace, on foreign fields, and local neighborhoods. Each student will experience the joy of leading others to Christ and then follow up with them to make them disciples.

**Spiritual Growth** – Students learn that maturing spiritually is a process. Just as physical growth occurs through the stages of babyhood, childhood and manhood, God intends that believers grow into Christian maturity.

**Stewardship** – This course will familiarize the student with many scriptures that pertain to finances and stewardship. A foundation is given for personal life as well as equipping with truths needed for preaching on stewardship and giving in ministry.

**Submission & Authority** – The student will realize the importance of submission and authority in their daily walk of faith and learn how to be prepared to submit to authority while learning how to walk in God-given authority.

**The Blood Covenant** – This course is Biblical study into the covenants, their creation and duration, with particular emphasis on the Blood Covenant and its implications for the believer. This course will examine the old and new covenants, their similarities, and their application today.

**The Fruit of the Spirit** – This is an in-depth course designed to recognize and develop the fruit that the Holy Spirit wants to produce in your life according to Galatians Chapter 5.

**The Healing & Miracle Ministry of Jesus** – The student will learn how Jesus taught spiritual lessons through His miracles as recorded in the Gospels. The student will understand how the Healing and Miracle Ministry of Jesus affects us today and how that we, as believers, can operate in the healing and miracle ministry.

**The Name of Jesus** – This course will give you an understanding of God's authority made available to you through the name of Jesus, and enable you to live victoriously in Christ.

**Worship As A Lifestyle** – This course will give the student a thorough understanding of the foundation, purpose and practice of worship in the believer's life. Emphasis will be placed on worship as a lifestyle for the believer, discovering how man's entire existence is tied to living in and depending upon God's presence.