

**INTRODUCTION for ANTHROPOLOGY and HAMARTIOLOGY: a study for Bible
Institute of Gulf Coast Baptist Church Spring 2026 - by Steve Thomas**

INTRODUCTION

Anthropology is the study of man. From a secular view point anthropology contains four areas of study: cultural/social, archeological, biological, and linguistic. Biblical anthropology concerns itself with the study of the origins of man, the nature of man, and the fall and future destiny of man. There will be much overlap in the secular and biblical approach, but at the Bible Institute we will look to the scriptures for the truth as it pertains to mankind. God has a purpose for mankind, and created them to be able to serve that purpose. When man sinned, it had a tremendous affect on God's creation. God, in His infinite wisdom, took into account man's failure and set about to reveal Himself through the redemption of His creation. Secular anthropology fails to take into account much of what is vital to understanding how man was made, and how he now is struggling to find his purpose. Biblical anthropology will reveal what man needs to know about how he began, why he is here, and where he is going.

Hamartiology is the study of sin. There are varying ideas regarding sin in society today. Some philosophers have stated that there is no such thing as good and evil, that it is a human construct. Man has sought to define sin and has not done so with any exactness. God is the One to whom sin is levied against. So it is God who defines sin. This course will consider God's definite of sin from scripture. We will see that it is distinct from other words that are often used interchangeably with sin. We will search out the origins of sins, its effects on the human race, and how the believer should deal with sin.

Over the course of the semester we will look at the following topics concerning Man and Sin:

The Origins of Man
The Nature of Man
The Fall of Man
The Destiny of Man
The Origin and Definition of Sin
Distinction between Sin and Unrighteousness
The Words for Sin
The Sources of Sin in the World
Conscience/The Handling of Sin