

Dallas Theological Seminary

IN THE FALL OF 1924 THE FIRST STUDENT BODY OF DTS MET TO STUDY under the noted Bible teacher Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer. This class of thirteen students was the result of Dr. Chafer's burden and vision to establish a seminary that would emphasize expository preaching and teaching of the Scriptures.

Dr. Chafer first shared the vision that would become Dallas Theological Seminary with Dr. Alex B. Winchester, pastor emeritus of Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto, Canada, and Dr. W. H. Griffith Thomas, an Anglican scholar and professor of Old Testament exegesis at Wycliffe College, Toronto. Two years later, while Dr. Chafer was ministering at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, he shared his burden with the pastor of that church, Dr. William M. Anderson.

Dr. Chafer and Dr. Anderson assembled the first temporary board. In May 1924 Dr. Rollin T. Chafer organized the school which was incorporated by the State of Texas as the Evangelical Theological College. The name was changed to Dallas Theological Seminary in July 1936. The seminary pioneered the four-year Master of Theology (ThM) degree, which is a year longer than the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree offered at most other seminaries, and which emphasizes systematic theology, Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis, Greek and New Testament exegesis, and Bible exposition. DTS also offered the Doctor of Theology (ThD) degree.

In 1974 the seminary instituted the two-year Master of Arts (MA) program (Biblical Studies) for students whose ministries would not require the in-depth language training of the ThM program (renamed the MA [Christian Studies] in 2015). The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree program was begun in 1980 to provide further pastoral training for seminary graduates to meet the changing demands of ministry. In 1982 the MA program in Christian Education was added so that students could receive specialized training for Christian ministries. In 1987 the MA program in Cross-cultural Ministries was inaugurated to give specialized missions training. In 1993 the seminary launched a three-year MA in Biblical Counseling and a two-year MA in Biblical Exegesis and Linguistics. The latter program is offered jointly with the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, which is affiliated with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Dallas. Also in 1993, the seminary changed the nomenclature of the ThD to the PhD. A two-year MA in Media and Communication was added in 2005 (renamed the MA in Media Arts and Worship in 2013) to train ministers to integrate a sound biblical and theological education with training in the media arts. The seminary added a two-year MA in Christian Leadership in 2011 and a Doctor of Educational Ministry (DEdMin) in 2012. The Master of Biblical and Theological Studies (MBTS) program and the academic Master of Arts degree with majors in Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, and Theological Studies began in 2015.

Outstanding leadership and scholarly expertise characterize DTS's presidents: Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer (1924–1952), Dr. John F. Walvoord (1952–1986), Dr. Donald K. Campbell (1986–1994), Dr. Charles R. Swindoll (1994–2001), and Dr. Mark L. Bailey, (2001–present).

Throughout the seminary's history, it has steadfastly maintained its allegiance to biblical truth. A doctrinal statement articulates the beliefs of Dallas Theological Seminary, and each year the faculty and members of the board reaffirm their agreement with this statement.

2017 Commencement

Prelude

J. Scott Ayers, MM
Organist

Academic Processional* The Faculty, Speaker, and Graduating Students

Doxology*

Led by Patrick A. Thomas, ThM
Director of Chapel Music and Worship

Invocation*

Eugene W. Pond, PhD
*Dean of Assessment
Associate Professor of Bible Exposition*

Hymn*

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Patrick A. Thomas

Welcome

Mark L. Bailey, PhD, DD
*President
Senior Professor of Bible Exposition*

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 2:1–10 (CSB)

S. Jonathan Murphy, PhD
Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministries

Hymn*

"In Christ Alone"

Patrick A. Thomas

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

President Mark L. Bailey

Commencement Address

"Remember Jesus Christ"

Gene A. Getz, PhD
President, Center for Church Renewal

The Seminary Choir

"The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me"

Led by Patrick A. Thomas
*Lyrics and Music by Moffitt
and Cottrell*

Presentation of Candidates

Mark M. Yarbrough, PhD
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean
Associate Professor of Bible Exposition

Conferral of Degrees

President Mark L. Bailey

Dedicatory Prayer

Sue G. Edwards, DMin
Associate Professor of Educational Ministries and Leadership
2017 Graduating Class Adviser

Special Music

“Lord You’re Holy”

Jayne Hightower, MEd
Accompanied by Seminary Choir
Lyrics and Music by Eddie James

The Seminary Hymn*

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Patrick A. Thomas

Benediction*

Darrell L. Bock, PhD
Executive Director of Cultural Engagement
Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies

Recessional

The congregation will please be seated during the recessional.

*** The congregation will please stand.**

*Please silence cell phones and electronic devices. While children are welcome to attend the ceremony, we ask that crying and restless children be taken out of the auditorium as a courtesy to others. **Thank you!***

The floral arrangements at the front of the worship center contain a variety of flowers, reflecting the many countries in this year's graduating class. Despite the great diversity among the world's nations and people groups today, the beauty of the floral arrangements symbolize the unity and harmony we have as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Commencement Music

The Doxology *Lyrics: Thomas Ken*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise *Lyrics: Walter C. Smith*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small,
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!
Amen.

In Christ Alone *Lyrics and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend*

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name *Lyrics: Edward Perronet*

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall, let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
 And crown Him,
 crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall, ye ransomed from the fall;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
 And crown Him,
 crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball, on this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe,
 And crown Him,
 crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall, we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
 And crown Him,
 crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Amen!

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Speaker

Dr. Gene A. Getz

Dr. Gene Getz is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, and has earned a BA from Rocky Mountain College, an MA from the Wheaton Graduate School, and a PhD from New York University. He has served as a professor at Moody Bible Institute and Dallas Theological Seminary.



After 20 years in the academic world, Gene became involved in church planting and, in 1972, launched the Fellowship Bible Church movement. Today, some 30,000 people worship in approximately 12 churches in the Dallas area alone, and hundreds of Fellowship churches throughout the United States trace their roots back to Gene's church planting efforts.

Gene is also a prolific author. Most of his 60 books have grown out of his experience as a pastor. *The Measure of a Man* has become a classic and is used around the world for personal and group study. His books *The Measure of a Healthy Church* and *Elders and Leaders: God's Plan for Leading the Church* remain breakthrough biblical studies for church leaders.

Gene has also completed a 7-year Bible project using the *Holman Christian Standard Bible*. *The Life Essentials Study Bible* is the first multi-media study Bible which contains 1,500 principles from Genesis to Revelation. In addition, Gene airs a 2-minute daily feature on numerous radio stations called "Bible Principles."

Gene now serves as president of the Center for Church Renewal. Besides his writing, publishing, and broadcasting, he continues to be involved in many other teaching efforts, including conferences, church services, and other special speaking events across the United States and in a variety of international locations.