**[SBTS PDS Ministry Field Essay](http://www.sbts.edu/doctoral/dmin/admission/ministry-field-essays/) Instructions**

Type an essay of 750-1,000 words that responds to the following questions. Please include a header with your name and email address at the top of the first page, and follow the instructions below. The essay must be double-spaced and written in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. You may use footnotes or parenthetical citations. Your electronic submission of this essay indicates your agreement and compliance with the following statement: “On my honor, I have neither given nor taken improper assistance in completing this assignment.”

The essay will be evaluated based on your demonstration of excellent research skills, critical interaction with the literature, clear thesis with effective argumentation, and proper use of grammar.

**Field Essay Prompt**

A member of your church has approached you with questions about the doctrine of Scripture. They are increasingly concerned that the Bible is no longer relevant in today’s world. They want you to help them understand why they should trust the Bible and what its role should be in the Christian life.

Building upon a thoroughly biblical and theological foundation, how would you address this concern?

In your answer, you should identify at least three ways in which ministry leaders can cultivate trust in the Scriptures, provide pastoral guidance for how a proper understanding of the doctrine of Scripture can strengthen an individual’s faith, and discuss how your intended field of study would further equip you to address this concern more effectively. The final paragraph of your ministry field essay should explain why you want to pursue a professional doctoral degree.

Your answer should reflect familiarity with the resources below.

Jones, Timothy Paul. *Why Should I Trust the Bible?* Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2020.

Kellemen, Bob and Jeff Forrey. *Scripture and Counseling: God’s Word for Life in a Broken World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Merrick, J. and Stephen M. Garrett, eds. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.