

Men's Study for Winter/Spring 2017

THEOLOGY - a brief biblical overview of systematic theology

Overview of Topics for Our Study: We will cover roughly one topic per meeting

Theology proper – The study of the character of the Triune God

Bibliology and Biblical theology – The study of the Bible

Christology – The study of Christ

Pneumatology – The study of the Holy Spirit

Soteriology – The study of salvation

Anthropology and Hamartiology – The study of the nature of humanity and sin

Angelology – The study of angels

Ecclesiology – The study of the church

Eschatology – The study of the end times

Review

Is systematic thinking necessary to avoid idolatry? God is a Trinity of persons in one divine essence.

“Systematic theology is a discipline of Christian theology that formulates an orderly, rational, and coherent account of the doctrines of the Christian faith.” (Wiki)

Anselm in Chapter 2 of the Proslogion, described God as a "being than which no greater can be conceived." In every possible world, we can conceive of the greatest of all Beings.

Key Attributes of God

God has/is Aseity - “to be from Himself - “I am that I AM” (Ex. 3:14) vs an Abalio existence - creatures are from another. God is a Necessary or Absolute Being (St. Thomas).

Shorter Catechism - Q4 : What is God? A: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

God's attributes differ in those that are “communicable” to us vs those that are “incommunicable”

Bibliology - Preparation Questions - Think through These Before the Study

1. Could we know God without revelation?
2. What are the two basic kinds of revelation?
3. How was the Bible written?
4. How did God use the writers of Scripture in their own world and language?
5. If the Bible is God's Word, is it authoritative?
6. Is the Bible inspired? What is meant by this inspiration?
7. If the Bible is *God's* Word, can it err?

Read Berkhof ch. II-III (and be ready to answer these questions)

II: Revelation

1. How do general and special revelation differ?
2. Where do we meet with the denial of all revelation of God?
3. What is the position of the Deists as to revelation?
4. What is the nature of general revelation?

5. Why is it insufficient for our special needs, and what value does it have? 6. Why was God's special revelation necessary?
7. What means did God employ in His special revelations?
8. What are the characteristics of special revelation?

III: Scripture

1. How do general and special revelation differ?
2. Where do we meet with the denial of all revelation of God?
3. What is the position of the Deists as to revelation?
4. What is the nature of general revelation?
5. Why is it insufficient for our special needs, and what value does it have? 6. Why was God's special revelation necessary?
7. What means did God employ in His special revelations?
8. What are the characteristics of special revelation?