

## Theological Analysis

### I. What is theological analysis?

A. Theological analysis answers the question *How does this passage fit into the total pattern of God's revelation.*

1. How does this passage fit into the total pattern of God's revelation that was revealed prior to its writing?



2. It's not just what do the words mean (verses) but what are their significance in the revelation of God?
3. The theological concerns itself about the "knowledge of God".
4. Belief that God has revealed Himself and His mission in Scripture leads us to believe that the Scriptures are capable of theological interpretation.
5. Proper theology gives the Christian faith its substance and form.

### II. Principles that govern theological studies (Bernard Ramm)

A. Theological Analysis (Doctrinal hermeneutics) commences where exegetic hermeneutics leaves off.

1. The theologian must be a redeemed person standing in the circle of divine revelation.
2. The main burden of theological development must come on the *literal interpretation* of the Bible.
3. The main burden of theology should rest on the teaching of the New Testament.
4. Exegesis is prior to any system of theology.
5. The theologian must not extend his doctrines beyond Scriptural evidence.
6. The theologian strives for a system.
7. What is not a matter of revelation (not in Scripture) cannot be made a matter of creed or faith.
8. No doctrine should be constructed from an uncertain textual reading.
9. The theological interpreter must keep the practical nature of the Bible in mind.

