

Systematic Theology I — Student Handout
Chapter 2: The Word of God

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What You Should Learn From Today’s Lecture:

- Identify the different meanings of the phrase “the Word of God” in Scripture.
- Understand how Jesus Christ is uniquely called the Word of God.
- Distinguish between God’s decrees, personal address, prophetic speech, and written Word.
- Recognize the authority and truthfulness of God’s spoken and written Word.
- Explain why systematic theology focuses primarily on the written Word (the Bible).

1. Explanation and Scriptural Basis

A. “The Word of God” as a Person — Jesus Christ

B. “The Word of God” as Speech by God

God’s Decrees

God’s Personal Address

God’s Words Through Human Lips

God’s Words in Written Form (the Bible)

2. The Focus of Our Study — The Written Word

Why the written Word is the primary basis for theology:

3. The Authority and Trustworthiness of God’s Word

What it means to disbelieve or disobey God’s Word:

4. Benefits of the Written Word

- Preservation
- Accessibility
- Public Study and Examination

5. The Proper Response to Scripture

- Meditation
- Obedience
- Reverence

Things to Know (Exam Review Section)

1. “The Word of God” can refer to Jesus Christ.
2. God’s decrees are words that cause events to occur.
3. God’s personal address carries absolute authority.
4. Prophetic speech through human lips remains fully God’s Word.
5. Written Scripture is inspired and authoritative.
6. The written Word provides preservation and accessibility.
7. Systematic theology must be based on written Scripture.
8. To disbelieve God’s Word is to disbelieve God Himself.
9. The canon of Scripture is complete.
10. Scripture is the normative authority for doctrine.

A question on the exam will ask if you did the assigned reading, your answer and % of reading that you indicate will affect your grade.

Closing Summary

Chapter 2 clarifies the different forms of the Word of God and establishes the written Word as the foundation for theological study. Sound doctrine begins with a right understanding of how God speaks and why Scripture stands as the final authority for the church.

ASSIGNMENT

- Read Chapter 2 — THE WORD OF GOD