

Systematic Theology Lesson 1 – Introduction and Doctrine of the Word

I. What Is Systematic Theology?

1. Definition

- Theology is from two Greek words:
 - Theos = _____
 - Logos = _____
- Systematic Theology is the _____ arrangement of the study of God into logical, topical divisions.

2. Example

- “What does the Bible say about creation?”
- Gather all relevant texts, interpret them within the storyline of Scripture, and summarize them faithfully and coherently.

II. Course Overview & Topics

1. Doctrine of the Word (Lessons 1 & 2)
 2. Existence & Attributes of God (1 & 2)
 3. Doctrine of Creation (1 & 2)
 4. Doctrine of Providence (1 & 2)
 5. Biblical Anthropology (Problem of Sin)
 6. Biblical Christology (1 & 2)
 7. Sin
 8. The Person & Work of Christ
 9. The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit
 10. Plan of Redemption (1–4)
 11. Doctrine of the Church (1 & 2)
 12. Eschatology (1 & 2)
- > There are _____ lessons in all.

III. Why Study Systematic Theology?

- 1) For God's Glory
 - "I pray that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight..." (Phil 1:9–11)
- 2) To Reflect Christ to Others
 - "So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known..." (Eph 3:10)
- 3) Individual Sanctification & Growth
 - Theology should be "deposited deep in the heart where its sanctifying power ought to be felt."
- 4) Because Doctrine Matters
 - "If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples." (John 8:31)
 - "People will not endure sound doctrine...but turn to myths." (2 Tim 4:3–4)

IV. Doing Systematic Theology: Key Features

1. Biblically Grounded
 - The Bible alone is the inspired, _____, infallible Word of God.
2. Historically Informed
 - We align Scripture with historical context; theology is not done in a vacuum.
3. Contextualized
 - Apply biblical teaching to the issues of our day.
4. Lived Out
 - "Dead orthodoxy is not true orthodoxy." (Rev _____:_____)

V. Doctrine of the Word

A. Introduction

- Sola _____: the Bible as our ultimate authority in faith and life.
- Two presuppositions:
 1. There is a God (Triune, sovereign, personal).
 2. He speaks and reveals Himself to us.
- “He IS there, AND He is NOT silent.” (Francis Schaeffer)

B. The Word of God Includes...

1. Written Word = (_____)
2. Power by which God brings all things to pass, according to His will, including creation.
 - > (e.g., “Then God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” – Gen 1:3)
3. Personal Presence with His creatures.

VI. The Case for the Bible as Our Authority

1. All Scripture Is God-breathed (2 Tim 3:16)
2. Old Testament Authority
 - The Ten Commandments were God-written (Deut 5:22).
 - Moses and the prophets carried divine authority (Rom 3:2; Acts 4:25).
3. New Testament Authority
 - Jesus treated OT Scripture as final (Matt 5:17; John 10:35).
 - The NT recognizes its own authority (John 16:12–15; 2 Peter 3:16).
 - Paul’s letters are equated with Scripture (1 Tim 5:18).

VII. The Canon of Scripture

- Canon = Greek for “measuring reed,” “rule,” or “_____.”

- How did the church recognize and collect the 66 books?
- What is the relationship between canon and authority?
- Is the Canon closed? Who decides?

Fill-in-the-Blank Answers (Instructor's Key):

1. Theos = God
2. Logos = Word
3. Orderly
4. 22
5. Power
6. Scriptura
7. Standard
8. Inerrant
9. 3:1
10. Scripture