



## Introduction/What to Expect From This Course

### Why Study Theology Proper?

#### My thoughts

1. Your life lived for God can never exceed your knowledge of God.
2. What you believe about God will determine how you react to various situations
  - ❖ Philippians 4:6—*do not be anxious about anything*

#### The thoughts of people much smarter and holier than me

##### *The Baptist Catechism*

*“Q. What things are chiefly contained in the holy Scriptures?”*

*A. The holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to believe concerning God, and what duty God requireth of man.<sup>1</sup>”*

##### J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

*“There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the divinity...*

*Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity... Oh, there is, in contemplating Christ, a balm for every wound; in musing on the Father, there is a quietus for every grief; and in the influence of the Holy Ghost, there is a balsam for every sore. Would you loose your sorrow? Would you drown your cares? The go, plunge yourself in the Godhead’s deepest sea; be lost in his immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead.<sup>2</sup>”*

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<sup>1</sup> Knollys, Hanserd; Kiffin, William; Collins, William; Keach, Benjamin (2016-11-13). *The London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 with Preface, Baptist Catechism, and Appendix on Baptism* (Kindle Locations 1415-1417). Chapel Library. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p.13, 14



## Class 1: What Is Theology Proper and Why Should I Care?

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A.W. Tozer *Knowledge of the Holy*

*“The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.*

*For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.<sup>3</sup>”*

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

*“men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance, until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God.<sup>4</sup>”*

### The Bible’s Thoughts on why we should study theology proper

#### 1. Our knowledge of God is the ground of all our boasting

❖ Jeremiah 9:23-24—*Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, **that he understands and knows me**, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”*

❖ 1 Corinthians 1:31—*so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*

#### 2. Our knowledge of God is source of all our joy

❖ Psalm 119:2—*Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek HIM with their whole heart,*

❖ Psalms 16:11—*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

❖ Psalm 21:6—*For you make him most blessed forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence.*

❖ Psalm 43:4—*I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.*

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<sup>3</sup> Tozer, A.W (2013-03-14). *Knowledge of the Holy* (p. 3). Reformed Church Publications. Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> Calvin, John (2008-04-03). *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Kindle Locations 791-792). Signalman Publishing. Kindle Edition.



## Class 1: *What Is Theology Proper and Why Should I Care?*

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- ❖ Habakkuk 3:18—*I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*
- ❖ 1 Peter 1:8—*Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,*

### 3. Our knowledge of God is source of all our zeal

- ❖ Acts 5:29—*We must obey God rather than men.*
- ❖ Daniel 11:32—*...the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action*

### 4. Knowing and loving God is greatest of all commandments

- ❖ Matthew 22:36-37—*“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.*

## Who Is This God of Ours?

### RCF SOF

There is one living and true God who is most holy, self-existent, self-sufficient, unchangeable, all knowing (omniscient), all powerful (omnipotent), fully sovereign, has no beginning and no end (eternal), and his whole being is present everywhere (omnipresent).

### LBCF 1689

The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; whose subsistence is in and of himself, infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but himself; da most pure spirit, e invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, every way infinite, most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just and terrible in his judgments, p hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

God, having all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself, is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; he is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to



## Class 1: *What Is Theology Proper and Why Should I Care?*

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whom are all things, and he hath most sovereign dominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth; in his sight all things are open and manifest; his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent or uncertain; he is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands; to him is due from angels and men, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience, as creatures they owe unto the Creator, and whatever he is further pleased to require of them.<sup>5</sup>

### Conclusion

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<sup>5</sup> Knollys, Hanserd; Kiffin, William; Collins, William; Keach, Benjamin (2016-11-13). The London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 with Preface, Baptist Catechism, and Appendix on Baptism (Kindle Locations 193-207). Chapel Library. Kindle Edition.