

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Prolegomena

Introduction

- Prolegomena = Things set before:
 - Assumptions/Presuppositions
 - Ground Rules for Theology
 - Working Definitions
- Negative Non-Christian Attitudes
 - Fairytales
- Negative Christian Attitudes
 - Boring and irrelevant
 - People have consumer attitude

Introduction

- Everyone Does Theology
 - Most unintentionally
 - This class is intentional
- Theology vs. Doctrine
 - Theology = study of God – more general than doctrine
 - Doctrine = study of God that arises from the Bible
 - When done right, both agree with each other
- Doctrines:
 - Bibliology, Theology Proper, Angeleology, Christology, Pneumatology, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Israelology, Eschatology.

Theological Spectrum

- Folk Theology
 - Unreflective and subjective
 - Blind faith and tradition and legend based
 - Cliché driven



Theological Spectrum

- Lay Theology
 - More reflective
 - Questions clichés, examines teaching carefully
 - Mind and Heart focused
 - Are critical of folk theology
 - Test things against Scripture
 - Want to do theology correctly



Theological Spectrum

- Ministerial Theology
 - Pastoral/Practical Theology
 - Reflective faith by trained ministers
 - Pulpit, counseling, church and community
 - Homiletics, theology, leadership, etc.
 - Theological Reflection



Theological Spectrum

- Professional Theology
 - Focus is doctrine & theology
 - Academic
 - Training for Ministry
 - Transforms a lay theologian into a ministerial theologian
 - Theology is to be practical, not just intellectual



Theological Spectrum

- Academic Theology
 - Scientific study of theology
 - Disconnected from the church
 - More obsessed with ideas than people
 - Can be secular ; disconnected from the church
 - Theologians talking to theologians
 - Can be arrogant



Christian Presuppositions

- Presupposition = necessary unproven assumption from which we reason
- Christian Presuppositions
 1. There is a God and He has revealed Himself in Scripture and Nature.
 2. Nature is Uniform.
 3. Laws of Logic are valid.
 4. There are Moral Absolutes.
 5. Man has the ability to know things to the degree to which he directly observes them.
 6. That truth does not contradict itself, but is consistent and corresponds to reality.
 7. The mind accepts that which is logical and rejects that which is illogical

Why is Theology Important?

- Right relationship depends upon right knowledge
- Lines our experiences up with the truth
- Guards us against the variety of false beliefs that undermine the truth

Christian Theology

- Theology is, “that discipline which strives to give a coherent statement of the doctrines of the Christian faith, based primarily on the Scriptures, placed in the context of the culture in general, worded in a contemporary idiom, and related to issues of life.” (Erickson)

Christian Theology

