

13 Week Schedule

THE TEXT TO BE EXAMINED

1. What Is The Bible? Week 1

THE TOOLS THAT ARE NEEDED

2. Exegetical Tools Week 2
3. Biblical Theology Tools 1 Week 3
4. Biblical Theology Tools 2 Week 4
5. Systematic Theology Tools 1 Week 5
6. Systematic Theology Tools 2 Week 6

THE STORIES TO BE TOLD

7. Creation Week 7
8. Fall Week 8
9. Love Week 9
10. Sacrifice Week 10
11. Promise Week 11

PUTTING IT TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH

12. Preaching Week 12
13. Other Benefits for the Local Church (Counseling, Missions, Social justice, etc.) Week 13

Core Seminars—Biblical Theology Class 6: Systematic Theology Tools 2



Introduction: Everyone Has a Systematic Theology

“[Paul is convinced of] the applicability of the profoundest theology to the most mundane and common-place problems... [Paul] is telling them: You have these practical problems; the answer is theological; remember your theology and place your behavior in the light of that theology. Place your little problems in the light of the most massive theology. We ourselves in our Christian callings are to be conscious of this. We must never leave our doctrine hanging in the air, nor hesitate to enforce the most elementary Christian obligations with the most sublime doctrines.” (Donald Macleod, *The Humiliated and Exalted Lord*, cited by Lig in T4G 08 talk)

What is Doctrine?

1. Biblical Knowledge

2. Personal Knowledge

“Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But, while joined by many bonds, which one precedes and brings forth the other is not easy to discern... the knowledge of ourselves not only arouses us to seek God, but also, as it were, leads us by the hand to find him. [But] it is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God’s face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself.” (John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, I.i.1-2)

3. Situational Knowledge

How to Think Theologically (*Putting the Knowledge Together*)

Theology & the Local Church

“The church abandons theology only at great peril to herself... [and] theology abandons the church at great peril to itself.” (Lints p. 319).