

THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN FAITH

Spring 2017 – WEEK 8 – The Judeo-Christian Faith

⊗ ON BELIEF:

-Through Christ, God has overcome sin and only He can enable a person to believe in His existence.
(2 Cor. 4:4, 1 Cor. 1:21, 1 Cor. 2:5)

⊗ Why is this course necessary?

External Reasons:

The problem of pluralism.

The problem of spirituality.

The problem of culture.

The problem of postmodernism.

The problem of information.

Internal Reasons:

The problem of the church in history.

The problem of the modern, Western church.

The problem of global church.

*The problems of sin and self.

⊗ The Real Purpose of this Course:

-Theology and doctrine, whether academic, systematic, or ecclesiastic, cannot be Biblical theology and doctrine unless they are applied theology and doctrine.

⊗ Terms:

The Ologies

Theology (*theos* = God, *logia* = study of): the study of God, the nature of the divine, and specifics of religious thought.

Doctrine: what a person or group believes the whole Bible teaches about any particular topic.

Christology: the study of the person & work of Jesus.

Pneumatology: the study of the person, work, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Ecclesiology: The study of the Church -- its makeup, message, and mission.

Eschatology: The study of the “last things,” the return of Christ, and the end of this age.

God and Creation

ex nihilo: “out of nothing” is how God created the universe

Transcendence: God is above creation, greater than creation, and distinct from creation.

Immanence: God is interested and involved in creation and yet creation remains dependent on Him.

The Trinity

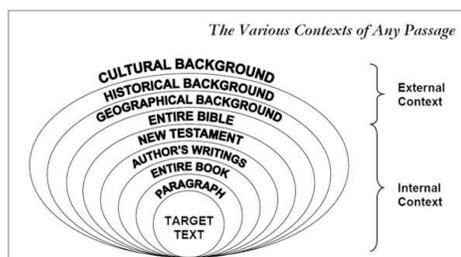
Triune: God is a Being who is three in one in perfect unity – “tri-unity”.

Revelation and Scripture

Revelation: God’s self-disclosure to humankind -- The word comes from the Greek *apokalypsis* which means “unveiling” or “disclosure.”

Illumination: The Holy Spirit assists the believer in interpreting and applying God’s Word to everyday life.
(Psalm 119:18, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 1 John 2:20, 27)

Canon: The entire body of Scriptures considered authoritative for authentic faith in God through Christ.



The Father (Theology)

• The Three Omnis

1. **Omnipotent**: God is “all-powerful” and has the power and ability to do **anything** that can be done. (*Isa 40:28*)

2. **Omniscient**: God is “all-knowing,” and He knows **all** things past, present, and future. He knows all **possibilities**. He knows every thought and action that has ever taken place or will ever take place. (*Psalms 139:1-4, Isaiah 46:9*)

3. **Omnipresent**: God is “all-present” **everywhere**. There is no place where God is not present. (*Ps. 139:7-8*)

• The Four A's

-**Absolute Necessity**: God is the only necessary being. (Human beings are not necessary, therefore they must be dependent on a necessary Being.) God is **essential**.

-**Aseity**: God is self-caused. His existence was not caused by another being. He is the **uncaused** cause of all things. (*Rom. 11:36, Job 34:14-15, Col. 1:17, Heb. 1:3*)

-**Atemporality**: God is **not bound** by time. He exists eternally, within and outside of time. (*Ex. 3:6, Ps. 90:2*)

-**Absolute Authority (Sovereignty)**: God is in **control** of everything, and He is surprised by nothing. He is always at work and His will cannot be thwarted. (*Isaiah 14:27*)

Providence: God provides everything that is **necessary** for every part of creation by maintaining existence, involving Himself in history, and working through His creation to fulfill His purposes. (*Job 34:14-15; 37:6-13, Daniel 4:35, 1 Cor. 15:27, Ephesians 1:11, Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3*)

Sovereignty: God is in **control** of everything, and He is surprised by nothing. He is always at work and His will cannot be thwarted. (*1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 14:27, Romans 8:28*)

Grace: **Undeserved** blessing which is freely bestowed on human beings by God.

Covenant: An agreement between two parties in which one or both make a **promise** to each other to perform or restrain from certain actions, all of which is meant to be mutually beneficial for both parties.

Atonement: The way by which sinners find **pardon** for sin and God's enemies find **peace** with Him. This has been accomplished by the death of Christ on our behalf, and not by any human achievement. (*Isaiah 53:6, 2 Cor. 5:17-21, Galatians 3:13, Hebrews 2:17; 9:27-28, 1 Peter 2:24*)

Atemporality: God is **not bound** by time. He exists eternally, within and outside of time. (*Ex. 3:6, Ps. 90:2*)

The Son (Christology)

-The Dual Nature of Christ

-Jesus is fully **God** in His nature. (*John 1:1-3*)

-Jesus is fully **man** in His nature. (*1 Cor. 10:13*)

-Jesus is Son of **God** and Son of **Man**. (*John 3:16, 8:28*)

-Jesus demonstrated that He was in fact the messiah, or the “**Anointed One**” prophesied about in the Old Testament by His birth, sinless life, signs and miracles, death, resurrection, and ascension.

-**The Offices of Christ**: Christ fulfills the **offices** of **prophet**, **priest**, and **king**. (*Deut. 18:15-18, Acts 3:22-24, Heb. 5:13-15, Matt. 2:2, John 18:36, Eph 1:20-22, Rev 19:11-16*)

-**Uniqueness of Christ for Salvation**: Salvation is found **ONLY** in Jesus, who is God in flesh, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. (*John 14:5-6, Acts 4:8-12*)

-**Finality of Christ for Salvation**: Jesus is the final sacrifice offered for sin and God's final means of salvation. (*1 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 9:26-28; 10:10*)

The Spirit (Pneumatology)

-The Role of the Spirit:

A. **Intercessor** – the Holy Spirit **prays** on our behalf. (*Romans 8:26-27*)

B. **Comforter** and **Counselor** – the Holy Spirit is the “paraclete” who stands beside us, empowers us, and **helps** us in our times of need. (*John 14:16-17*)

C. **Teacher** – the Holy Spirit reveals God’s truth and helps us to **interpret** it. (*1 Corinthians 2:12-14*)

D. **Revealer** of Sin – the Holy Spirit makes us **aware** of sin and temptation. (*Jn 16:8, Gal 5:16-17*)

*It is by this process that the Holy Spirit first draws us to God, by convicting us of sin and calling us to repentance.

-The Holy Spirit produces fruit, or **evidences** and **results** of the Spirit, in the life of the believer.

-The Holy Spirit **empowers** and **unifies** the Church for its role in the world. (*1 Sam 16:13, Acts 1:8, 1 Cor. 12:11*)

Man

Sin: To go beyond a set **boundary** or limit that has been set by God.

Original Sin: The sins of the first human beings, Adam and Eve, brought about a curse and caused mankind to be tainted by sin and death. (*Psalm 51:5, 58:3; Romans 3:23, Romans 5; Ephesians 2:3*)

Soul: the immaterial essence of a person which contains their personality, mind, will, emotions, and is ultimately the deepest part the “self” of a being. This is often used interchangeably with the word spirit.

Salvation: God has delivered human beings from the power of sin and death by grace through faith in Christ.

Regeneration: the believer has experienced a new **birth** and is a new **creation**. This process includes faith, repentance, justification before God, and kinship in God’s family. (*2 Cor. 5:17-21, Titus 3:5, 1 John 3:9*)

Sanctification: the **process** by which the believer becomes more like Christ throughout his or her entire life. (*1 Corinthians 1:18, 1 Thess. 5:23, Hebrews 13:12*)

Glorification: the final **reward** of all believers – permanent residence in God’s eternal Kingdom. (*Philippians 3:21, 1 Thess. 4:16-17, 2 Timothy 2:11-12a*)

Heaven: God’s **dwelling** place. (*1 Kings 8:30, John 14:2*)

Hell: A place of unquenchable **fire** and suffering. (*Matt 5:22, Mk 9:43-48, Luke 16:19-31, Rev 14:9-11; 19:3*)

The Church

The Church: the community of believers throughout every age (*Hebrews 11-12* = “a cloud of witnesses”)

Worship: focusing the **mind’s attention** and the **heart’s affection** on God for who he **is** and what he **does**.

Ordinance: the preferred word used by Baptists to refer to practices that are an outward **sign** of the continuing work of Christ in the life of a believer. (Based on the New Testament, Baptists believe the Church should observe two **ordinances** of faith: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.)

Evangelism: from the Greek – “good news” – to **share** the good news about Christ’s death and resurrection which provides salvation.

Mission: *missio dei* – The **redemptive** activity of God in the world seen most clearly in His commissioning of believers and churches.

*The perfect demonstration of the Missio Dei and the call to missions – The **Incarnation** of Christ.

Missions: The human response to and **involvement** in God’s redemptive activity among the nations.

Missional: Living the gospel and “doing missions” **everywhere** and at all times.