

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church September 11, 2016

Why should we study Systematic Theology?

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**”** Matthew 28:18-20

- **disciples = believing learner or learning believer**
- **make = the primary thing we are to do**
- **teaching all I commanded = True converts want to know the truth.**
- **I am with you always = We need not fear that we must make disciples by our own resources**
- **end of the age = second coming**

What is Systematic Theology?

Systematic theology is an orderly, coherent study of the principal doctrines of the Christian faith. R.C. Sproul

- 1. Organized by topics.**
- 2. It attempts to summarize the teaching of Scripture in brief, understandable, and very carefully formulated statements.**
- 3. Much more detailed than ordinary Bible studies.**
- 4. Summarizes Biblical teaching much more accurately than most Bible studies.**
- 5. Fairly evaluates all the relevant passages for a given topic.**
- 6. Systematic theology does not improve upon the Bible, but it does aid us in understanding and explaining the Bible.**

What is Doctrine?

A doctrine* is what the whole Bible teaches today about some particular topic. Wayne Grudem

- 1. A doctrine is the result of doing systematic theology**
- 2. We will study those doctrines that meet at least one of the following:**
 - Most emphasized in Scripture**
 - Have been most significant throughout church history**
 - Are more important today than in previous church history**

*Roman Catholic and Lutheran theologians may use *dogma* to refer to doctrines that have official church endorsement.

What is Apologetics?

Apologetics is the discipline that seeks to provide a defense of the truthfulness of the Christian faith for the purpose of convincing unbelievers. Wayne Grudem

1. Apologetics boils down to:

- **Knowing what we believe**
- **Why we believe it**
- **And being able to communicate what we believe and why in an effective, winsome manner to those who question our faith.**

2. John Calvin observed in his Institutes we seek proof not persuasion.

Systematic Theology Syllabus

- **The Doctrines of the Bible** (Completed 5 Weeks)
- **The Doctrines of God** (Completed 12 Weeks)
- **The Doctrines of Creation** (Completed 18 Weeks)
- **The Doctrines of Redemption**
- **The Doctrines of the Church**
- **The Doctrines of the Future**

What is Redemption?

for **all have sinned** and **fall short of** the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26)

- **all – there are no exceptions**
- **The Greek word translated as sinned is *hamartanō*. It alludes to an archer whose arrow falls short of or misses the target.**
- **We are not even close to meeting God's righteousness which is perfect conformance to the moral law.**
- **It would be better say **lack** the glory of God**

What is Redemption?

for all have sinned and fall short of the **glory** of God, and are **justified** by his **grace** as a **gift**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26)

- **Glory is the honor or excellent reputation of God.**
- **Justified is a legal term meaning to be declared just. It does not mean the justified one is just.**
- **Grace means unmerited favor.**
- **Gift means something that is received but it is not an entitlement, is not earned and is not deserved.**

What is Redemption?

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be received by faith. (Romans 3:23-25)

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him **from the wrath of God**. (Romans 5:9)

- **Redemption (*apolutrōsis* in Greek) means to release on payment of a ransom.**
- **Propitiation means the satisfaction or quenching of God's wrath.**
- **Therefore, this study of the doctrines of redemption will focus on how sinners are saved by faith from the wrath of God as progressively revealed in Scripture and progressively understood in human history.**

Redemptive History/Doctrines of Redemption Syllabus

- The Fall
- The Covenants
- The Law
- The Old Testament Sacrificial System

The Old Testament Era (BC)

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- Jesus the God-Man
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit
 - The New Testament

The New Testament Era (~1st Century A.D.)

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- Pre-Reformation Roman Catholicism
 - Protestant Reformation Theology
 - Post Reformation Doctrinal Debates

The Church Era (2nd Century A.D. to present)