



Semester 4, General Session 2

**Come Thou fount of every
blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon
it
Mount of Thy redeeming love**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless days**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal
it
Seal it for Thy courts above**

Housekeeping

- Next meeting - March 16
 - MOW+ Reading RC Sproul, *What We Believe*
 - Website updated - password has been removed
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Breakdown of Our Study

1. Prolegomena and Bibliology, Part 1
 2. Bibliology, Part 2
 3. Theology Proper, Part 1
 4. Theology Proper, Part 2
 5. Christology, Part 1
 6. Christology, Part 2
 7. Pneumatology
 8. Anthropology and Hamartiology
 9. Soteriology, Part 1
 10. Soteriology, Part 2
 11. Ecclesiology
 12. Eschatology
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Systematic Theology I

An aerial photograph of a university campus. The central focus is a large, red brick building with a prominent white portico supported by four columns. Above the portico is a tall, white clock tower with a clock face. The building is surrounded by other red brick buildings and green lawns. In the background, there are more campus buildings and a line of trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

WEEK 2: BIBLIOLOGY, PART 2

The Canon of Scripture

- Canon = “Measure” or “Standard.” So, to study the Canon is to discern what belongs in the Bible and considered as God’s Word. This subject is discussed more in the Hermeneutics class and in the overview of each book and its canonicity.
 - The initial written Word of God was put in stone by God’s own finger (Ex. 31:18, 32:16, Deut. 4:13, 10:4). These tablets were the covenant stipulations for both parties and deposited in the Ark of the Covenant.
 - God continued to speak through Moses and validated His authorization of Moses with miracles. Moses with Joshua (at the end) wrote the Pentateuch.
 - In the final book, which is a sermon (or series of sermons), Moses prophesied the ultimate revelation/ Word of God through the Prophet. Deuteronomy 18:15-22.
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The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ‘But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’

And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

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 - God continued to speak through Moses and validated His authorization of Moses with miracles. Moses with Joshua (at the end) wrote the Pentateuch.
 - In the final book, which is a sermon (or series of sermons), Moses prophesied the ultimate revelation/Word of God through a future Prophet. Deuteronomy 18:15-22. This helps us make a few conclusions:
 - Jesus is that ultimate, *the* Prophet.
 - Others, derivative of that Prophet would come who, like Moses, would be authorized by God to speak on His behalf, adding to the Word.
 - These men would be validated by God, often miraculously.
 - These men should be tested by God’s people as to the genuineness of their word. If determined as genuine, the people would include the designated words of the prophecy in the Canon of Scripture.
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The Canon of Scripture

- Indeed, Joshua was the clear successor, meeting all the above requirements, and it says in Joshua 24:26, “Joshua wrote these words in the book of the Law of God.”
 - The people of Israel, following this pattern, eventually curated the OT as we have it, in 39 books.
 - What about the “Apocrypha” including those called the Deuterocanonical books? These were many Jewish writings of history, but the people did not recognize these as Canon. These were not recognized by the church until the RCC did in the Council of Trent, likely to spite the Reformers.
 - As you might expect, Jesus, as God, appointed His Apostles to do as the Prophets of the OT. He promised the the Holy Spirit Whom He would send, would bring remembrance of all He taught them (John 14:26).
 - And so, like the Prophets, the people would test for the Apostleship and genuine of the books written and thus validate the Apostles’ authorized writings as scripture alongside the OT.
 - Paul, in 1 Tim 5:18: 18 “For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’”
 - Peter, in 2 Peter 3:16, says of Paul’s writings, “There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.”
 - In the end, the Apostles produced the 27 books we have in the NT - though it took some time for everyone to research and come to agreement.
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Attributes of Scripture: Authority

- The Authority of Scripture means that all the words in the Bible are God's, such that to believe and obey them is to believe and obey God - and to disbelieve and disobey them is to disobey God.
 - Hundreds of times throughout the Bible, Scripture is quoted as God speaking: "Thus says the Lord..."
 - Paul told Timothy that all *graphetes* is God-breathed - inspired. *Graphetes* was a technical term referring to the OT books, AND, as we saw above, refer to the Word being produced by the Apostles.
 - The Holy Spirit confirms the truth of Scripture in the heart of believers. "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:13). But to the Spiritual person, someone regenerated, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).
 - So, inspiration, God's breathed-out, authoritative word means:
 - Inerrancy
 - Coherent, non-contradictory
 - Are the ultimate standard of truth and reality
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Attributes of Scripture: Perspicuity

- The Perspicuity of Scripture means that the fundamental message and purpose of the God's Word is clear and easily understood, by all who read it, seeking God's help with a willingness to follow Him. "All these Words...you shall teach to your children..." (Deut. 6:6).
 - Implications:
 - Every time we find a difficult passage to understand it is either because we are seeking to make an affirmation (statement) where there is none; or our own mistakes and sin cloud our ability to understand it.
 - The role of "teacher" is vital to help us clear out the above and come to the meaning of the text, and help defend the foundational truths of the Bible.
 - All of us are called to make clear in our hearts and then clear to others these things ("Teaching them all things I have commanded..." (Matt 28:20)).
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Attributes of Scripture: Necessity and Sufficiency

- The Necessity of Scripture means that God's Word is absolutely required for salvation and sanctification:
 - "He brought us forth by the Word of Truth..." James 1:18.
 - "Faith comes by hearing...the Word about Christ..." Romans 10:17.
 - "The Sacred Writings...are able to make you wise to salvation by faith in Jesus Christ..." 2 Tim. 3:14-15.
 - Peter called the Word of God, the "pure Spiritual milk" that produces "salvation" 1 Peter 2:2.
 - "Sanctify them by the Truth, Your Word is truth" John 17:17.
 - "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" Matthew 4:4.
 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
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