

Introduction to Theology

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Syllabus and Schedule
- Bibliography for Introduction to Theology
 - Required Reading
 - Essential Reading
 - Suggested Reading
- Case Studies Assignments

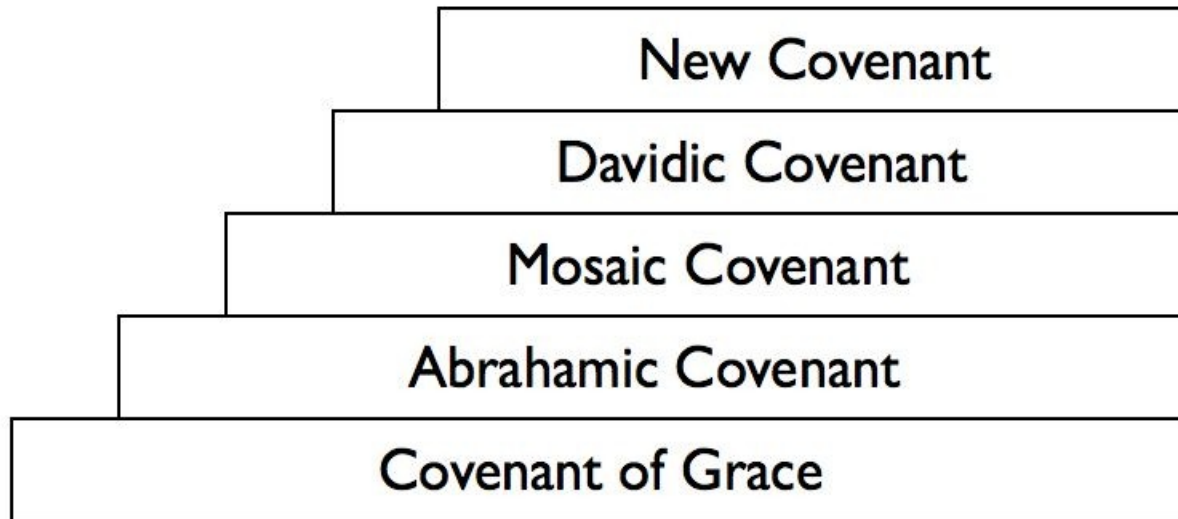
Introduction to Theology

We are all real people created by a real God, and we all have real struggles, real questions, and real convictions.



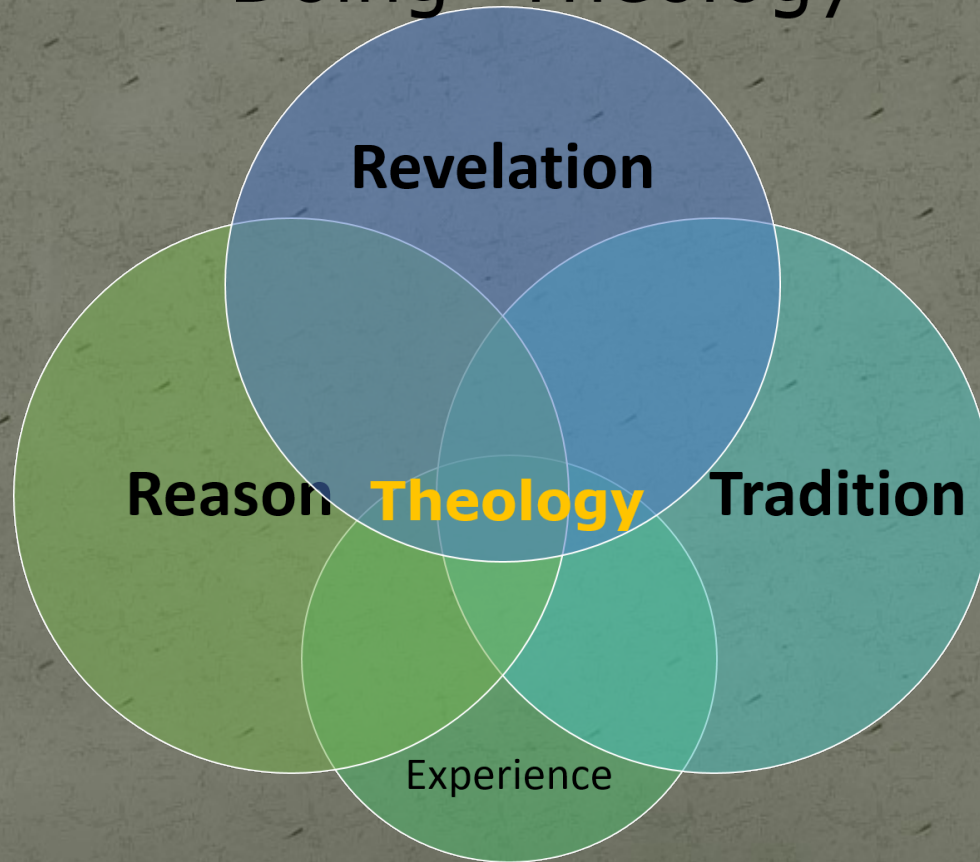
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Covenant Theology

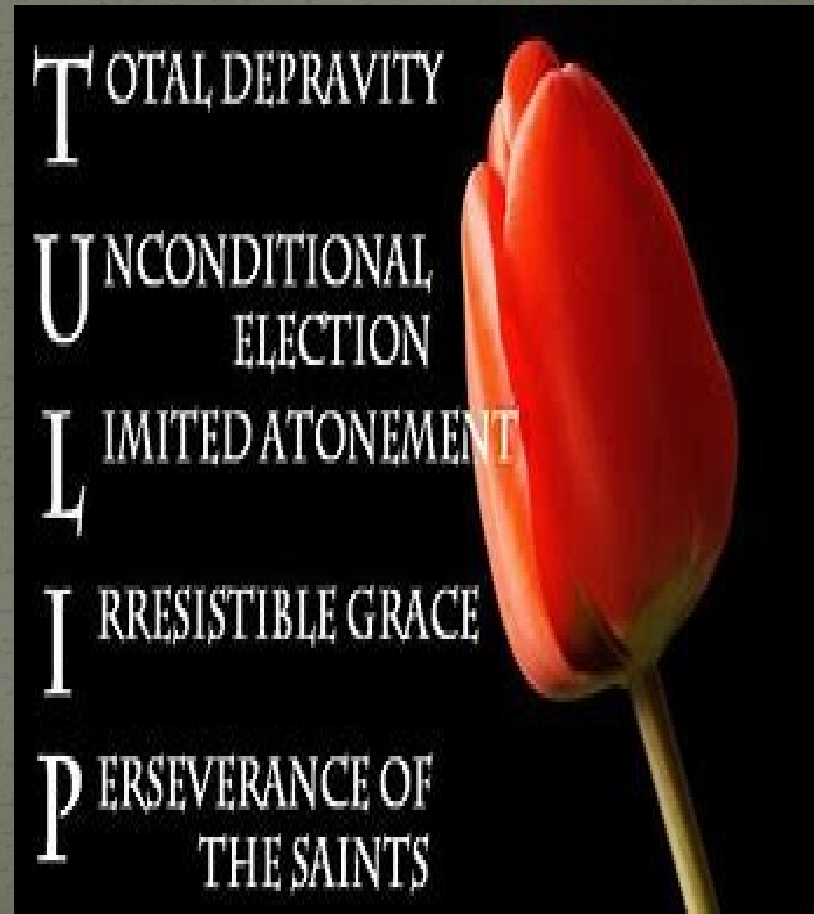
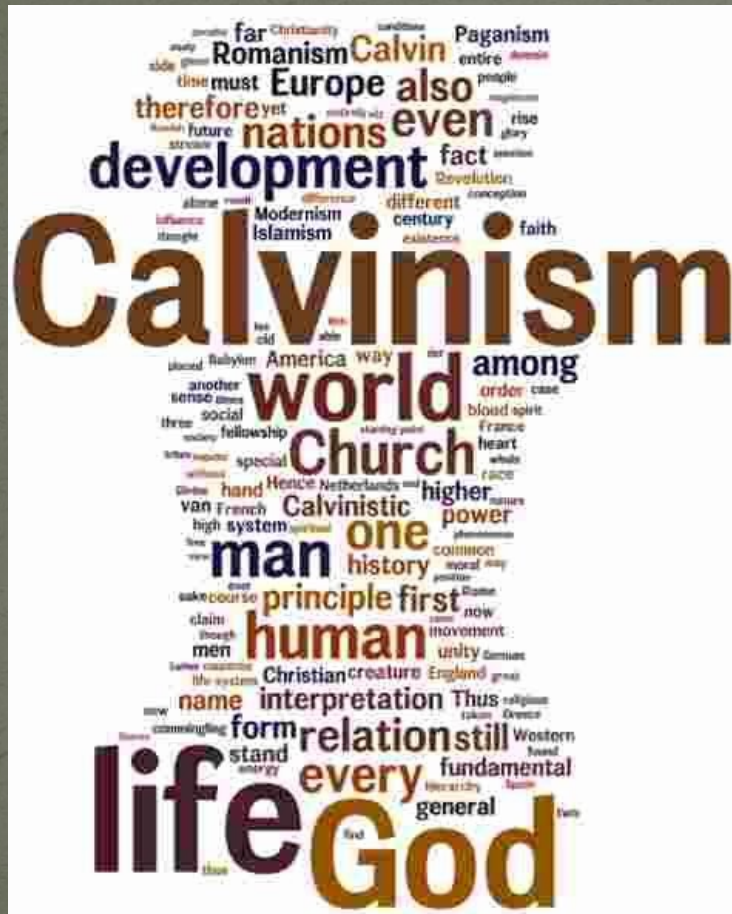


Introduction to Theology

“Doing” Theology



Introduction to Theology



Introduction to Theology

- Different ways within Christianity of approaching and organizing theology.
 - Natural Theology
 - Biblical Theology
 - Historical Theology
 - Systematic Theology
 - Dogmatic Theology
 - Practical Theology
- These types are Western ways of thinking which stem primarily from Greek Philosophy and the Enlightenment.



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- Example: Judaism is not focused so much on an orderly arrangement of Jewish beliefs as they are a system of behavior. “Christians believe that right belief leads to right actions, Jewish people believe that right action leads to right belief.” (Jeremy Myers, 2018).
 - Thoughts to ponder: Is our orderly arrangement of theology by ideas rather than by actions a strength or a weakness in Christian theology? Does the right action lead to legalism and an emphasis on outward behavior rather than in the inner attitude of the heart, something Jesus and the Prophets frequently criticized?

Introduction to Theology

Mission

Renewing minds and changing lives by purposefully guiding people through a study of historic and biblical Christian theology.

Goal

“Our goal is not so much to teach good theology, as important as this is, but to teach people to think.”

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- Approach In Learning Theology:
 - Intensity in Studies – Student will be exposed to a balance of study formats. The program will include all the below to be in balance as we learn.
 - Irenic Theology – Peace - Theology that is done peaceably, accurately representing all views, even when you oppose them.
 - Polemic Theology – War – Theology that is done in a warlike manner inside the Church, prophetically speaking against those with whom there is disagreement.
 - Apologetic Theology – Defense – Theology that is done to defend the faith against those who oppose outside the church.

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Who you are and why you are taking this course?

1. Practical Pricilla: You are a person who has never seen the practicality in deep theological study. You are here to see if we can change your mind.
2. Scared Susan: Big words scare you. You don't really think that you are smart enough to be here. You are here this time, but you may not be here the next.
3. Know-it all Nick: You already know everything. You are just here to see if we do and to pick up where we leave off.

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4. Fundamental Fred: You are the God-ordained guardian of orthodoxy. You are here to sit, with arms crossed, and protect.
5. Want-an-answer Will: You have a lot of questions. You are here not to do theology in community, but to write theology down with a pen and paper.
6. Traditionalist Teri: You want to learn, but your traditions and preconceived notions bind you. You are here to have your traditions confirmed to be true.

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7. Confrontational Carl: You are not a believer in Christ or the Bible and have no intention of becoming one. You are here to argue.
8. Struggling Sam: You are a believer in Christ, but you have a lot of doubts and struggles. You have never had a safe place to express those doubts. You are here to see if this is the place.
9. Curious Carla: You are not really sure why you are here, but you're excited to find out.

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- Approach In Learning Theology:
 - Progression of Learning – Comprehensive coverage, intentional, and community program design will cover all relevant major issues, current and historic, of which creates a foundational knowledge base for seminary students.
 - Introduction to Theology – Course #1
 - Bibliology and Hermeneutics – Course #2
 - Trinitarianism – Course #3
 - Humanity and Sin – Course #4
 - Soteriology – Course #5
 - Ecclesiology and Eschatology – Course #6

Questions?

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