

Systematic Theology

Syllabus

(Companion to the Video Class)

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Gospel to Africa

Session 1

What is Systematic Theology? Why Have One?

A. Three Approaches to Systematic Theology

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

(Which one are we going to follow?)

B. Definition of Systematic Theology

1. **Topical arrangement of Bible themes in a logically connected sequence**

(The first topic is the most basic, connecting to the next logical one, etc.)

2. Everyone is a systematic theologian

3. "The Bible is all about..."

a. = the Main Idea

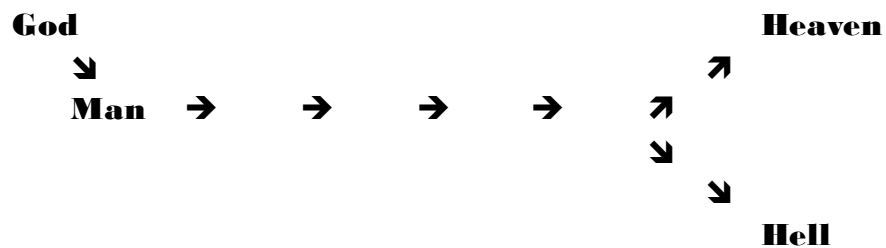
b. = Summary of Most Important ideas

4. Questions the Bible is already 'asking'

C. What the Bible IS All About

1. Redemption?
2. No, Judgment **and** Redemption

D. Human History = God made man, man ends in either Heaven or Hell (Bound for Hell from conception)



1. Is that *our* version of it?
2. Mark 8:38, or are we ashamed of the real Bible story, the whole Bible story, Acts 20:27?
3. If we are ashamed of any of it, aren't we ashamed of all of it?

E. The Nature of the Word

1. Jer 23:29, a hammer and a fire
2. Luke 20:18, Jesus is a stone that either
 - a. We fall on for mercy, or
 - b. He will fall on us in judgment

Session 2

Religion

A. Man is Naturally Religious

B. The Essential Nature of Religion

1. Only the Bible Can Correctly Define Religion

2. Religion has to do with relationship with God

a. Read James 1:27

b. Is Christianity a religion?

1. Some people say it's not

2. But what does James 1:27 say?

c. Better saying: Christianity is not a man-made religion

3.

C. The Seat (Source) of Religion in Man is the Heart

1. Not ...

2. Not ...

3. Not ...

D. The Origin of Religion

1. Naturalist View

2. Scriptural View

Session 3

Revelation

Root word of revelation:

If _____ does not reveal, _____ cannot know.

A. Revelation in General

1. The Idea of Revelation

2. Distinctions Applied to the Idea of Revelation

a. Natural versus Supernatural

1. Natural

2. Supernatural

b. General versus Special

1. General

2. Special

Acts 17:22-30

Rom 1:20

Acts 14:17

3. Denial of God's Revelation

a. Denial of General Revelation

1. The Athiest

2. The Agnostic

3. The Pantheist

b. Denial of Special Revelation

1. Deists
2. Liberals

B. General Revelation

1. The Idea of General Revelation
2. General Revelation is Insufficient
 - a. Because
 - b. Because
 - c. Because
 - d. Mainly because
3. The Significance of General Revelation

a. Men without a Bible

Rom 2:14, 15

b. Men *with* the Bible

C. Special Revelation

1. The Necessity of Special Revelation
2. The Means of Special Revelation
 - a. Theophanies
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 4. Jesus Christ, the highest Theophany

b. Direct Communications

1.

2.

c. Miracles

3. The Contents of Special Revelation

a.

b.

c.

Session 4

Scriptures

A. The Relation of Special Revelation to Scriptures

1.

2.

B. The Inspiration of Scriptures

1. Scripture proof of Inspiration

2. The Nature of Inspiration

a. Not

b. Not

c. YES- Organic

3. The Extent of Inspiration

a. Some claim

b. Some claim

c. Scriptures claim

d. Inspired how far, Matt 5:18?

1. Jot = smallest Hebrew letter (yod)

2. Tittle = only a *portion* of a Hebrew letter (like crossing a “t”)

C. The Perfections of Scriptures

1. The Authority of Scripture

- a. Roman Catholic view
- b. Reformed (Reformation) view
 - 1. Historical
 - 2. Normative
- c. Rationalistic view

2. The Necessity of Scriptures

- a. Catholic view
- b. Subjective (inner or feelings oriented) view
- c. Reformed (Protestant) view

3. The Perspicuity (Clarity) of Scriptures

- a. Catholic view
- b. The Reformed view

4. The Sufficiency of Scriptures

- a. Subjective view
- b. Catholic view
- c. Reformed view

Session 5

The Doctrine of God

(Theology Proper or Theology Narrowly rather than Broadly Defined)

THE BEING OF GOD

(The Essential Nature of God)

A. Knowledge About God

Two Kinds

1. Innate

2. Acquired

B. God's Being as Known from God's Revelation

1. God = pure spirit

2. God = personal

3. God = infinitely perfect

4. God and His perfections are one

Session 6

The Names of God

A. The Name of God in General

1. God's "name" =

2. "May Your Name (everything about You) be set apart"
(Correct translation of "Hallowed be Your name")

B. Old Testament names for God

1. Names of God's exaltation
 - a. El
 - b. Elohim
 - c. Elyon
 - d. Adonai
2. Names of God's condescension to His creatures
 - a. Shaddai

 - b. Jehovah (Yahweh- closer to the Hebrew)

 - c. Jehovah of hosts

C. New Testament Names

1. Theos
2. Kurios
3. Pater

Session 7

The Attributes of God

A. God's Incommunicable Attributes

Incommunicable =

1. God's Independence or Self-Existence

2. God's Immutability

3. The Infinity of God

a. His absolute perfection

b. His eternity

c. His immensity

4. The Simplicity of God

B. God's Communicable Attributes

Communicable =

1. The Knowledge of God

2. The Wisdom of God

3. The Goodness of God

4. The Love of God

a. Grace

b. Mercy

c. Longsuffering

5. God's Holiness

"Holy" =

6. God's Righteousness

a. Rectoral

b. Remunerative

c. Retributive

God's righteousness is His _____ attribute

7. God's Veracity (Truthfulness)

8. God's Sovereignty

a. God's Sovereign Will

1. The Secret and Revealed wills of God, Deut 29:_____

2. The Freedom of God's will

3. The Will of God in relation to sin, Jms 1:_____

b. God's Sovereign Power (Omni_____)

- c. His particular works

3. The Holy Spirit

- a. His personality

- b. His relation to the Father and the Son

- c. His Divinity

- d. His particular works

Session 9

THE WORKS OF GOD

Decrees (Session 9), Predestination, Creation, Providence (Later Sessions)

Decrees

A. The Nature of God's Decrees

B. Characteristics of the Divine Decrees

1. Wise
2. Eternal
3. Efficacious (Effective)
4. Unchangeable
5. Unconditional
6. All-Comprehensive
7. Concerning Sin, God's Decrees are Permissive

C. Answers to Objections to God's Decrees

1. Inconsistent with man's moral freedom (free will)
2. Keeps man from seeking salvation
3. Makes God the author of sin

Session 10

Predestination (Work of God #2)

A. Objects of predestination (who gets predestined)

B. The Two Parts of Predestination

1. Election

2. Reprobation

C. Supralapsarianism versus Infralapsarianism

Session 11

Creation (Work of God #3)

A. Creation in General

1. The Idea of Creation

2. The Time of Creation

3. The Manner of Creation

4. The Final End of Creation

5. Wrong Ideas about Creation
 - a. Dualism

 - b. Emanation

 - c. Evolution

B. The Spiritual World

1. Existence and nature of angels

2. Angelic orders
 - a. Cherubim

 - b. Seraphim

 - c. Gabriel, Michael

d. Ranks of angels

3. The Service of Angels

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

4. Evil Angels

C. The Material World

1. Creation Narrative

a. Original Creation

b. Six days

c. The days

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

2. Creation and the Theory of Evolution

a. Naturalistic Evolution

b. Theistic (Theism- having to do with God) Evolution

Session 12

Providence (Work of God #4)

The word-

Basic idea-

A. Providence in General

1. Misconceptions

a. Deism

b. Pantheism

2. Objects

a. General

b. Special

B. The Three Elements of Providence

1. Preservation

2. Concurrence/ Cooperation (co- operate, operate together)

3. Divine Government

C. Extraordinary (outside the ordinary) Providences

Session 13

Doctrine of Man ANTHROPOLOGY (Greek, *anthropos*, ανθρωπος, man) in Relation to God

Man in His Original State

The Constitutional Nature of Man (what constitutes him)

A. Essential Elements of Human Nature- Two views

1. Dichotomy

2. Trichotomy

B. The Soul's Origin- Three ideas concerning

1. Pre-existence

2. Traducianism

3. Creationism

Man as the Image of God and in the Covenant of Works

A. Man as the Image of God

1. Scriptural teaching

a. Image =

b. Likeness =

c. They don't mean

d. They mean

2. Historical conceptions

- a. Catholic

- b. Lutheran

- c. Reformed

Addendum:

B. Man in the Covenant of Works

1. Proofs of a covenant of works

- a.

- b. Rom 5

- c. Hos 6:7

(But *was* Israel's transgression like Adam's?)

2. Elements

- a. Parties

- b. Promise

- c. Condition

- d. Penalty

- e. Sacrament (?)

3. Present validity

a. Not abrogated in this sense

b. Abrogated in this sense

Man in the State of Sin

A. Origin of Sin (The Fall)

1. Nature of the first sin

2. Occasion

a. 1 Tim 2:14

b. Lost these three things

1.

2.

3.

B. The Essential Character of Sin

1. Sin is not

2. Sin is

3. Sin not essentially...

4. Guilt is not

5. Heart

6. Not only outward

C. Divergent Views

1. Pelagius

2. Catholic

3. Evolutionary

Session 14

Sin in the Life of the Human Race

A. Connection Between Adam's Sin and His Descendants' Sin

1. Realistic Theory

2. Immediate Imputation

a.

b.

3. Mediate Imputation

B. Original and Actual Sin

1. Original Sin

a. Original guilt

b. Original Pollution

1. Total depravity

2. Total inability

2. Actual Sin

a. Difference from Original Sin

b. The Unpardonable Sin

1. Matt 12:31

- a. Speak a word against
- b. Speak against (in the heart)

2. Jn 16:8; Heb 6:4-6

C. Universality of Sin (Everyone is a sinner who sins)

1. Proven by direct Scriptural assertion

2. When sin begins

3. Rom 5:12-14

4. Children

The Covenant of Redemption

Intro: Baptist view and Covenant view

1. Baptist view: Baptize whom?
2. Covenant view: Baptize believers and whom?

Covenant of Redemption = a covenant between

A. The Scriptural Basis for the Covenant of Redemption

Zech 6:13-

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Ps 89:3

B. The Son in the Covenant of Redemption

1. Surety
2. Cov. of Redemp. for Christ =
3. Cov of Redemp limited by
4. Christ's use of...

C. Requirements and Promises in the Covenant of Redemption

1. The Father required the Son:
 - a.

b.

c.

2. The father Promises to the Son:

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

The Covenant of Grace

A. The Parties

B. Promises and Requirements

1. Promises

2. Requirements

C. Characteristics

1. Gracious

2. Trinitarian

3. Unbreakable

4. Particular

5.

6. Both _____ and _____

7. Can be called...

D. Relationship of Christ to the Covenant

E. Membership

1. Adults

2. Believers' children

3. The unregenerate (not born again)

F. The Covenant of Grace in Different Dispensations

1. Gen 3:15

2. Noah

3. Abraham

4. Sinai

a.

b.

5. The New Covenant

1. Berkhov

a. Includes

b. Better...

2. Baptist view

Session 16

DOCTRINE OF THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

THE PERSON OF CHRIST

The Names of Christ

Some names refer to

Some refer to

A. The Name "Jesus"

B. "Christ"

1. NT terms for

2. 1 Jn 2:22

C. "Son of Man"

1. Mainly from

2. Expresses

D. "Son of God"

1. Nativistic sense

2. Official of Messianic sense

3. Trinitarian sense of "Son"

E. "Lord"

- 1.
2. Philipp 2:11

Session 17

The Natures of Christ

A. Distinctions of His Natures

1. His Divine Nature
2. His Human Nature
3. Necessity of the Two Natures

B. Unity of the Person of Christ

1. Statement of the doctrine of the two natures in one person
2. Scripture proof

3. Effects of the union of the two natures

a. Communication of the attributes

b. Communication of operations

c. Communication of graces

C. Errors to Note and Refute

1. Denial of the Real Divine Nature

2. Denial of the Real Human Nature

3. Denial of the Integrity of the Two Natures

4. Denial of the Unity of the Person of Christ

5. Denial of the Two Natures of Christ

Session 18

The States of Christ

A. The State of Humiliation

1. The Incarnation
2. The Sufferings of Christ
3. The Death of Christ
4. The Burial of Christ
5. The Descent of Christ into Hades

B. The State of Exaltation

1. The Resurrection
 - a. Nature of the Resurrection

b. Significance of the Resurrection

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

c. Denial of the Resurrection

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

2. The Ascension of Christ

a. Nature of it

b. Lutheran View

c. Significance

3. Christ's Session at the Right Hand of God

- a.
- b.
- c.

d.

4. The Physical Return of Christ

Session 19

THE WORK OF CHRIST

THE OFFICES OF CHRIST

The three offices

1.

2.

3.

A. PROPHET, Deut 18:15

1. The Scriptural idea

a. Receptive

b. Productive

2. Christ as Prophet

3. Modern emphasis

B. PRIEST

1. Scriptural idea

a. Represent

b. Teach

2. Sacrificial work of Christ

- a. Christ was both...
- b. Prefigured
- c. Scriptural proofs

3. The Intercessory Work of Christ

- a. Nature of it
- b. Extent and efficacy of it

C. KING

1. Spiritual

- a. Nature of it
- b. Realm
- c. Duration

2. Kingship over the universe

- a. Nature of it
- b. Duration

Session 20

The Atonement through Christ

A. The Moving Cause and Necessity

1. Moving Cause

2. Necessity

B. Nature of it

1. Satisfaction

2. Vicarious

3. Included Christ's ACTIVE and PASSIVE Obedience

C. Extent

1. Limited extent

2. Objections

a. "World"

b. "All men"

c. Offer of the Gospel

D. The Atonement in Present-Day Theology

Session 21

SOTERIOLOGY

(Doctrine of Salvation) or (Doctrine of the Application of the Work of Redemption)

Common Grace

A. General operations of the Holy Spirit in nature

B. Common Grace

1. Description

2. Common Grace and the Atonement

3. Means by which common grace operates

a. General

b. Governments

c. Public opinion

d. Divine punishments and rewards

4. The effects of common grace

a. Delay of God executing His sentence

b. Restraint of sin

c. Sense of truth, morality, and religion

d. Civil righteousness

e. Natural blessings

5. Scriptural proof

a. Heb 6:4-6

b. Gen 20:6

c. 2 Kings 10:29, 30

d. Matt 5:44, 45

Session 22

Calling and Regeneration

(Special Grace following section on Common Grace)

A. General Remarks

B. Calling

1. The Accountable Call

a. Elements of it

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

b. Characteristics of it

- 1.
- 2.

c. Significance of it

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. The Transformational Call

- a.
- b.

c.

The Preaching Call

a.

b.

c.

C. Regeneration

1. Term

2. Nature

a.

b.

c.

3. Order

4. Necessity

5. Use of the Word

6. A Work of God

7. Baptismal Regeneration (false idea)

Session 23

Conversion

A. Scriptural Terms

1. OT

a.

b.

2. NT

a.

b.

c.

B. The Biblical Idea of Conversion

1. National

2. Temporary

3. True Conversion

4. Repeated conversion

C. Elements of Conversion

1. Elements

a.

b.

c.

2. Catholic view

a.

b.

c.

3. Scriptural view

D. Characteristics

1.

2.

3.

4.

E. Author

F. Necessity

Session 24

FAITH

A. Scriptural words

1. OT

a.

b.

2. NT

a.

b.

c.

B. Kinds of Faith

1. Historical

2. Miracles

3. Temporal

4. True Saving Faith

C. Elements of True Faith

1. Intellectual

2. Emotional

3. Volitional

D. Object of Saving Faith (WHAT do we believe in?)

1. General

2. Specific

E. Roman Catholic view

F. Faith and Assurance

Session 25

A. Scriptural Terms

B. Nature and Characteristics

1. Justification

Sanctification

2. Justification

Sanctification

3. Justification

Sanctification

4. Justification

Sanctification

C. Elements

1.

2.

a.

b.

D. Sphere of Justification

1. Active

2. Passive

E. Time

1. From eternity

2. In Christ's Resurrection

3. By faith

F. Ground

1. Catholic view

2. Reformed view

G. Objections

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

Session 26

A. Terms

B. Biblical Idea of Holiness & Separation

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Characteristics

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

D. Nature of Sanctification

1. Supernatural work of God
2. Two Parts
 - a. Mortification (put to death) the “Old man”
 - b. Quickening (giving life to) the “New man”
3. Affects the whole man

4. A work in which believers cooperate

E. Imperfect in this life

F. Sanctification and Good Works

1. Nature

2. Meritorious

3. Necessity

Session 27

Perseverance

A. Nature of it

B. Proof

C. Objections

Session 28

The CHURCH

ECCLESIOLOGY

A. Different Uses of the word Church

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

B. Essence of it

1. Catholic view

2. Protestant view

C. Many-sided character

1. Militant/ Triumphant

- a.

- b.

2. Visible/ Invisible

3. Organism/ Organization

D. Definition

1. Invisible

2. Visible

E. Characteristics

1. True Preaching
2. Correct administration of the Sacraments
3. Discipline

Session 29

Government of the Church

A. Theories

1. Quakers/ Darbyites
2. Erastian
3. Episcopalian
4. Present Roman Catholic view
5. Congregational system
6. National Church System

B. Reformed/ Presbyterian [technical term, not denominational]

1. Christ is head
2. Christ's Authority through His Word
3. Christ has endowed the Church with power
4. The ruling power is primarily local

C. Offices of the Church

1. Extraordinary

a. Apostles

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

b. Prophets

c. Evangelists

2. Ordinary

a. Elders

b. Teachers

c. Deacons

3. Calling and Induction

a. Calling

1. Internal

2. External

b. Induction

1. Ordination

2. Laying on of hands

Session 30

Power of the Church

A. Source

B. Nature of the power

1. Spiritual

2. Ministerial

C. Different Kinds

1. Dogmatic (teaching)

2. Governing

a. Regulating power

b. Judicial

3. Ministry of Mercy

Session 31

Means of Grace

A. The Word of God as the most important means of grace

1.

2.

B. Relationship of the Word to the Spirit

C. The Two Parts of the Word as a Means of Grace [Law & Gospel]

1. The distinction

2. Function of the Law

a.

b.

3. Function of the Gospel

Session 32

The Sacraments

A. Relationship of the Word to the Sacraments

B. Meaning

C. Component Parts

1. Outward, Visible Signs

a.

b.

2. Inward, Spiritual Grace Signified

3. Conjunction of the Sign with the thing Signified

D. Necessity

E. OT and NT compared

1. Catholic view

2. Baptist (believer's baptism, not the denomination) view

F. Number of Sacraments

1. Old Covenant

a.

b.

c.

2. New Covenant

a.

b.

c.

Session 33

Christian Baptism

A. Institution of

B. Mode

1.

2.

C. Lawful administrators

D. Subjects

1. Adults

2. Infants?

a. Basis in Abraham

b. Difference between Abrahamic covenant entry and New Covenant entry

Session 34

The Lord's Supper

A. Institution of it

1. Four sources

a.

b.

c.

d.

2. Occasion:

a. Central element

1. In Passover, it's

2. In the Lord's Supper, it's

B. Things Signified and Sealed in the Lord's Supper

1. Signs

a.

b.

c.

Signifying

a.

b.

c.

d.

2. Things Sealed

a.

b.

c.

d.

C. The Real Presence in the Lord's Supper

1. Catholic view

Transubstantiation

Objections

a.

b.

c.

2. Lutheran

Consubstantiation

3. Zwingli

4. Reformed (Reformation) view (Calvin)

D. Efficacy as a Means of Grace (What it accomplishes)

E. Person for whom the Lord's Supper is Designed

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Session 35

ESCHATOLOGY

Last Things

Individual eschatology (how each individual will end)

A. The nature of physical death

B. The Connection of Sin to Death

C. Significance of the Death of Believers

The Intermediate State

A. The Modern Idea of it

B. Purgatory

1. A Catholic doctrine

2. Limbus Patrum

3. Limbus Infantum

C. The Doctrine of Soul Sleep

D. Annihilation and Conditional Mortality

1. Annihilation

2. Conditional Mortality

E. Second Probation

Session 36

General Eschatology (How *everything* ends)

Jesus first coming

Jesus' second coming

A. Great Events Preceding the Second Coming

1. The Calling of the Gentiles

2. The Conversion of Israel

Romans 11

3. The Coming of the Antichrist

a. antichrists

b. The Antichrist

4. Signs and Wonders

- a. Wars, etc.
- b. Great Tribulation
- c. False prophets
- d. Portents in the heavens

B. The Second Coming Itself

1. Time of it

2. Manner of it

- a. Personal
- b. Physical
- c. Visible
- d. Sudden

1. Though preceded, yet unexpected, yet prepared, 1 Thess 5:2, 3

2.

- e. Glorious and Triumphant

3. Purpose of the Second Coming

Session 37

The Millennium and the Resurrection

A. 3 Views

1. A millennialism

2. Post millennialism

a. Modernistic kind

b. Biblical kind

3. Pre millennialism

a. Pre-tribulation rapture

b. Post-tribulation rapture

4. Two Basic Views of Revelation

a.

b.

5. Two Basic Timeframes of Revelation

a.

b.

6. Two Basic View of the Beast (Antichrist) in Revelation

B. The Resurrection

1. Scriptural proof

a. OT

b. NT

2. Characteristics

a. Bodily

b. Of the just and unjust

c. Differing Consequences

3. Time of the Resurrection

a. A mil and Post mil

b. Pre mil

Session 38

The Last Judgment and the Final State

A. The Last Judgment

1. After...

a. OT

b. NT

2. The Judge and His Assistants, Matt 13:41, 42

a.

b.

3. Parties to be judged

a. Every individual

b. Satan & demons

4. Time of the Judgment

5. The Standard of Judgment

a. The Gentiles

b. The Jews

c. NT believers

Degrees of punishment and reward

a.

b.

B. The Final State

1. Final State of the Wicked

a. Place

b. The state in which they'll exist

c. Duration of punishment

2. Final state of the righteous

a. The New Creation

1. The present world

2. New creation

b. The eternal abode of the righteous

c. The nature of reward

1. Bliss

2. Unimaginable

3. Degrees not out of place