Systematic Theology: An Introduction

What is Theology?

* *Theos* God
* *Logos* word
* Theology is words about (the study of) God.

Everyone Does Theology.

Categories in Theology:

There are a number of subcategories in Theology. They are the “ologies” you’ve probably heard before.

* Prolegomena (Introduction to Theology [“First Things Said”])
* Theology Proper (Study of God: Father, Son, and Spirit)
* Christology (Study of the Christ)
* Pneumatology (Study of the Spirit)
* Angelology (Study of Angels)
  + Demonology (Study of Demons)
  + Satanology (Study of the Devil)
* Anthropology (Study of Mankind)
* Hamartiology (Study of Sin)
* Soteriology (Study of Salvation)
* Ecclesiology (Study of the Church)
* Eschatology (Study of Last Things)
* Bibliology (Study of the Bible)

How is Theology done?

* Read the Revelation
  + 3 sources of revelation
  + Keep Observations orderly
  + Do not to add to your observations.
* Interpret the Information
  + Consult non-revelation sources
    - Church fathers writings
    - Traditions of the church
    - Creeds
    - Commentaries
  + Determine what is meant in each instance
* Synthesize the Supposition
  + Identify and enumerate the commonalities

Systematic Theology is made up entirely of conclusions.

Types of Theology

Systematic Theology: The process of doing theology where any revelation is systematically reviewed, concluded upon, and placed into interpretive categories.

Biblical Theology: A type of systematic theology that looks primarily to the Bible for revelation.

Historical Theology: A type of systematic theology that looks to historic interpretations as the primary means of constructing interpretive conclusions.

A Question of Authority

* When doing theology, where do you look for authority?
* When doing Biblical theology, are you over or under the text?

An Example of Theology Done

\*see Supplement “Chapter 31: The Creation of Man” from Charles Ryrie’s *Basic Theology*

Recommended Systematic Theologies:

* *Systematic Theology (8 Volumes in 4)* by Lewis Sperry Chafer
* *Systematic Theology (3 Volumes)* by Charles Hodge
* *Systematic Theology (in One Volume)* by Norman Geisler
* *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief* by John Frame
* *Basic Theology* by Charles Ryrie
* *The Moody Handbook of Theology* by Paul Enns