

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is designed to facilitate a thorough understanding the major doctrines of Scripture by organizing them into categorical systems. The systems covered in this course are: Theology Proper, Biblical Anthropology and Hamartiology, Soteriology, Christology, Ecclesiology, Pneumatology, Angelology and Demonology, and Eschatology.

Part One – Introduction to Systematic Theology

- I. Introduction
 - a. What is Systematic Theology?
 - b. What is the relation between Systematic Theology and Hermeneutics?
 - c. Why is it important to study the Bible systematically?

Part Two – Theology Proper - Beginning at the Beginning

- I. Introduction to the One True God
 - a. Arguments for the existence of God
 - b. Why only one God
- II. The Nature of God
 - a. God's incommunicable perfections (attributes)
 - b. God's communicable attributes
 - c. God as Trinity
- III. God's Eternal Decrees
 - a. Sovereignty and Election vs. Human Freedom
 - b. God and sin
 - c. Biblical theodicy
- IV. God and Creation
 - a. Providence
 - i. God's covenant with man
 - ii. God's omnibenevolence (or common grace)

Part Three – Biblical Anthropology and Hamartiology – The Doctrine of Man and Sin

- I. The Biblical Perspective on Man
 - a. In the image of God?
 - b. Human nature (pre-fall)
 - c. The nature of the fall
 - i. Its effects
 - ii. Its remedy

- d. Human nature (post-fall)

Part Three – Soteriology – The Doctrine of Salvation

- I. God’s eternal plan
- II. The covenant of grace
 - a. Abrahamic covenant
 - b. Mosaic covenant
 - c. New covenant
- III. Calvin’s T.U.L.I.P. and the Bible
 - a. Total Depravity
 - b. Unconditional Election
 - c. Limited Atonement (or Particular Redemption)
 - d. Irresistible Grace
 - e. Perseverance of the Saints

Part Four – Christology – The Doctrine of Christ

- I. The historicity of Jesus Christ
- II. Christ as understood in the early church
- III. Controversy and conflict
 - a. Monarchianism
 - b. The Arian controversy and the Council of Nicaea
 - c. Appollinarianism and the Council of Constantinople
 - d. Nestorianism and the Council of Ephesus
- IV. The life and ministry of Christ
 - a. Prophecy and probability
 - b. The virgin birth
 - c. Prophet, Priest, and King
 - d. The Lamb of God
- V. Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection

Part Five – Ecclesiology – The Doctrine of the Church

- I. The “assembly” in the Old Testament
- II. The “assembly” in the New Testament
- III. Biblical use of “*ekklesia*”
- IV. The attributes of the true church
- V. The authority and responsibilities of the church
 - a. The Word of God
 - i. Its authenticity

- ii. Its attributes
 - iii. Its authority
 - b. Worship
 - c. Evangelizing
 - d. Ministries
- VI. Church government
 - a. Historic and current models
- VII. Ordinances of the church
 - a. Ordinances versus sacraments
 - b. Baptism
 - c. The Lord's Supper

Part Six – Pneumatology – The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

- I. The deity of the Holy Spirit
- II. The Personality of the Holy Spirit
- III. The titles and symbols of the Holy Spirit
- IV. The work of the Holy Spirit
 - a. at creation
 - b. in divine revelation (inspiration)
 - c. in the Old Testament
 - d. in the New Testament
 - i. Baptism
 - ii. Indwelling
 - iii. Sealing
 - iv. Filling
 - v. Gifting the church for service
 - 1. A discussion of spiritual gifts
- V. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

Part Seven – Angelology and Demonology – The Doctrine of Angels and Demons

- I. Angels
 - a. Attributes
 - b. Appearances and Ministry
- II. Satan/Lucifer
 - a. Origins
 - b. Fall
 - c. Destiny

Part Eight – Eschatology – The Doctrine of Last Things

- I. Old Testament eschatology
- II. New Testament eschatology
- III. The debate over eschatology
 - a. Covenantalism
 - b. Dispensationalism
 - i. Classic dispensationalism
 - ii. Progressive dispensationalism
 - c. Millennial Positions
 - i. Premillennialism
 - ii. Postmillennialism
 - iii. Amillennialism
 - d. Tribulation Positions
 - i. Pretribulationism
 - ii. Midtribulationism
 - iii. Posttribulationism
- IV. Heaven and Hell – The Eternal State