

# PROLEGOMENA

- Prolegomena = the things before the main things, the presuppositions or preunderstandings

Q - What is the difference between Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology?

1. **Biblical Theology** – “gives special attention to the teachings of individual authors and sections of Scripture, and to the place of each teaching in the historical development of Scripture” (Grudem, 22)
  - It studies passages in historical context
  - It is chronological and progressive
  - God did not reveal all of Himself at once, but in pieces over time
  - Examples: Pentateuch, Abrahamic, OT/NT Theology, Pauline, Petrine, Johannine
  - The focus: individual time periods
2. **Systematic Theology** – “involves collecting and understanding all the relevant passages in the Bible on various topics and then summarizing their teachings clearly so that we know what to believe about each topic” (Grudem, 21)
  - Answers the question “What does the whole Bible teach about a topic?”
    - Biblical Theo: What does Moses teach about prayer?
    - Systematic Theo: What does whole Bible teach about prayer?
  - The reason this is necessary is because the Bible is not ordered in a systematic way
  - It is not a systematic theology textbook – so in this sense the Bible is “messy”
  - It is written by 40 authors over the course of 1500 years using 40 different genres in 3 different languages
  - Examples: 10 divisions of Systematic Theology
    - Bibliology – doctrine of the Bible
    - Theology – doctrine of God
    - Christology – doctrine of Christ
    - Pneumatology – doctrine of the Holy Spirit
    - Angelology – doctrine of angels
    - Anthropology – doctrine of man
    - Hamartiology – doctrine of sin
    - Soteriology – doctrine of salvation
    - Ecclesiology – doctrine of the church
    - Eschatology – doctrine of end times
  - The focus of systematic theology is all of Scripture

## Contrasts Between Biblical and Systematic Theologies

<b>Biblical Theology</b>	<b>Systematic Theology</b>
Restricts its study to the Scripture	Seeks truth from Scripture and from any source outside the Bible
Examines the parts of Scripture	Examines the whole of Scripture
Compiles information on a doctrine from a specific writer or a particular era	Compiles information on a doctrine by correlating all the Scriptures
Seeks to understand why or how a doctrine developed	Seeks to understand what was ultimately written
Seeks to understand the process as well as the result – the product	Seeks to understand the result – the product
Views the progress of revelation in different eras	Views the culmination of God’s revelation

*From The Moody Handbook of Theology, Paul Enns, 23.*

**Q** – How should we “do” systematic theology?

1. Collect all the biblical passages on a given subject
2. Draw principles from those passages related to that subject
3. Organize those principles into a systematic fashion to summarize the Bible’s teaching on that topic

### Sequence of Biblical Theology

Exegesis → Biblical Theology → Systematic Theology

*From The Moody Handbook of Theology, Paul Enns, 22.*



## Q – Why should we study systematic theology

### 1. To fulfill the Great Commission

- *Matt 28:19-20* “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- Part of Great Commission is teaching

“The task of fulfilling the Great Commission includes therefore not only evangelism but also teaching. And the task of teaching all that Jesus commanded us is, in a broad sense, the task of teaching what the whole Bible says to us today. To effectively teach ourselves and to teach others what the whole Bible says, it is necessary to collect and summarize all the Scripture passages on a particular subject” (Grudem, 27)

### 2. To become more like Christ

- *Col 1:28* “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ”

“The Scriptures were not given for our information but for our transformation” - D. L. Moody

### 3. To understand, explain, and defend the Scriptures better

- *2 Tim 2:15* “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth”
- *1 Peter 3:15* “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”

## Q – Did Jesus do “systematic theology?”

- ⇒ Read Luke 24:13-35
- ⇒ Vs. 25-27 ~ And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
- ⇒ Vs. 44-45 ~ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,