

Class Outline for 11-Week Term, Systematic Theology I

1. Doc. of Word, Part 1- The Reliability of our Bibles	David White	12/4/22
2. Doc. of Word, Part 2- The Canon of Scripture	David White	12/11/22
3. Doc. of Word, Part 3- The Attributes of Scripture	Stu Johnston	12/18/22
4. The Attributes of God, Part 1 (Incommunicable)	Nathan Allen	1/1/23
5. The Attributes of God, Part 2 (Communicable)	Nathan Allen	1/8/23
6. The Holy Trinity, Part 1	Michael Lopes	1/15/23
7. The Holy Trinity, Part 2	Michael Lopes	1/22/23
8. Creation, Part 1	Stu Johnston	1/29/23
9. Providence	Nathan Allen	2/5/23
10. Creation, Part 2	Stu Johnston	2/12/23
11. Sin	Nathan Allen	2/19/23

Doctrine of the Word, Part 3: The Necessity, Authority, Sufficiency, & Clarity of Scripture

I. THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE [See 1689:1:1]

1. **Scripture is necessary, because redemptive revelation is necessary.** Rom. 10:13-17
2. **The absolute necessity of redemptive revelation gives Scripture a derived necessity.**
 - 1) The sacred writings provided for a “better preserving of the truth” and thus a larger measure of certainty. Luke 1:1-4
 - 2) The sacred writings provided “for the more sure establishment and (preservation) of the church”. 1Co 15:1-2; 1Th 2:1-3a
 - 3) The sacred writings provided for the truth to go where the apostles could not be present in person. 1Ti 3:14-15
 - 4) The sacred writings provided for the Spirit to select which parts of redemptive revelation would be preserved and canonized. John 20:30-31
3. **Scripture is necessary, because God’s former ways of revealing his redemptive will have ceased.** Heb. 1:1-2
4. **The necessity of Scripture implies that God will ensure that the Bible will be, “by his singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages” (1689:1:8).** John 5:39

Practical Application: *Given the NECESSITY of Scripture, let us treasure it and devote ourselves to meditating upon it daily.* Ps. 119:14-16

II. THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE [See 1689:1:4-5]

1. **The FACT of Scripture’s Authority**

- 1) All the words of the Bible were produced by a direct, supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the men who were his instruments. 2Ti 3:15-16; 2Pe 1:19-21; John 10:34-36
- 2) The fact that the Bible was written by men does NOT mean that it must therefore contain error.
 - i. The real humanity of Christ did not necessarily mean that he would err. Nor did it negate his full divinity. Heb. 7:26
 - ii. The writers' personalities and freedom were fully operational, but a given activity can be both free and divinely ordained at the same time. Acts 1:16

2. The SELF-AUTHENTICATING NATURE of Scripture's Authority

- 1) God's general revelation of himself through creation is self-authenticating. Rom. 1:18-20
- 2) God's special revelation in Scripture is likewise self-authenticating. Luke 16:27-31; John 6:58-63
- 3) The Testimony of the Holy Spirit to the Authority of Scripture- Matt 16:15-17; 1Co 2:14; John 10:26-27

Practical Application: *Given the AUTHORITY of the Bible, let us increasingly revere the Word and submit to it in faith and obedience.* Is. 66:2; Matt. 7:24-27

III. THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES

1. **The Bible is sufficient to give us all the wisdom needed for our salvation.** 2Ti 3:15
2. **The Bible is a sufficient guide for pastors (and thus for God's people in general), equipping them to glorify God and fulfill their multi-faceted duties.** 2Ti 3:16-17; Acts 20:20, 27; Ps. 19:7-8; Ps. 119:6, 9
3. **The sufficiency of the Scriptures does NOT negate:** Individual diligence; The Spirit's teaching; Common sense; Christ-given pastors and teachers; Careful attention to other spheres of knowledge (medicine, for ex., when you or a loved one is ill)

Practical Application: *Let us have a growing confidence in what the Bible can do for us, as we diligently seek its wisdom under the blessing of the Spirit.*

IV. THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

1. **The Bible is clear.** Ps. 119:105; 2Pe 1:19; Prov. 6:22-23
2. **The Bible is not equally clear in all its parts.** 2Pe 3:15-16
3. **The Bible is not equally clear to all.** 2Ti 3:15-17; Acts 18:26

