**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**

1. **THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE** [See 1689:1:1]
2. **Scripture is necessary, because redemptive revelation is necessary.** Rom. 10:13-17
3. **The *absolute* necessity of redemptive revelation gives Scripture a *derived* necessity.**
4. The sacred writings provided for a “better preserving of the truth” and thus a larger measure of certainty. Luke 1:1-4
5. The sacred writings provided “for the more sure establishment and (preservation) of the church”. 1Co 15:1-2; 1Th 2:1-3a
6. The sacred writings provided for the truth to go where the apostles could not be present in person. 1Ti 3:14-15
7. The sacred writings provided for the Spirit to select which parts of redemptive revelation would be preserved and canonized. John 20:30-31
8. **Scripture is necessary, because God’s former ways of revealing his redemptive will have ceased.** Heb. 1:1-2
9. **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

1. **THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE** [See 1689:1:4-5]
2. **The FACT of Scripture’s Authority**
3. 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
4. The fact that the Bible was written by men does NOT mean that it must therefore contain error.
5. The real humanity of Christ did not necessarily mean that he would err. Nor did it negate his full divinity. Heb. 7:26
6. 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
7. **The SELF-AUTHENTICATING NATURE of Scripture’s Authority**
8. God’s general revelation of himself through creation is self-authenticating. Rom. 1:18-20
9. God’s special revelation in Scripture is likewise self-authenticating. Luke 16:27-31; John 6:58-63
10. 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

1. **THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES**
2. **The Bible is sufficient to give us all the wisdom needed for our salvation.** 2Ti 3:15
3. **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
4. **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.*

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