

Systematic Theology

A systematic study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

Topic 1 – The Doctrine of Scripture

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture taken from the New King James Version.

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The Doctrine of Scripture

- Second London Baptist Confession of Faith – Chapter 1
- The Inspiration of Scripture
- The Authority and Perspicuity of Scripture
- The Inerrancy of Scripture
- Hermeneutics
- The Preservation of Scripture
- The Prophesied Messiah in Scripture
- The Original Attack on Scripture
- Application: Teaching and Preaching the Scriptures
- Translation Theory

Interpretation of the Scriptures - review

- Hermeneutics – to interpret the Biblical text.
- Exegesis – the process of interpreting the text.
- To interpret accurately, interpretive rules are applied by exegesis in order to find the single meaning God intended to convey from that text.
- The Literal Grammatical-Historical Interpretive Method
- Literal = Plain
- Historical = Real or Actual Events
- Grammatical = Conveyed using Language
- One meaning rooted in historical truth and related accurately according to the common principles of human language.

Interpretation of the Scriptures - review

- Exegesis includes analysis of context (historical, cultural, and literary), grammatical analysis, historical/Biblical/systematic theological analysis, etc.
- Historical/Cultural Analysis – Context
- Lexical/Syntactical Analysis – Define the words and how they relate to one another
- Theological Analysis – Doctrinal content
- Literary Analysis – Form, style, genre
- Comparison with other interpreters (modern and historical)
- Application – the text will have one meaning, but may have many applications

Application of Scripture

- 1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.
- Christianity is a way of life founded on a Biblical message. – MacArthur, pg. 131
- Isaiah 29:13 Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.
- Matthew 15:8-9, Jesus quotes Isaiah.

Application of Scripture

- Hebrews 13:9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.
- 2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
- Ephesians 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Doctrine

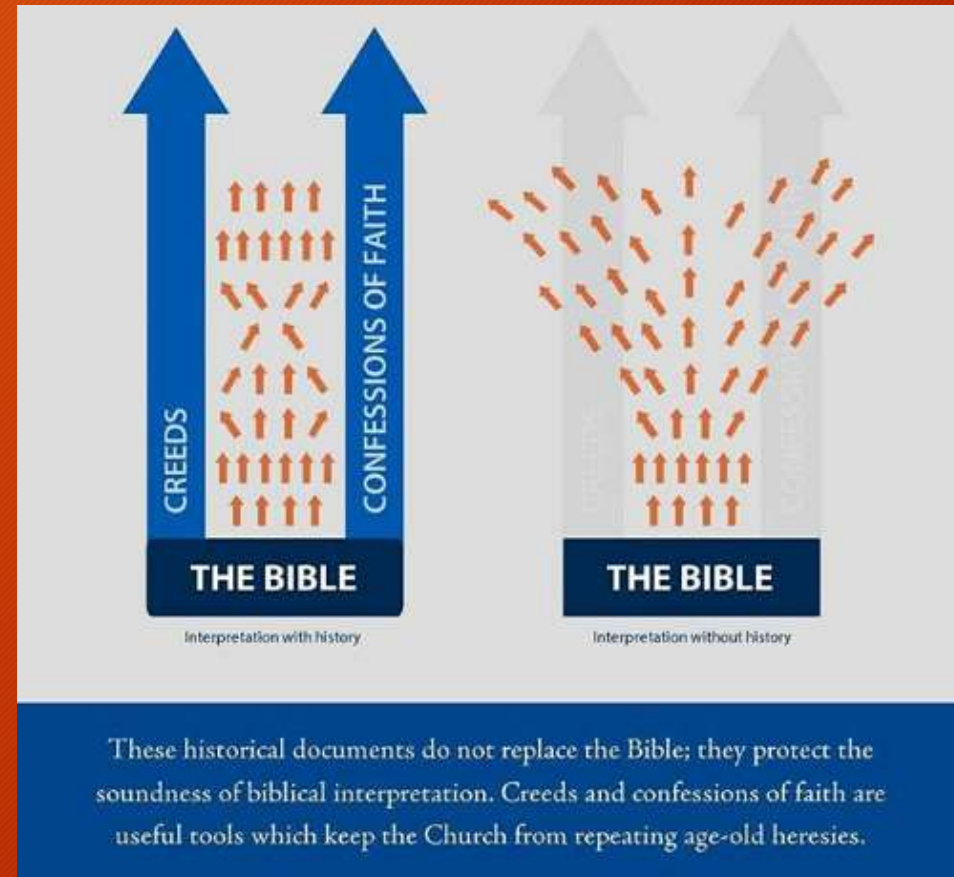
- Two Greek words most often translated “doctrine,” “teaching,” or “instruction” (*didache* and *didaskalia*) appear 51 times and affirm that Christian doctrine refers to Scripture read, explained, or systematized.
- Doctrine therefore is simply Biblical content.
- Sound doctrine (Biblical doctrine) should lead to sound (Biblical) living.
- Christ’s ministry (Matt. 7:28-29), the Apostles ministry (Acts 5:29), and the early church’s ministry (Acts 2:42) all centered around sound doctrine.

Doctrine

- 1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.
- 2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
- Titus 1:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
- Titus 2: But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

Doctrine

- Historically, indifference to doctrine has produced heretics, hence the creation and need for creeds and confessions.



Teaching and Preaching the Word of God

- Sound doctrine demands both exacting exposition and powerful proclamation.
 1. God is.
 2. God is true.
 3. God speaks in harmony with His nature.
 4. God speaks only truth.
 5. God spoke His true Word as consistent with His true nature to be communicated to people.

Teaching and Preaching the Word of God

- Therefore:
 1. God gave His true Word to be communicated entirely as he gave it; that is, the whole counsel of God is to be preached.
 2. God gave His true Word to be communicated exactly as he gave it. It is to be dispensed precisely as it was delivered without altering the message.
 3. Only the exegetical process that yields expository proclamations will accomplish #1 and #2.

Teaching and Preaching the Word of God

1. Why Preach?

God commands it – 2 Tim. 4:2

The Apostles did it – Acts 5:27-32; 6:4

2. What should be preached?

The Word of God, Scripture, alone and in total – 1 Tim. 4:13

3. Who should preach?

Holy men of God – Luke 1:70; Acts 3:21; Eph. 3:5; 2 Peter 1:21; Rev. 18:20; 22:6

4. What is the preacher's responsibility?

Realize that God's Word is not the preacher's word. He is a herald and guide. He is the server, not the chef.

Teaching and Preaching the Word of God

- Study the text.
- Interpret the text accurately.
- Apply the text.

- Inerrancy demands exegetical preparation and expository proclamation. Only such an approach preserves God's Word, guarding the treasure of revelation and declaring its meaning as intended.