

Semester in Scotland

Systematic Theology (3 credits)

BIB 320 or BIB 324

This course provides a comprehensive, systematic study of the major doctrines of Reformed Christianity, covering: theology, Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology.

The goal is that through the study of this course the student would gain a more developed understanding of these kernel doctrines of the Christian faith and life.

Course Readings:

Foundations of the Christian Faith by James Montgomery Boice

The Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes by G. I. Williamson

This is a 13 week course, and the topics are studied in this order:

Week 1 - The Knowledge of God - We study where knowledge comes from, the purpose in knowing God, God's dual revelation of Himself, the world's rejection of that knowledge, and the consequences of that rejection.

Week 2 - The Word of God - We study the issue of inspiration, the witness of Jesus Christ to the Word of God, the authority of the Scriptures, the power of the Scriptures, the purpose of the Scriptures, the proof of the Scriptures, the inerrancy of the Scriptures, the dangers of higher criticism, and basic principles of interpretation of the Scriptures.

Week 3 - The Attributes of God - We look at God's eternal existence, self-sufficiency, uniqueness, and worship. We study the Trinity, the sovereignty of God, the holiness of God, the onmiscience of God, and the immutability of God.

Week 4 - God's Creation - We look at the creation of man, nature, and angelic beings, and the role of God's providence in creation.

Week 5 - The Fall of the Race and Law and Grace - We study the Fall and its results. We look at the bondage of the will, the purpose of God's law, the Ten Commandments, the wrath of God against sin, and the foreshadowing of God's salvation in the Old Testament.

Week 6 - The Person of Christ - We look at the deity of Christ, the humanity of Christ, and the incarnation.

Week 7 - The Work of Christ - We look at Christ's role as prophet, priest, and king. We look at Christ's work of propitiation and redemption. We study the motivation for our salvation found in God's love. We examine the purpose and necessity of the resurrection and the proofs for the resurrection, and we look at the ascension.

Week 8 - The Spirit of God - We look at the person of the Holy Spirit, His work, especially in the Christian's life, and what it means to be united to Christ.

Week 9 - How God Saves Sinners - We study regeneration, faith and repentance, justification, adoption, and sanctification.

Week 10 - The Life of the Christian and the Work of God - We look at the Christian's new life as shown in self-denial, freedom from sin, knowing God's will, prayer, reading God's Word, and serving Christ. We examine God's calling and God's preserving of His people.

Week 11 - Time and History - We look at the focus and purpose of history.

Week 12 - The Church of God - We examine the Church, the marks of the Church, worship, the sacraments, spiritual gifts, the equipping of believers, Church government, life within the Church, and evangelism.

Week 13 - Two Kingdoms and the End of History - We look at the relationship between the world and the Church, and we study what the Bible teaches us about the end times.

Students are expected to complete the assigned reading for the week including the question sets in the *Westminster Confession of Faith* book, and interact with the material at seminars led by Mr. Stephen McCollum.