

Biblical Theology Core Seminar—13 Weeks



What is Biblical Theology?

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| 1. Defining the Topic | Week 1 |
| 2. Guardian & Guide for the Church | Week 2 |
| 3. Defining the Tools | Week 3 |

The Stories to be Told: Biblical Theology Displayed

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| 4. Kingdom Through Covenant | Week 3 |
| 5. Eden to New Jerusalem | Week 4 |
| 6. People of God | Week 5 |
| 7. Sacrifice | Week 6 |
| 8. Mission | Week 7 |
| 9. ----- | Week 8 |

Putting the Text to Work

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| 10. Old Testament Case Studies | Week 10 |
| 11. Old Testament Case Studies | Week 11 |
| 12. New Testament Case Studies | Week 12 |
| 13. New Testament Case Studies | Week 13 |

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Biblical Theology Core Seminar

Class 2: Guardian & Guide for the Church

Introduction

A “Gospel” that almost killed me...

Last week: Biblical theology is the discipline of learning how to read the Bible as one story by one divine author that centers on the person and work of Christ, so that every part of Scripture is understood in relation to Christ. It’s a way to read the Bible.

But why? Biblical theology guards and guides churches.

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AS CHURCH GUARD

Pop quiz: How might people apply these passages *wrongly*?

1) Blessing

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today...all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you...Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.” (Deut. 28:1-5)

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. (Prov. 11:24-25)

2) Asking

“Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, ‘Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!’ And God granted what he asked” (1 Chron. 4:10).

Jesus: “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven” (Matt. 18:19).

Jesus: “And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith” (Matt. 21:22).

3) Who is Jesus?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation” (Col. 1:15).

Example after example of false or misguided Christianities: theological liberalism, Roman Catholicism, perfectionist Anabaptists, progressive liberals, culture transformationists, civic religion.

In each case, bad or imbalanced biblical theologies proclaim a bad or imbalanced gospel, and such gospels build bad or imbalanced churches.

“A robust biblical theology tends to safeguard Christians against the most egregious reductionisms,” says D. A. Carson.

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AS CHURCH GUIDE

A Guide to Good Preaching

A Guide to Good Counseling

What is our fundamental problem?

A Guide to Good Outreach and Engagement

Biblical theology rightly balances our expectations between expecting too much (over-realized eschatology, perfectionism) or demanding too little (cheap grace, easy-believism, belonging-before-believing, not preaching the imperative). It will not promise our best life now (whether that means health and wealth, transforming the city, winning the favor of the elite, or retaking America). But nor does it shy away from engaging culture and seeking the good of the city in deed ministry for the sake of love and justice.

Example 1: Missions

Example 2: Church and State

A Guide to Good Corporate Worship

A Guide to Good Church Structures