

DISCIPLE S
Course Title: FOUNDATIONS OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
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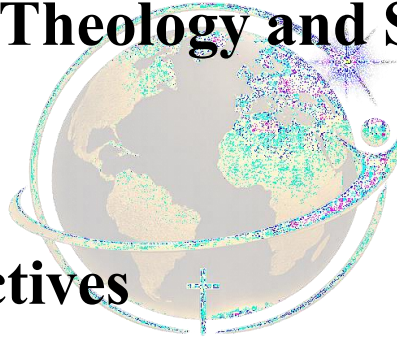
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Course Title: FOUNDATIONS OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Module One

What is Theology?

Understanding Theology and Systematic Theology



Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

- Define theology from both its biblical and historical perspectives.
- Explain why every Christian should study theology.
- Distinguish between theology and systematic theology.
- Understand the relationship between Scripture and theology.
- Recognise the importance of sound doctrine in Christian living and ministry.
- Identify the major branches of theological study.
- Apply theological thinking to everyday Christian life and leadership.

Introduction

Every successful profession is built upon a strong foundation of knowledge. A medical doctor cannot safely diagnose or treat patients without first understanding anatomy, physiology, and pathology. An architect cannot design a stable building without mastering engineering principles. Likewise, a pilot would never be permitted to fly an aircraft without first learning the science of aviation.

In the same way, every Christian leader must have a firm understanding of God's Word before attempting to preach, teach, disciple, counsel, or lead others.

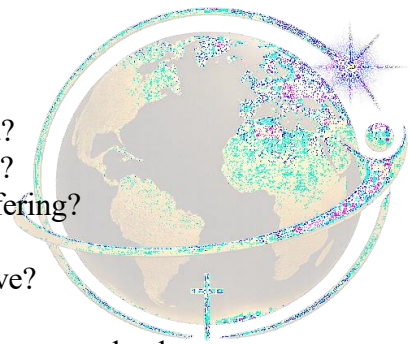
Christian ministry is not based merely on passion, talent, charisma, or personal experience. It is founded upon truth, the truth God has revealed in His Word. Passion without knowledge can lead to sincere but dangerous error. Zeal without biblical understanding may produce confusion rather than spiritual growth.

Throughout history, the greatest revivals in the Church have always been accompanied by a renewed commitment to biblical truth. Likewise, many of the Church's greatest crises have resulted from abandoning or distorting sound doctrine.

For this reason, theology is not simply an academic discipline reserved for scholars or seminary professors. Every believer is a theologian to some extent because every believer has beliefs about God. The real issue is not whether we have theology, but whether our theology is biblical.

Every Christian answers questions such as:

- Who is God?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- How can people be saved?
- What happens after death?
- Why does God allow suffering?
- What is the Church?
- How should Christians live?



The answers to these questions form our theology.

Our theology influences every decision we make, every prayer we pray, every sermon we preach, and every act of worship we offer to God.

Studying theology enables believers to know God more deeply, understand His purposes more clearly, and serve Him more faithfully.

What is Theology?

The word **Theology** comes from two Greek words:

- **Theos (Θεός)** meaning **God**
- **Logos (Λόγος)** meaning **word, reason, study, explanation, or discourse**

Therefore,

Theology literally means "the study of God."

However, theology is much more than collecting information about God. It is the disciplined and systematic study of everything God has revealed about Himself, His creation, humanity, salvation, the Church, and His eternal purposes.

Theology seeks to answer life's most important questions through the lens of Scripture rather than human opinion or philosophy.

Wayne Grudem defines theology as:

"Any study that answers the question, 'What does the whole Bible teach us today?' about any given topic."

This definition is significant because it reminds us that theology does not rely on isolated verses or personal interpretations. Instead, it seeks to understand the complete teaching of Scripture on any subject.

For example, if we wish to understand forgiveness, theology examines everything the Bible teaches about forgiveness, from Genesis to Revelation, rather than relying on a single passage.

Theology is the Study of God's Self-Revelation

One of the most important truths students must understand is that theology begins with God, not humanity.

Human beings cannot discover God through intelligence alone. We know God because He has chosen to reveal Himself.

God reveals Himself in two primary ways.

General Revelation

General revelation refers to what God reveals about Himself through creation and conscience.

Psalm 19:1 declares:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."

Creation testifies that God exists, that He is powerful, wise, and orderly.

Similarly, Romans 1:20 teaches that God's invisible qualities are clearly seen through what He has made.

Nature reveals God's greatness, but it does not reveal the way of salvation.

For that, we need God's special revelation.

Special Revelation

Special revelation refers to God's direct revelation of Himself through:

- The Scriptures
- Jesus Christ
- God's redemptive acts in history

Hebrews 1:1–2 states:

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets... but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son."

The Bible is God's written revelation, and Jesus Christ is God's living revelation.

All theology must therefore begin and end with God's revealed Word.

Why Should Christians Study Theology?

Many believers ask:

"Why can't I simply read my Bible?"

Reading Scripture is essential and should never be neglected. However, theology helps us understand Scripture correctly.

Imagine entering a library containing sixty-six books written over approximately 1,500 years by more than forty authors, written in three languages, across three continents, and covering hundreds of different subjects.

Without careful study, it would be easy to misunderstand how these books relate to one another.

Theology helps believers see the Bible as one unified story of God's redemptive plan.

Benefits of Studying Theology

1. Theology Helps Us Know God Personally

The purpose of theology is not merely intellectual knowledge but relational knowledge.

Jesus prayed:

"Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3)

Knowing about God is different from knowing God.

Theology should always lead to worship, obedience, and intimacy with God.

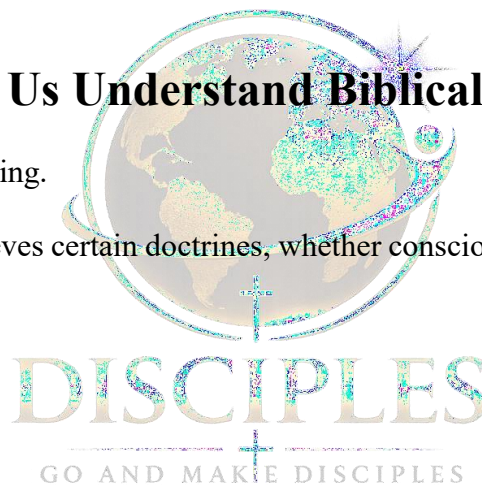
2. Theology Helps Us Understand Biblical Doctrine

Doctrine simply means teaching.

Every Christian already believes certain doctrines, whether consciously or unconsciously.

Examples include:

- The Trinity
- Salvation
- Grace
- Heaven
- Sin
- Baptism
- The Church



Studying theology ensures these beliefs are rooted in Scripture rather than tradition or personal opinion.

3. Theology Protects Against Error

Jesus repeatedly warned His followers about false teachers.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders:

"Be on your guard... savage wolves will come in among you..." (Acts 20:28–30)

Without sound theology, believers may sincerely accept teachings that contradict Scripture.

Theology equips Christians to discern truth from error.

4. Theology Strengthens Faith

Faith grows stronger when believers understand God's character.

Knowing that God is sovereign brings peace in suffering.

Knowing that God is faithful gives confidence in prayer.

Knowing that God is holy inspires obedience.

Theology transforms uncertainty into confidence because it is rooted in God's unchanging truth.

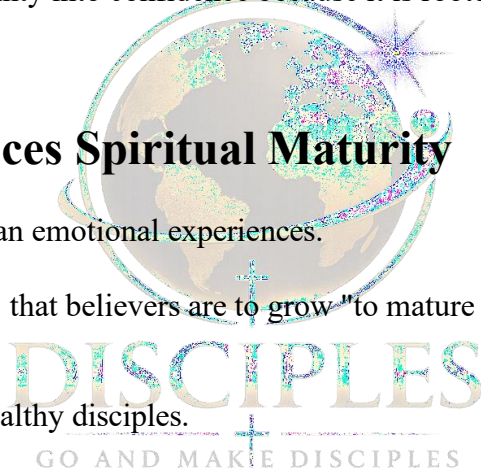
5. Theology Produces Spiritual Maturity

Christian maturity is more than emotional experiences.

Paul writes in Ephesians 4:13 that believers are to grow "to mature manhood" through the knowledge of Christ.

Healthy doctrine produces healthy disciples.

Immature believers are easily influenced by every new teaching, while mature believers remain steadfast because they know God's Word.



MODULE 2

The Importance of Sound Doctrine

Module Objective

By the end of this module, students will:

- Understand the biblical meaning of doctrine.
- Recognise why sound doctrine is essential for every believer.
- Identify the dangers of false teachings.

- Learn how to test every teaching against the Word of God.
- Develop a commitment to biblical truth and spiritual maturity.

Introduction

The Christian faith is built on truth. Jesus declared:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life."

John 14:6

God has never intended for His children to be spiritually confused or deceived. Throughout Scripture, believers are repeatedly instructed to remain grounded in sound doctrine because false teachings have always existed.

Today, many people base their beliefs on emotions, traditions, culture, or popular opinions rather than the Word of God. However, a healthy Christian life is built upon biblical doctrine—not personal opinion.

Without sound doctrine, believers become spiritually unstable, easily deceived, and unable to distinguish truth from error.



What is Doctrine?

The word **doctrine** simply means **teaching or instruction**.

In Christianity, doctrine refers to the body of teachings revealed by God through Scripture. These teachings explain who God is, who Jesus Christ is, the work of the Holy Spirit, salvation, the Church, heaven, hell, and how believers should live.

Doctrine is not human philosophy.

Doctrine is God's revealed truth.

Paul instructed Timothy:

"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching."
(1 Timothy 4:13)

Teaching was central to the early Church because believers needed truth in order to grow.

What is Sound Doctrine?

Sound doctrine is **biblical teaching that is faithful to the whole counsel of God's Word.**

The word "sound" means **healthy, correct, or free from corruption.**

Just as healthy food nourishes the body, sound doctrine nourishes the soul.

Paul repeatedly encouraged church leaders to teach sound doctrine because it protects God's people.

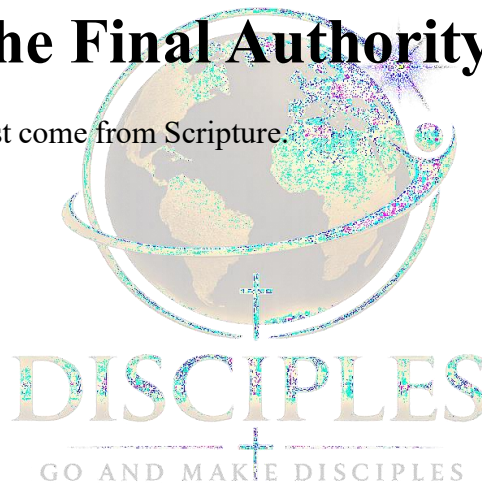
"But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine."
(*Titus 2:1*)

The Bible is the Final Authority

Every Christian doctrine must come from Scripture.

Not from:

- Feelings
- Dreams
- Personal opinions
- Church traditions
- Culture
- Social media
- Popular preachers



Everything must be tested by God's Word.

Acts 17:11 tells us that the Bereans were considered noble because they examined the Scriptures daily to verify what they were being taught.

A mature believer never accepts teaching blindly but tests it against the Bible.

Why Doctrine Matters

1. Sound Doctrine Protects Believers from Deception

Jesus warned repeatedly that false teachers would arise.

Today there are many voices claiming to speak for God.

Without biblical knowledge, believers become vulnerable.

False teaching often sounds convincing because it mixes truth with error.

Paul warned:

"Savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock."
(Acts 20:29)

Good doctrine acts like spiritual armour.

It protects believers from lies.

2. Sound Doctrine Produces Spiritual Maturity

Spiritual growth is impossible without biblical truth.

A baby Christian depends upon others.

A mature Christian understands Scripture and can apply it wisely.

Paul writes:

"...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine."
(Ephesians 4:14)

Immature believers chase every new revelation.

Mature believers remain anchored in God's Word.

3. Sound Doctrine Strengthens Faith

Faith grows through hearing God's Word.

Romans 10:17 says:

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

When believers understand God's promises correctly, their confidence increases.

Sound doctrine teaches us:

- God's character
- His faithfulness
- His promises
- His power
- His love

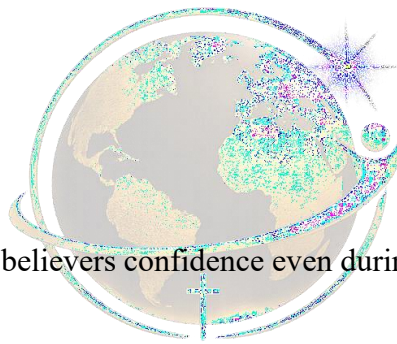
Knowing these truths strengthens faith during difficult seasons.

4. Sound Doctrine Gives Confidence in God

Many believers struggle with fear because they do not fully understand God's nature.

Doctrine teaches us that:

- God is sovereign.
- God never changes.
- God keeps His promises.
- God is faithful.
- God is holy.
- God is loving.



Understanding these truths gives believers confidence even during suffering.

5. Sound Doctrine Promotes Unity Within the Church

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

True Christian unity is built upon truth.

Unity does not mean agreeing with everything people say.

Biblical unity means agreeing upon the essential truths revealed in Scripture.

When churches abandon sound doctrine, confusion and division increase.

Paul encouraged believers to:

"...maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

This unity comes through obedience to God's truth.

6. Sound Doctrine Equips Believers to Disciple Others

Jesus commanded His disciples:

"Go therefore and make disciples..."

A disciple cannot teach what they do not know.

Strong doctrine prepares believers to:

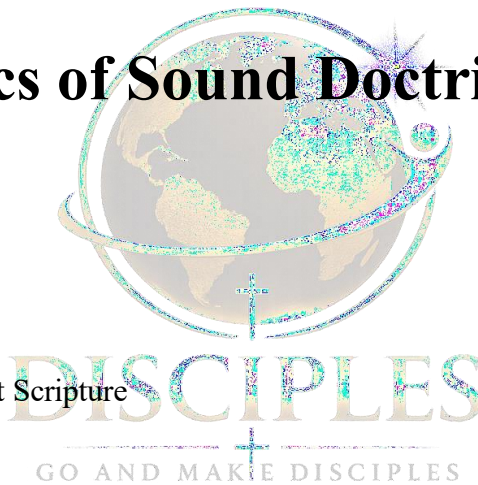
- Teach others accurately.
- Answer difficult questions.
- Correct error with love.
- Lead Bible studies.
- Mentor younger Christians.

Healthy churches produce healthy disciples.

Characteristics of Sound Doctrine

Sound doctrine is:

- Biblical
- Christ-centred
- Holy Spirit inspired
- Life transforming
- Consistent throughout Scripture
- Glorifies God
- Produces godly living
- Leads people closer to Christ



True doctrine always points people to Jesus, not to personalities, denominations, or human achievements.

The Dangers of False Doctrine

False doctrine is any teaching that contradicts or distorts God's Word.

It may sound spiritual, but it ultimately leads people away from Christ.

Jesus warned:

"Beware of false prophets..."

1. Legalism

Legalism teaches that a person earns God's acceptance through rules, religious performance, or human traditions.

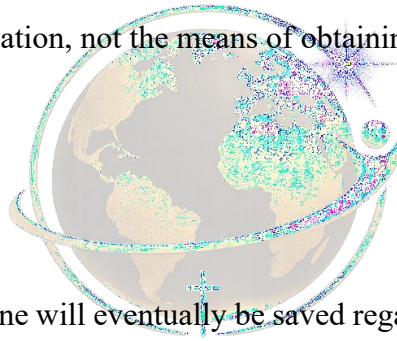
Examples include:

- Adding requirements to salvation beyond faith in Christ.
- Judging spirituality solely by outward appearance.
- Depending on rituals rather than grace.

The Bible teaches:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith... not by works." (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Good works are the result of salvation, not the means of obtaining it.



2. Universalism

Universalism teaches that everyone will eventually be saved regardless of faith in Christ.

However, Jesus clearly taught that salvation comes through Him alone.

"No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

God desires all people to be saved, but Scripture consistently calls for repentance and faith in Christ.

3. Prosperity Without Repentance

God certainly blesses His people, but the gospel is not a guarantee of wealth or an easy life.

Teachings that focus only on material prosperity while ignoring repentance, holiness, and obedience present an incomplete picture of the gospel.

Jesus called His followers to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him (Luke 9:23).

Biblical prosperity begins with a transformed heart and a right relationship with God.

4. Denial of Christ's Deity

Some teachings claim Jesus was only a prophet, teacher, or good man.

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

John 1:1 declares:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Believing in the true identity of Christ is essential to the Christian faith.

5. Works-Based Salvation

Some believe that salvation is earned through good deeds, religious observance, or personal effort.

The Bible teaches that salvation is God's gift, received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Good works are the evidence of genuine faith, not the basis of salvation.

6. Occult Practices Disguised as Christianity

Some practices are presented as Christian but have roots in occult or mystical traditions.

Examples may include:

- Seeking supernatural guidance apart from God.
- Using charms, talismans, or objects believed to possess spiritual power.
- Consulting mediums, spiritists, or fortune tellers.
- Mixing biblical faith with superstitions or occult rituals.

God commands His people to seek Him alone for wisdom, guidance, and protection (Deuteronomy 18:10–12).

Believers should carefully evaluate every spiritual practice in the light of Scripture.

How Can We Recognise False Doctrine?

Ask these questions:

- Does it agree with the whole Bible?
- Does it glorify Jesus Christ?
- Does it promote holiness?
- Does it encourage repentance?
- Does it produce godly character?
- Does it point people to God rather than human personalities?
- Is it supported by Scripture in its proper context?

If the answer is "no," it should be approached with caution.

Reflection Questions

1. Why is sound doctrine essential for every believer?
2. How does sound doctrine protect us from deception?
3. Which false teaching do you believe is most common today, and why?
4. Why should every teaching be tested against Scripture?
5. How can sound doctrine help you become a better disciple of Christ?



Key Scriptures

- **Titus 2:1** – Teach what is consistent with sound doctrine.
- **Ephesians 4:14** – Mature believers are not carried away by false teaching.
- **Acts 20:28–31** – Paul warns church leaders to guard the flock against false teachers.
- **2 Timothy 3:16–17** – Scripture equips believers for every good work.
- **Acts 17:11** – The Bereans examined the Scriptures daily.
- **Romans 10:17** – Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
- **John 14:6** – Jesus is the only way to the Father.

Memory Verse

"But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine."

Titus 2:1

Assignment

Write a **1,000-word essay** answering the question:

"Why is sound doctrine essential for the health, growth, and unity of the Church, and how can Christians guard themselves against false teachings in today's world?"

Support your answer with at least **six biblical references** and practical examples from contemporary Christian life.

FOUNDATIONS OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Module 3

The Doctrine of Divine Revelation

Lecture 3: How God Reveals Himself

Learning Objectives

- Define divine revelation from a biblical and theological perspective.
- Explain why divine revelation is necessary for knowing God.
- Distinguish between General Revelation and Special Revelation.
- Describe how God reveals Himself through creation, conscience, providence, Scripture, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
- Understand the relationship between General and Special Revelation.
- Appreciate why Scripture is the supreme written revelation of God.
- Apply the doctrine of revelation to Christian faith, worship, evangelism, and daily living.

Introduction

One of the greatest questions in theology is:

"How can finite human beings know an infinite God?"

This question has occupied philosophers, theologians, and scholars throughout history. Human beings naturally desire to know where they came from, why they exist, and whether there is a Creator. While human reason can raise these questions, it cannot fully answer them.

The God of the Bible is infinite, eternal, holy, and beyond the complete comprehension of the human mind. If God had chosen to remain hidden, humanity could never truly know Him.

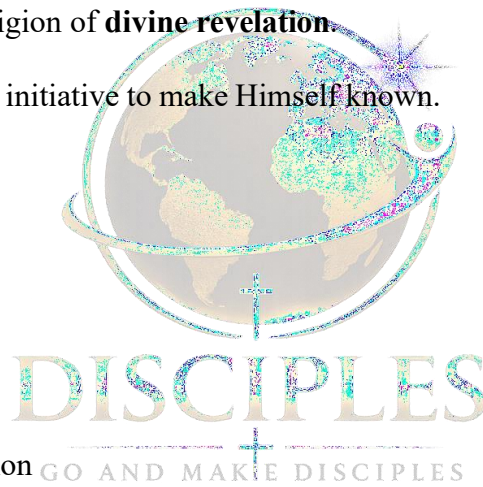
The Bible teaches that true knowledge of God begins, not with humanity searching for Him, but with **God choosing to reveal Himself**.

Christianity is therefore a religion of **divine revelation**.

God has graciously taken the initiative to make Himself known.

He has revealed:

- His nature
- His character
- His holiness
- His love
- His justice
- His mercy
- His purpose for creation
- His plan of redemption through Jesus Christ



Without divine revelation, people would be left to human imagination, philosophy, religious speculation, and false ideas about God.

Every false religion ultimately begins with humanity attempting to reach God.

Biblical Christianity begins with God reaching humanity.

As Jesus said:

"No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."
(*Matthew 11:27*)

What Is Divine Revelation?

The word **revelation** comes from the Greek word **Apokalypsis** (ἀποκάλυψις), meaning:

- unveiling
- uncovering
- disclosure
- making known what was previously hidden

Divine revelation is God's act of making Himself known to humanity.

It is not humanity discovering God through intelligence or wisdom.

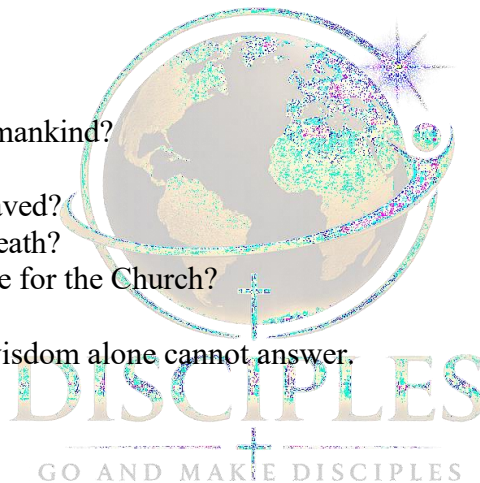
Rather, it is God revealing Himself according to His own will and purpose.

Revelation answers questions such as:

- Who is God?
- What is God like?
- Why did God create mankind?
- Why does evil exist?
- How can people be saved?
- What happens after death?
- What is God's purpose for the Church?

These are questions human wisdom alone cannot answer.

Only God can reveal them.



Why Is Revelation Necessary?

Human beings were created in God's image, yet because of sin our understanding has become darkened.

Paul explains:

"Their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."
(Romans 1:21)

Sin affects every part of human life, including the mind.

This does not mean people cannot think intelligently.

It means human reasoning alone cannot fully understand spiritual truth.

Paul writes:

"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him."

(1 Corinthians 2:14)

Without God's revelation:

- We would never know His character.
- We would never understand salvation.
- We would not know His will.
- We could not know eternal life.
- We would remain spiritually blind.

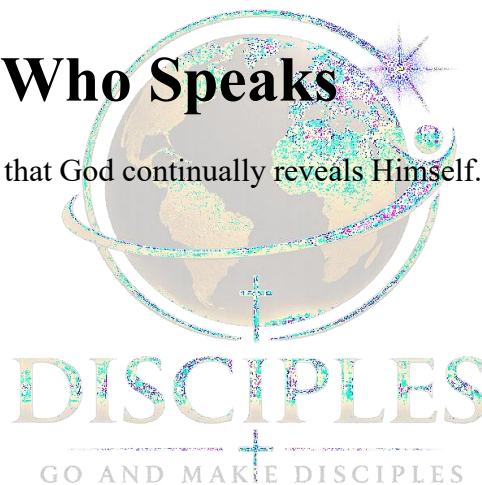
Therefore revelation is absolutely necessary.

God is a God Who Speaks

Throughout Scripture we see that God continually reveals Himself.

He spoke to:

- Adam
- Noah
- Abraham
- Moses
- Samuel
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- The Prophets
- The Apostles



Ultimately,

God spoke through His Son.

Hebrews 1:1-2 declares:

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets... but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son."

Christianity is therefore founded upon a God who communicates.

He is not silent.

He desires to be known.

Two Types of Divine Revelation

The Bible teaches two major forms of revelation:

1. General Revelation
2. Special Revelation

Both originate from God.

Both reveal truth.

Yet each serves a different purpose.

General Revelation

General revelation is God's revelation that is available to **all people at all times**.

Every person, regardless of nationality, language, education, or culture, has access to general revelation.

General revelation comes through:

- Creation
- Human conscience
- Providence
- Human nature

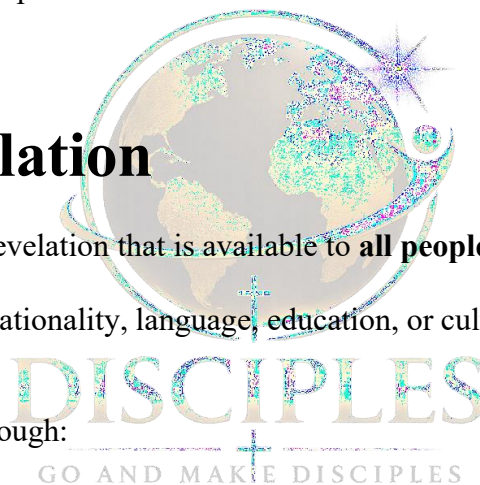
It is called "general" because it is universal.

No one is excluded from seeing it.

God Reveals Himself Through Creation

The created universe is God's first classroom.

Every sunrise...



Every mountain...

Every ocean...

Every star...

Every flower...

Every living creature...

Points beyond itself to its Creator.

David writes:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
(*Psalms 19:1*)

Creation speaks without words.

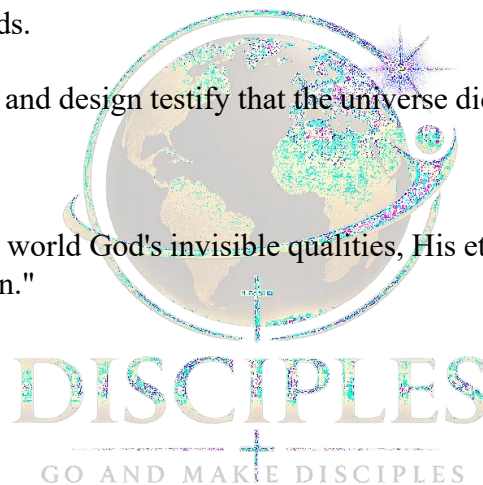
Its beauty, complexity, order and design testify that the universe did not happen by accident.

Paul reinforces this truth:

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen."
(*Romans 1:20*)

Creation reveals:

- God's power
- His wisdom
- His creativity
- His majesty
- His order
- His faithfulness



The changing seasons remind us that God is faithful.

The vastness of space reminds us of His greatness.

The complexity of life reminds us of His wisdom.

God Reveals Himself Through Human Conscience

Every human being possesses an inner moral awareness.

Even those who have never read the Bible often recognise that murder, theft, injustice and dishonesty are wrong.

Romans 2:14-15 teaches that God's moral law is written upon human hearts.

The conscience serves as an internal witness.

Although sin has damaged the conscience, it still points people toward the existence of a moral Lawgiver.

Conscience cannot save anyone.

But it reminds humanity that we are accountable before God.

God Reveals Himself Through Providence

Providence refers to God's continual care, preservation, and government of His creation.

God did not simply create the universe and abandon it.

He actively sustains it every day.

Jesus said:

"He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good."

God provides:

- Rain
- Food
- Seasons
- Life
- Breath
- Daily provision

Acts 17:28 says:

"In Him we live and move and have our being."

Every breath we take reminds us of God's sustaining grace.

The Limitations of General Revelation

Although general revelation clearly demonstrates that God exists, it has limitations.

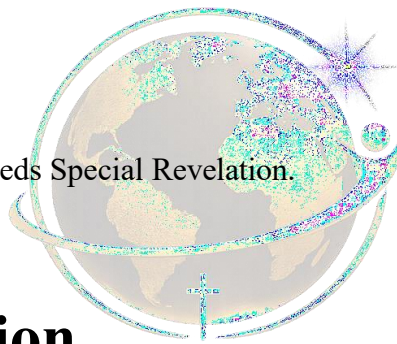
Nature cannot tell us:

- Jesus died for our sins.
- Christ rose from the dead.
- Salvation comes by grace.
- God is Trinity.
- The way of eternal life.

Creation points to God.

It does not explain the Gospel.

For this reason, humanity also needs Special Revelation.



Special Revelation

Special Revelation is God's direct and personal disclosure of Himself.

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Unlike General Revelation, which is available to everyone through creation, Special Revelation reveals God's plan of redemption.

It includes:

- Scripture
- Jesus Christ
- The prophetic message
- The apostolic witness
- God's supernatural acts recorded in history

Special Revelation reveals truths that could never be discovered through nature alone.

The Scriptures

The Bible is God's inspired written revelation.

It contains everything necessary for salvation and Christian living.

Paul writes:

"All Scripture is breathed out by God."
(2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible reveals:

- God's character
- Human sinfulness
- Christ's work
- Salvation
- The Church
- The Holy Spirit
- The future Kingdom

Scripture is God's final written authority.

Every doctrine must be tested by it.



Jesus Christ: God's Perfect Revelation

The highest revelation of God is not a book.

It is a Person.

Jesus Christ.

John writes:

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Jesus perfectly reveals the Father.

He declared:

"Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father."
(John 14:9)

Everything God wanted humanity to know about Himself is perfectly displayed in Jesus Christ.

His:

- Compassion
- Holiness
- Justice
- Love
- Mercy
- Power

Reveal the very nature of God.

The Prophets and Apostles

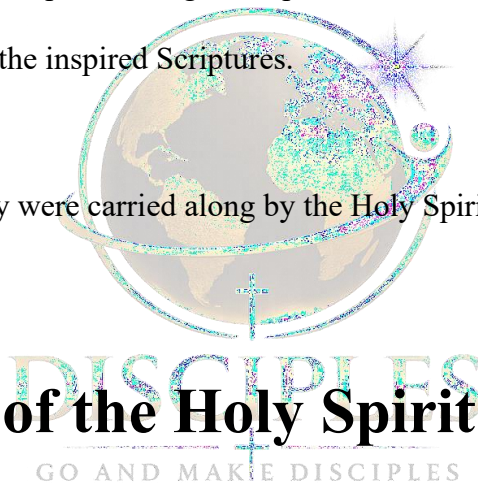
Before Christ came, God spoke through prophets.

After Christ's resurrection, God spoke through the apostles.

Together their writings form the inspired Scriptures.

Peter reminds believers:

"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
(2 Peter 1:21)



The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit does not give new revelation equal to Scripture.

Rather, He:

- Illuminates Scripture.
- Helps believers understand God's Word.
- Convicts of sin.
- Leads into truth.
- Glorifies Christ.

Jesus promised:

"He will guide you into all truth."
(John 16:13)

The Relationship Between General and Special Revelation

General Revelation and Special Revelation work together.

General Revelation reveals:

There is a Creator.

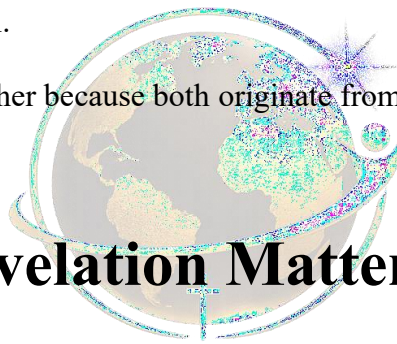
Special Revelation reveals:

Who the Creator is and how sinners may be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

General Revelation prepares the heart.

Special Revelation saves the soul.

The two never contradict each other because both originate from the same God.



Why Divine Revelation Matters

Without divine revelation:

- Christianity would have no foundation.
- We could not know God personally.
- There would be no Gospel.
- Salvation would remain unknown.
- Worship would become human invention.
- Every religion would merely represent human opinions about God.

Instead,

Christianity stands upon God's self-disclosure.

God has spoken.

Therefore we can know Him with confidence.

Practical Applications

Because God has revealed Himself:

We Read the Bible Daily

God still speaks through His written Word.

We Worship with Confidence

We worship the God who has made Himself known.

We Reject False Teaching

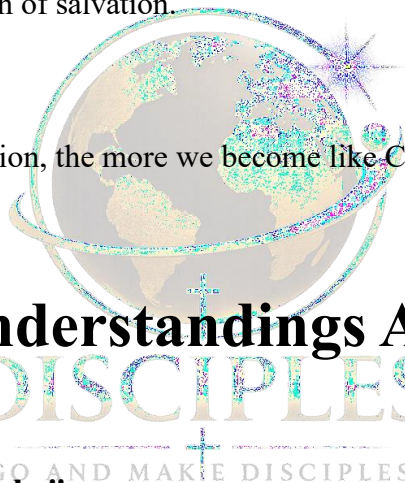
Everything must be measured against God's revelation.

We Evangelise Boldly

The Gospel is God's revealed plan of salvation.

We Grow Spiritually

The more we know God's revelation, the more we become like Christ.



Common Misunderstandings About Revelation

"Nature alone can save people."

False.

Nature reveals God's existence but not the Gospel.

"All religions reveal God equally."

False.

Only God's revelation through Jesus Christ reveals the way of salvation.

"Personal experiences are equal to Scripture."

False.

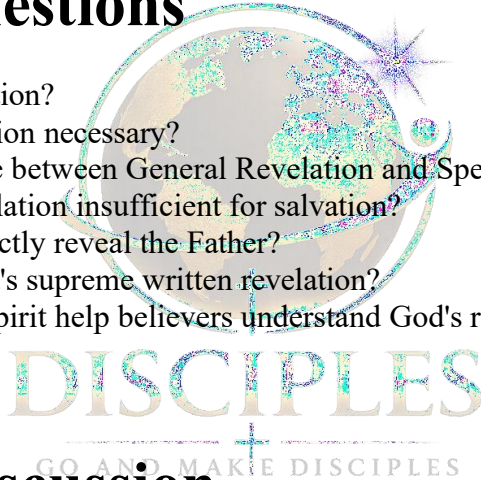
Experiences must always be tested by God's written Word.

"God still gives new revelation equal to the Bible."

False.

The Bible is God's complete and sufficient written revelation for faith and practice. The Holy Spirit continues to illuminate Scripture but does not add new doctrinal revelation that supersedes or contradicts it.

Reflection Questions

- 
1. What is divine revelation?
 2. Why is divine revelation necessary?
 3. What is the difference between General Revelation and Special Revelation?
 4. Why is General Revelation insufficient for salvation?
 5. How does Jesus perfectly reveal the Father?
 6. Why is Scripture God's supreme written revelation?
 7. How does the Holy Spirit help believers understand God's revelation today?

Classroom Discussion

Discuss the statement:

"Creation can tell us that God exists, but only Scripture can tell us how to be saved."

Do you agree? Support your answer with biblical references.

Practical Assignment

Write a **1,000-word essay** comparing **General Revelation** and **Special Revelation**.

In your essay:

- Define both forms of revelation.

- Explain their similarities and differences.
- Describe their importance in Christian theology.
- Discuss why General Revelation alone cannot save sinners.
- Support your work with at least **six biblical references**.

Memory Verses

- Psalm 19:1–4
- Romans 1:18–20
- Hebrews 1:1–3
- John 1:14
- John 14:9
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Lesson Summary

In this lecture, we have learned that **divine revelation is God's gracious act of making Himself known to humanity**. Since human reason alone cannot fully know the infinite God, God has taken the initiative to reveal His character, will, and redemptive plan. He does this through **General Revelation**, seen in creation, conscience, and providence, and through **Special Revelation**, supremely revealed in Jesus Christ and faithfully preserved in the Scriptures. While General Revelation points all people to the existence and power of the Creator, only Special Revelation reveals God's saving work through Christ. Understanding the doctrine of divine revelation is foundational to Christian faith, because it provides the basis for knowing God, trusting His Word, proclaiming the Gospel, and living in obedience to His truth.

Module 4

The Doctrine of Scripture (Bibliology)

Lecture 4: Understanding the Bible

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

- Define Bibliology and explain its importance in Christian theology.
- Understand the nature and purpose of Scripture.
- Explain the doctrines of inspiration, authority, inerrancy, infallibility, sufficiency, and clarity of Scripture.
- Describe how the biblical canon was recognised.
- Appreciate why the Bible is the supreme authority for Christian faith and practice.
- Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in illuminating Scripture.
- Apply biblical principles to personal life, ministry, and Christian leadership.

Introduction

If theology is the study of God, then the **Bible is its primary source**. Every Christian doctrine, every sermon, every act of worship, every ethical decision, and every aspect of ministry must ultimately rest upon the authority of God's written Word. For this reason, **Bibliology**, the doctrine of Scripture, serves as one of the most important foundations of systematic theology.

Without the Bible, we would have no reliable knowledge of God's character, His purposes, His plan of salvation, or His will for humanity. We would know that God exists through creation, but we would not know how sinful people can be reconciled to a holy God. The Bible bridges that gap by revealing God's redemptive plan through Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures are not merely a collection of ancient religious writings or historical documents. Christians believe that the Bible is God's inspired, authoritative, trustworthy, living, and sufficient Word. Although written by more than forty human authors over approximately 1,500 years, the Bible tells one unified story of God's plan to redeem humanity through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Throughout history, countless empires have risen and fallen, philosophies have changed, and cultures have evolved, yet the Word of God has remained unchanged. Jesus Himself declared:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."
(*Matthew 24:35*)

For every believer, understanding the doctrine of Scripture is essential because our knowledge of God depends upon His written revelation. As the Reformers proclaimed during the Protestant Reformation, **Sola Scriptura** ("Scripture Alone") remains the final authority for Christian faith and practice.

What Is Bibliology?

The word **Bibliology** comes from the Greek word **Biblion** (βιβλίον) meaning **book** or **scroll**, and **Logos** (λόγος) meaning **study** or **teaching**.

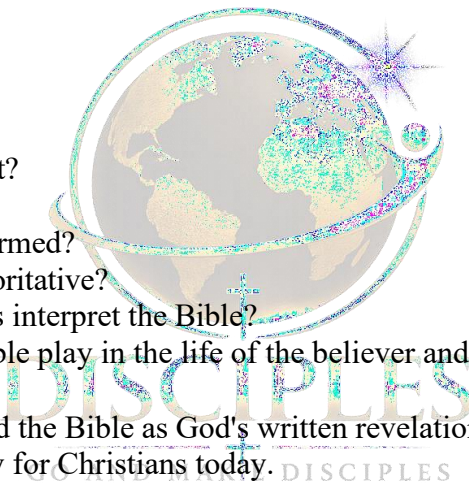
Therefore,

Bibliology is the systematic study of the Bible.

It examines questions such as:

- What is the Bible?
- Who wrote the Bible?
- How did God inspire it?
- Why can it be trusted?
- How was the canon formed?
- Why is Scripture authoritative?
- How should Christians interpret the Bible?
- What role does the Bible play in the life of the believer and the Church?

Bibliology seeks to understand the Bible as God's written revelation and to explain why it remains the supreme authority for Christians today.



The Nature of Scripture

The Bible possesses unique qualities that distinguish it from every other book ever written. Christians believe that Scripture is:

- Inspired by God.
- Completely trustworthy in all that it teaches.
- Without error in its original writings.
- Living and active.
- Sufficient for salvation and godly living.
- Clear in its essential message.
- Powerful to transform lives.
- The final authority for faith and practice.

These characteristics are not merely theological theories; they are truths repeatedly affirmed throughout Scripture itself.

The Inspiration of Scripture

The doctrine of inspiration answers the question:

"Where did the Bible come from?"

Paul writes:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

(2 Timothy 3:16)

The phrase **"God-breathed"** comes from the Greek word **Theopneustos (θεόπνευστος)**, meaning "breathed out by God."

This means that the origin of Scripture is divine. God superintended the writing process so that the human authors recorded exactly what He intended without overriding their personalities, education, vocabulary, or literary style.

For example:

- Moses wrote as a lawgiver.
- David wrote as a poet and king.
- Isaiah wrote with prophetic eloquence.
- Luke wrote with the precision of a physician and historian.
- Paul wrote as a theologian and missionary.
- John wrote with deep spiritual insight.

Each writer maintained his own style, yet the Holy Spirit guided them so that the final result was God's perfect message.

Peter explains this process:

"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

(2 Peter 1:21)

Inspiration, therefore, is both divine and human. God is the ultimate Author, while human writers served as His chosen instruments.

The Unity of Scripture

One remarkable evidence of divine inspiration is the unity of the Bible.

Although written:

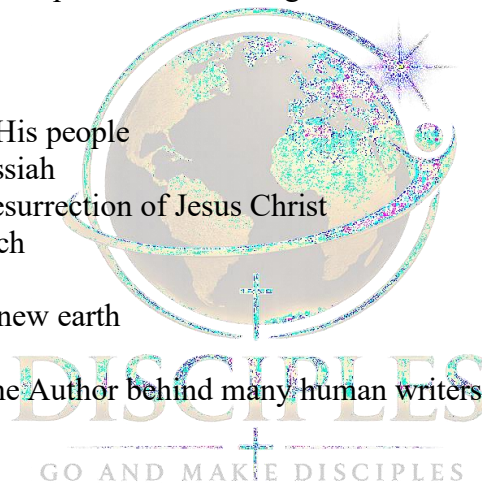
- Over approximately 1,500 years,
- By more than forty authors,
- On three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe),
- In three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek),

the Bible presents one consistent message:

God's plan to redeem humanity through Jesus Christ.

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture unfolds one grand narrative:

- Creation
- The Fall
- God's covenant with His people
- The promise of a Messiah
- The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The birth of the Church
- Christ's return
- The new heaven and new earth



This unity points to one divine Author behind many human writers.

The Authority of Scripture

Because God is the ultimate Author of Scripture, the Bible carries His authority.

The authority of Scripture means that whatever the Bible teaches, God teaches.

Therefore, Christians do not stand in judgment over Scripture; rather, Scripture stands in judgment over us.

Jesus consistently affirmed the authority of God's Word. During His temptation in the wilderness, He responded to Satan three times with the words:

"It is written."
(Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)

Jesus demonstrated that Scripture is the final authority over temptation, doctrine, and daily living.

The Bible governs every area of life, including:

- Doctrine
- Worship
- Ethics
- Church leadership
- Family life
- Personal conduct
- Evangelism
- Discipleship

Every teaching, tradition, prophecy, or spiritual experience must be tested against Scripture.

The Inerrancy of Scripture

The doctrine of **inerrancy** teaches that the Bible, in its original manuscripts, is completely true in everything it affirms.

Because God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), His Word is trustworthy.

This does not mean that every copy or translation is perfect, nor does it ignore differences in literary style or historical context. Rather, it affirms that God's original revelation was free from error and faithfully communicates His truth.

Jesus affirmed the complete reliability of Scripture when He said:

"Scripture cannot be broken."
(*John 10:35*)

Believers can therefore approach the Bible with confidence, knowing that it is entirely dependable.

The Infallibility of Scripture

Closely related to inerrancy is the doctrine of **infallibility**.

Infallibility means that the Bible is incapable of misleading or deceiving because its Author is perfectly truthful.

Everything God promises in His Word will come to pass.

Isaiah declares:

"So is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty but will accomplish what I desire."
(*Isaiah 55:11*)

God's Word never fails to accomplish His purposes.

The Canon of Scripture

The word **canon** comes from the Greek word **kanōn**, meaning **rule, measuring rod, or standard**.

The biblical canon refers to the collection of books recognised as divinely inspired and authoritative.

The Protestant Bible contains:

- **39 books** in the Old Testament.
- **27 books** in the New Testament.

Making a total of **66 books**.

It is important to understand that the Church did not create the canon. Rather, the Church recognised the books that God had already inspired.

The Old Testament was recognised by the Jewish people as the inspired Scriptures.

The New Testament books were recognised because they met important criteria, including:

- Apostolic authorship or close association with an apostle.
- Consistency with previously revealed truth.
- Widespread acceptance by the early Church.
- Evidence of divine inspiration and spiritual authority.

The canon was recognised over time as believers discerned the voice of God in these writings.

The Sufficiency of Scripture

The Bible contains everything necessary for salvation and faithful Christian living.

Peter writes:

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness."
(2 Peter 1:3)

This does not mean that the Bible answers every scientific, medical, or technological question. It does mean that Scripture provides all that believers need to know God, understand salvation, grow in holiness, and fulfil their calling.

Whenever Christians seek guidance, doctrine, or direction, Scripture remains the ultimate source of truth.

The Clarity of Scripture

The doctrine of the **clarity** (or **perspicuity**) of Scripture teaches that the essential message of the Bible can be understood by ordinary believers through careful study and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Some passages are more difficult than others, but the central truths concerning salvation, God's character, and Christian living are clearly revealed.

Psalms 119:105 declares:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

God has not hidden His truth from His people but has revealed it so that they may know and obey Him.

The Living Power of Scripture

Unlike any other book, the Bible is living and active.

Hebrews 4:12 says:

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword."

The Scriptures do more than provide information; they bring transformation.

God's Word:

- Convicts sinners.
- Strengthens believers.
- Corrects error.
- Brings comfort.
- Produces faith.
- Leads to repentance.
- Equips Christians for every good work.

Throughout history, lives, families, communities, and nations have been transformed by the power of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit and Scripture

Although every believer can read the Bible, true spiritual understanding comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would:

- Teach believers.
- Remind them of Christ's words.
- Guide them into truth.

The Holy Spirit does not give new revelation equal to Scripture. Instead, He illuminates the Scriptures, enabling believers to understand and apply God's Word correctly.

Prayer, humility, and obedience are therefore essential when studying the Bible.

Why Scripture Matters

Without the Bible:

- We would not know the Gospel.
- We would not understand God's will.
- We could not preach with authority.
- The Church would have no doctrinal foundation.
- Christian living would be based on opinion rather than truth.

Because God has spoken through Scripture, believers can live with confidence, knowing that their faith rests upon an unchanging foundation.

Practical Applications

The doctrine of Scripture should transform the believer's daily life.

Read the Bible Regularly

God speaks to His people through His Word. Daily reading strengthens faith and deepens our relationship with Him.

Study Scripture Carefully

Christians should seek to understand the historical, literary, and theological context of every passage rather than relying on isolated verses.

Obey What You Learn

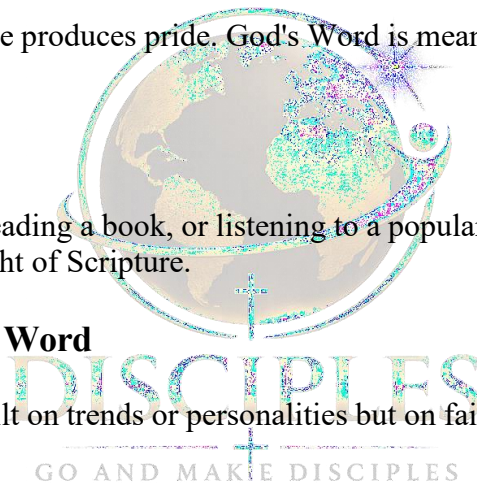
Knowledge without obedience produces pride. God's Word is meant to be lived, not merely studied.

Test Every Teaching

Whether hearing a sermon, reading a book, or listening to a popular teacher, believers must examine everything in the light of Scripture.

Build Ministry on God's Word

Successful ministry is not built on trends or personalities but on faithful teaching and application of the Bible.



Common Misunderstandings About the Bible

"The Bible is just another religious book."

False.

The Bible is God's inspired revelation, uniquely revealing His character and His plan of salvation.

"The Bible contains God's Word."

Incomplete.

Christian doctrine teaches that the Bible is God's inspired Word, faithfully communicating His revelation through human authors.

"Modern culture has replaced the Bible."

False.

Cultures change, but God's Word remains eternal and relevant to every generation.

"Personal experiences are more reliable than Scripture."

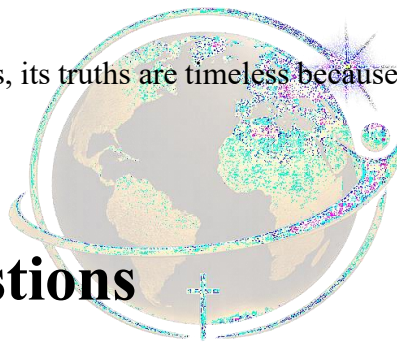
False.

Experiences must always be tested by God's written Word, which remains the final authority.

"The Bible is outdated."

False.

Although written in ancient times, its truths are timeless because they come from the eternal God.



Reflection Questions

1. What is Bibliology, and why is it foundational to systematic theology?
2. What does it mean that Scripture is "God-breathed"?
3. How did God inspire human authors without removing their individual personalities?
4. What is the difference between the authority, inerrancy, and infallibility of Scripture?
5. How was the biblical canon recognised by the Church?
6. What does it mean to say that the Bible is sufficient for Christian living?
7. Why is the ministry of the Holy Spirit essential when studying Scripture?

Classroom Discussion

Discuss the statement:

"The Bible is not merely a book to be admired, but God's living Word to be believed, obeyed, and proclaimed."

How should this truth influence the life of the Church and the ministry of every Christian leader?

Practical Assignment

Read **2 Timothy 3:14–17**, **Psalm 119:105**, and **Hebrews 4:12**.

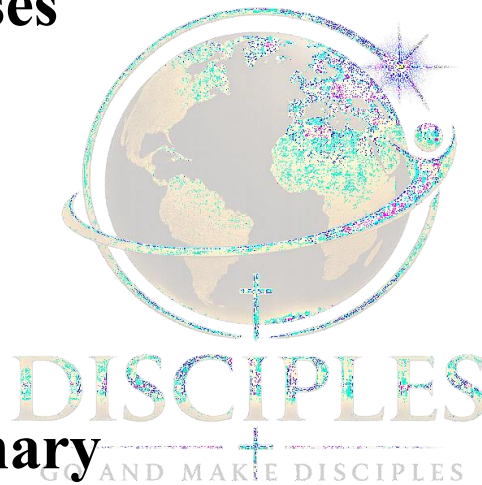
Write a **1,000-word essay** explaining the role of Scripture in the life of the believer.

In your essay:

- Explain the doctrine of inspiration.
- Discuss the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.
- Describe how God's Word equips believers for ministry and holy living.
- Support your work with at least **six biblical references**.

Memory Verses

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- Psalm 119:105
- Hebrews 4:12
- Isaiah 55:11
- John 17:17
- 2 Peter 1:20–21



Lesson Summary

In this lecture, we have studied **Bibliology**, the doctrine of Scripture, and discovered that the Bible is God's inspired, authoritative, trustworthy, living, and sufficient Word. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God guided human authors to record His revelation while preserving their individual personalities and writing styles. We explored the doctrines of inspiration, authority, inerrancy, infallibility, sufficiency, and clarity, and learned how the Church recognised the sixty-six books of the biblical canon. Above all, we saw that Scripture is the final authority for Christian faith and practice, equipping believers to know God, grow in holiness, discern truth from error, and faithfully serve Christ in every area of life.

Module 5

The Doctrine of God (Theology Proper)

Lecture 5: Knowing the Living God

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

- Define Theology Proper and explain its place within Systematic Theology.
- Understand the biblical evidence for the existence of God.
- Explain the nature and attributes of God as revealed in Scripture.
- Distinguish between God's communicable and incommunicable attributes.
- Understand and explain the biblical doctrine of the Trinity.
- Describe the works of God in creation, providence, redemption, and judgment.
- Develop a deeper personal knowledge of God that leads to worship, obedience, and faithful Christian living.

Introduction

The central subject of theology is not humanity, angels, the Church, or even salvation, it is **God Himself**. Every other doctrine in the Christian faith flows from a proper understanding of who God is. Before we can understand creation, humanity, sin, redemption, the Church, or the end times, we must first know the One who is the source of all things.

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Throughout history, people have sought to answer life's greatest questions:

- Who created the universe?
- Why do we exist?
- Is there a supreme Being?
- What is God like?
- Can we know Him personally?

Different cultures and religions have offered many answers. Some have worshipped many gods, believing that different deities control different aspects of life. Others have denied God's existence altogether, claiming that the universe is the product of chance or natural processes. Still others have created gods in their own image, imagining a deity who reflects human desires rather than divine truth.

The Christian faith presents a radically different message.

The Bible reveals **one eternal, self-existent, sovereign, holy, loving, and personal God** who created all things, sustains the universe, and has made Himself known through His Word and supremely through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The study of God's nature, character, and attributes is known as **Theology Proper**.

This branch of theology seeks to answer one of the most profound questions a person can ask:

Who is God?

Yet the purpose of Theology Proper extends beyond intellectual curiosity. The goal is not merely to accumulate knowledge about God but to know Him personally.

Jeremiah writes:

"Let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me."
(*Jeremiah 9:24*)

The more believers understand God's character, the more they trust Him, worship Him, and become like Him.

What Is Theology Proper?

The term **Theology Proper** refers specifically to the study of God Himself.

While systematic theology examines many biblical doctrines, Theology Proper focuses on questions such as:

- Who is God?
- What is God's nature?
- What are His attributes?
- How has God revealed Himself?
- How does God relate to His creation?
- What does it mean that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Theology Proper forms the foundation for every other doctrine because everything begins with God.

Without God:

- There would be no creation.
- There would be no humanity.
- There would be no salvation.
- There would be no Church.
- There would be no eternal hope.

As Paul declares:

"For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things."
(Romans 11:36)

The Existence of God

Unlike many philosophical writings, the Bible does not attempt to prove that God exists.

Instead, it begins with the simple declaration:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1)

Scripture assumes God's existence and calls humanity to respond with faith, worship, and obedience.

The Bible also declares:

"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"
(Psalm 14:1)

God's existence is presented as a foundational reality rather than a theory requiring proof.

However, Christians recognise that God's existence is supported by many evidences found in both Scripture and creation.

Evidence for the Existence of God

1. The Argument from Creation

The beauty, order, and complexity of the universe point to an intelligent Creator.

David declares:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
(Psalm 19:1)

From the vastness of galaxies to the intricate design of a single living cell, creation displays remarkable order and purpose.

Paul writes:

"Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities... have been clearly seen."
(Romans 1:20)

Creation does not save us, but it points unmistakably to its Creator.

2. The Moral Argument

Human beings possess an innate awareness of right and wrong.

Across cultures and generations, people recognise concepts such as justice, honesty, compassion, and responsibility.

Romans 2:15 teaches that God's law is written on human hearts.

This moral awareness points to a moral Lawgiver.

3. The Historical Witness of Scripture

The Bible records God's dealings with humanity over thousands of years.

Its fulfilled prophecies, historical consistency, and unified message testify to its divine origin.

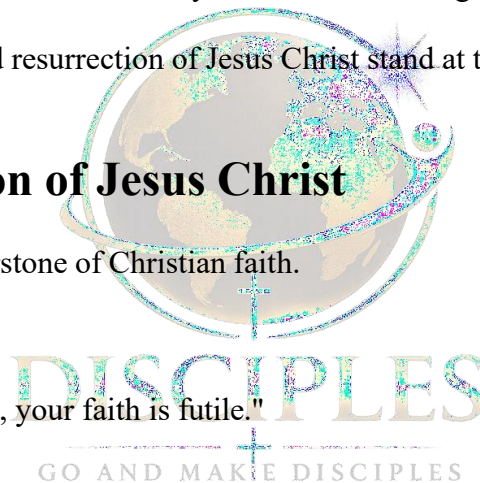
Above all, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ stand at the centre of history as God's supreme revelation.

4. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith.

Paul writes:

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile."
(1 Corinthians 15:17)



The empty tomb, the eyewitness testimony of the apostles, and the birth of the early Church provide compelling evidence for the reality of the risen Christ.

The resurrection confirms Jesus' divine identity and validates His claims.

5. The Transforming Work of God

Throughout history, countless lives have been radically transformed through faith in Christ.

People enslaved by sin have experienced forgiveness, freedom, hope, and new purpose.

This ongoing work of God's grace continues to testify to His living presence.

The Nature of God

God is unlike anyone or anything else.

He is not merely greater than humanity, He is entirely distinct from His creation.

Isaiah records God's words:

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways."
(*Isaiah 55:8*)

God is infinite, while humanity is finite.

God is Creator; we are creatures.

God alone possesses absolute perfection.

The Attributes of God

An **attribute** is a characteristic that reveals God's nature.

God's attributes are not separate parts of Him; together they describe His one perfect and unified being.

Theologians often divide God's attributes into two categories:

- Incommunicable Attributes
- Communicable Attributes

God's Incommunicable Attributes

These are qualities that belong uniquely to God.

Human beings cannot fully possess them.

God's Eternity

God has no beginning and no end.

He has always existed and always will.

Isaiah declares:

"The everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth."
(*Isaiah 40:28*)

Unlike creation, God is not limited by time.

God's Self-Existence (Aseity)

God depends upon nothing outside Himself.

Everything else depends upon Him.

When Moses asked God's name, God replied:

"I AM WHO I AM."
(*Exodus 3:14*)

God simply is.

He is self-sufficient and independent.

God's Immutability

God never changes.

His character, promises, purposes, and nature remain constant.

Malachi 3:6 declares:

"I the Lord do not change."

This gives believers confidence that God's promises will never fail.

God's Omnipotence

God is all-powerful.

Nothing is impossible for Him that is consistent with His holy character.

Jeremiah writes:

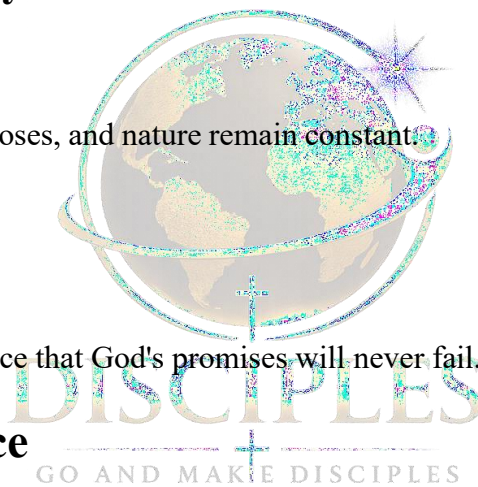
"Nothing is too hard for You."
(*Jeremiah 32:17*)

God's power is displayed in creation, miracles, redemption, and His sovereign rule over history.

God's Omniscience

God knows everything.

He knows:



- The past.
- The present.
- The future.
- Every thought.
- Every action.
- Every possibility.

Psalm 147:5 declares:

"His understanding has no limit."

Nothing surprises God.

God's Omnipresence

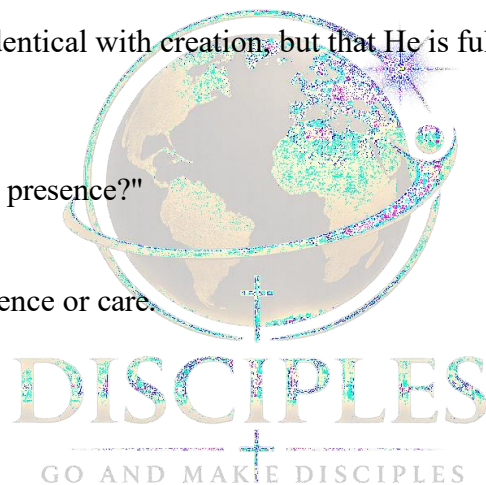
God is present everywhere.

This does not mean God is identical with creation, but that He is fully present in every place.

David asks:

"Where can I flee from Your presence?"
(*Psalm 139:7*)

No one is beyond God's presence or care.



God's Communicable Attributes

These are qualities God shares, in part, with those created in His image.

God's Holiness

Holiness is one of God's greatest attributes.

It means He is morally perfect and completely separate from sin.

The seraphim continually proclaim:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty."
(*Isaiah 6:3*)

Because God is holy, His people are called to pursue holiness.

God's Love

The Bible declares:

"God is love."
(1 John 4:8)

God's love is perfectly demonstrated through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8 states:

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

His love is sacrificial, unconditional, and eternal.

God's Justice and Righteousness

God always does what is right.

He cannot act unjustly.

Every judgment He makes is perfectly fair.

His justice guarantees that evil will not triumph forever.



God's Mercy and Grace

God delights in showing compassion.

Mercy means God does not give sinners the punishment they deserve.

Grace means He gives blessings they do not deserve.

Together, mercy and grace reveal God's loving heart toward humanity.

God's Faithfulness

God keeps every promise He makes.

Numbers 23:19 declares:

"God is not human, that He should lie."

His faithfulness gives believers confidence during every season of life.

The Doctrine of the Trinity

One of Christianity's most important and distinctive doctrines is the doctrine of the **Trinity**.

Although the word **Trinity** does not appear in the Bible, the doctrine faithfully summarises the teaching of Scripture.

The Bible teaches:

- There is one God.
- The Father is God.
- The Son is God.
- The Holy Spirit is God.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons.
- These three Persons are one in essence, glory, power, and eternity.

This is not belief in three gods.

Christianity is strictly monotheistic.

Deuteronomy 6:4 declares:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Yet Jesus commands baptism:

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
(*Matthew 28:19*)

Notice that Jesus says "**name**" (singular), not "**names**" (plural), revealing one divine Being shared by three distinct Persons.



The Works of God

Everything God does reflects His perfect nature.

Creation

God created all things from nothing by His powerful word.

Everything exists because He willed it.

Providence

God continually sustains and governs creation.

Nothing happens outside His sovereign knowledge and permission.

Revelation

God has made Himself known through creation, Scripture, Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Redemption

God's greatest work is the salvation of sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sanctification

Through the Holy Spirit, God transforms believers into the likeness of Christ.

Christian growth is the ongoing work of God's grace in the believer's life.

Judgment

God will judge the world with perfect justice.

Every act of evil will be answered, and righteousness will ultimately prevail.

Consummation

History is moving toward God's appointed conclusion.

Christ will return, establish His eternal kingdom, and create a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells.

Knowing God Personally

The purpose of Theology Proper is not merely intellectual knowledge.

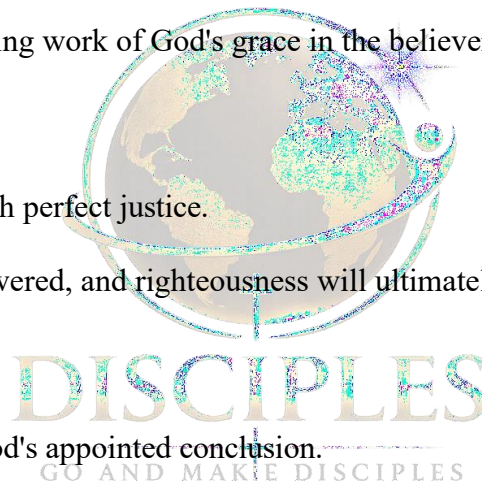
It is relational knowledge.

Jesus declared:

"Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

(John 17:3)

Knowing God changes every area of life.



The more believers know Him:

- The deeper their worship becomes.
- The stronger their faith grows.
- The greater their obedience becomes.
- The more Christlike their character develops.

True theology always leads to worship.

Practical Applications

Understanding God's character transforms the believer's daily life.

Worship with Reverence

God's holiness calls us to worship Him with awe, humility, and gratitude.

Trust God Completely

His sovereignty and faithfulness assure us that He is in control even during suffering and uncertainty.

Pursue Holiness

Because God is holy, His people are called to reflect His character in their conduct.

Love Others

Having experienced God's love and grace, believers are called to extend forgiveness, mercy, and compassion to others.

Live with Hope

God's promises are certain. His eternal purposes will be fulfilled, giving believers confidence in both present trials and future glory.

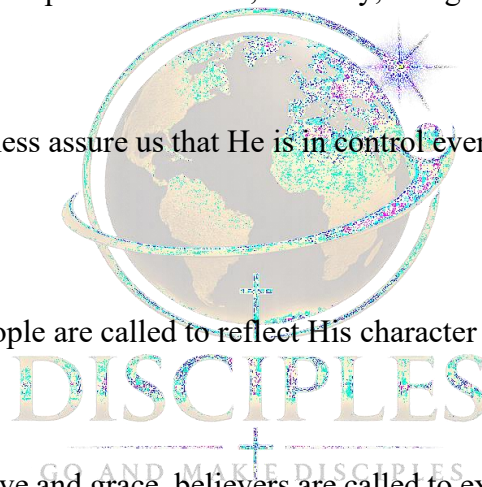
Common Misunderstandings About God

"God is whatever I imagine Him to be."

False.

God is not defined by human imagination but has revealed Himself in Scripture.

"The Trinity means Christians worship three gods."



False.

Christians worship one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

"God's love means He ignores sin."

False.

God is perfectly loving and perfectly holy. His love does not compromise His justice, and His justice does not diminish His love.

"God changes His character over time."

False.

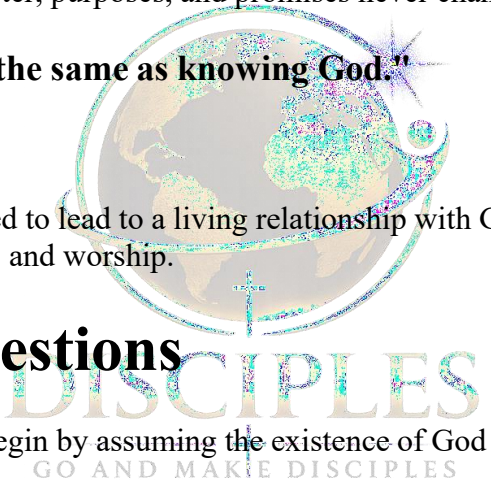
God is immutable. His character, purposes, and promises never change.

"Knowing about God is the same as knowing God."

False.

Biblical knowledge is intended to lead to a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ, expressed in faith, obedience, and worship.

Reflection Questions

- 
1. Why does the Bible begin by assuming the existence of God rather than attempting to prove it?
 2. How do creation, conscience, and the resurrection of Christ point to the reality of God?
 3. Which of God's attributes brings you the greatest encouragement, and why?
 4. How does God's holiness shape the way Christians should live?
 5. Explain the biblical doctrine of the Trinity using Scripture.
 6. How do God's justice and mercy work together in the Gospel?
 7. In what ways does knowing God's character strengthen believers during times of suffering and uncertainty?

Classroom Discussion

Discuss the statement:

"The goal of theology is not merely to know facts about God but to know God personally through Jesus Christ."

How should this truth shape Christian discipleship, worship, ministry, and leadership?

Practical Assignment

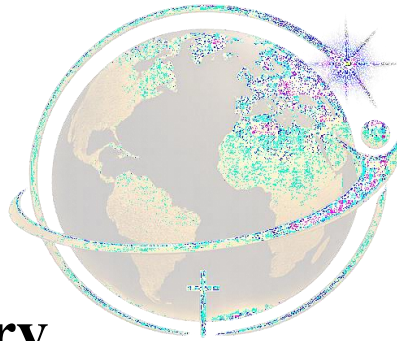
Choose **three attributes of God** (for example, holiness, love, sovereignty, faithfulness, omniscience, or mercy) and write a **1,500-word reflective essay** explaining:

- The biblical meaning of each attribute.
- How each attribute reveals God's character.
- How each attribute influences your worship, prayer, and daily Christian life.
- How understanding these attributes equips you for Christian ministry and leadership.

Support your reflection with at least **eight biblical references**.

Memory Verses

- Genesis 1:1
- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Exodus 3:14
- Isaiah 40:28
- John 4:24
- Matthew 28:19
- 1 John 4:8
- Romans 11:36



Lesson Summary

In this lecture, we explored **Theology Proper**, the study of the one true and living God. We learned that Scripture begins by affirming God's existence and reveals Him as the eternal, self-existent, sovereign Creator who is holy, loving, just, merciful, faithful, all-powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere. We examined God's incommunicable and communicable attributes, discovering that these qualities together reveal His perfect and unified nature. We also studied the doctrine of the Trinity, affirming that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three distinct Persons who share one divine essence. Finally, we considered God's works in creation, providence, revelation, redemption, sanctification, judgment, and the consummation of history. Above all, we recognised that the purpose of studying Theology Proper is not merely to gain theological knowledge but to cultivate a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ, leading to faithful worship, holy living, confident service, and steadfast hope.