

SOME CENTRAL PASSAGES IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

INTRODUCTION. All Scripture forms the basis for theological reflection and systematization. A listing of selected central passages, however, in no way implies that the total task of systematizing Christian truth is limited to gathering and stating central passages or proof texts. However, the citation of texts of Scripture in theological construction is, as Bernard Ramm notes: "...perfectly legitimate. Both liberalism and neo-orthodoxy have strongly castigated the orthodox use of proof texts, and not with good reason. There is no doubt that the Scriptures quoted closely yield the doctrines of orthodoxy, not liberalism nor neo-orthodoxy. Neither liberalism nor neo-orthodoxy can hold their positions if held to a strict citation of Scripture....The conservative insists the citation of Scripture is nothing more than a special application of 'foot-noting' which is standard scholarly procedure....The liberal and neo-orthodox objection to the use of proof texts reflects a deep theological prejudice (both against a valid revelation of God in Scripture) rather than a rebuttal of a false method of scholarship....The mere listing of proof texts is of no value unless each verse is underwritten by sound exegetical work....Many of the older theologians were guilty of citing a verse in the Old Testament to prove something with reference to salvation and justification, and treating it as if it were as clear and lucid as something in Romans and Galatians. This is one of the most unhappy features of the older theologies which has been happily corrected by a MUCH BETTER SENSE OF HISTORICAL AND PROGRESSIVE REVELATION, NOR CAN THE BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE OF DISPENSATIONALISM BE GAINSAID AT THIS POINT....(caps supplied)." Bernard Ramm, PROTESTANT BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION, pages 175-78.

The following listing of texts is thus selective, not exhaustive. The listing here is done by the course content in the systematic theology courses.

THEOLOGY 401

| <u>COURSE AND AREA</u> | <u>CENTRAL PASSAGE</u> | <u>THEME</u> |
|---|---|---|
| Theology 401 | | |
| I. PROLEGOMENA | 2 Tim. 2:15 | Necessity and duty of the study of systematized truth |
| | 1 Cor. 2:6-16 | Need for spiritual illumination in theological study |
| II. THEOLOGY PROPER | Job 38--42:6 | The Infinite Being of God and transcendence of God |
| | Ex. 3:14 | Self Revelation, plurality in the unity |
| | Deut. 6:4 | Unity of the Godhead |
| | Isa. 48:16 | Suggestion of plurality in the Godhead |
| | <i>John 10:30</i> | <i>Deity of Christ</i> |
| | Matt. 28:18-20 | Persons in the Godhead |
| | Acts 5:3-4 | Deity of the Person of the Holy Spirit |
| | 2 Cor. 13:14 | Trinitarian clarification |
| | Acts 2:23 | The Decree of God |
| | Eph. 1:11 | Decree <i>includes all</i> |
| | Rom. 11:33-36 | The wisdom of God |
| III. THE DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION: SPIRITUAL LIFE | 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Thes. 2:13 | God the Holy Spirit vitally operative in sanctification |
| | Rom. 6 | The believer's position in Christ |
| | Rom. 8 | The work of the Holy Spirit in the entire process of sanctification |
| | Phil. 2:12, 13 | The energizing work of God in conjunction with the activity of the believer |
| | Gal. 5:16-23 | The works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit |
| | Eph. 5:18-21 | The fulness of the Spirit |

THEOLOGY 402

| <u>COURSE AND AREA</u> | <u>CENTRAL PASSAGE</u> | <u>THEME</u> |
|--|--|---|
| Theology 402 I. ANGELOLOGY | Heb. 1:14 | Nature and mission of angels |
| | Ps. 8:4-5 | Separateness of angels from man |
| | Dan. 12:1 (Jude 9) | Michael the archangel |
| | Luke 1: | Ministry of Gabriel |
| | Isa. 6:1-3 | Seraphim |
| | Ezek. 10 | Cherubim |
| | Col. 1:16; Eph. 3:10 | Angelic ranking and organization |
| | Ezek. 28:11-19; 1 Tim. 3:6 | Background, origin and fall |
| | Isa. 14:12-17 | Detailed suggested analysis of Satan's rebellion |
| | John 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4 | Aspects of Satan's career and present activity |
| II. SATANOLOGY | Eph. 6:11-18 | Christian stance with reference to the adversary |
| | Matt. 12:24-28 compared with Matt. 25:41 | Identity of demons as fallen angels |
| | 1 Tim. 4:1 | Doctrines of demons |
| | Rev. 20 | Ultimate judgment of demons with Satan |
| III. DEMONOLOGY | Gen. 3:1-19 | Entrance of sin into the world and specific judgments |
| | Rom. 5:12-14 | Adamic sin and the race |
| | Rom. 1:18--3:20 | Devastating effects of sin |
| IV. HAMARTIOLOGY | Gen. 1; Heb. 11:3 | Creation |
| | Gen. 1:26; 2:7; 2:21-23 | Description of creation of Adam and Eve |
| | Gen. 1:26; James 3:9; | The image of God |
| | 1 Thes. 5:23; Heb. 4:12; 1 Cor. 2:11 | Aspects of the immaterial aspect of man |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| V. ANTHROPOLOGY (IN THE SEQUENCE OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY COURSES, WE DEAL WITH SPECIAL CREATION, ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE, HERE, BY INSERTING IT ALONG WITH THE CREATION OF MAN). | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

THEOLOGY 403
(BIBLIOLOGY AND DISPENSATIONS)

| <u>COURSE AND AREA</u> | <u>CENTRAL PASSAGE</u> | <u>THEME</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Theology 403 I. BIBLIOLOGY | Rom. 1:18-21; Ps. 19; Acts 17; Acts 14 | General Revelation |
| | 1 John 5:9-12 | Scripture as Revelation |
| | 2 Tim. 3:16 | Inspiration |
| | 2 Pet. 1:21 | Inspiration (process involved) |
| | John 10:35; Matt. 5:17 | Christ's use of Scripture |
| | 1 Tim. 5:18 | (Linking Deut. 25:4 and Luke 10:7 under common denominator term="Scripture") |
| | 2 Pet. 3:16 | Scripture as terminology de- signating N.T. segments |
| | 2 Thes. 2:15 | Authority of written word equated with apostolic teaching by tradition |
| II. DISPENSATIONS | Eph. 1:10; 3:2 | Terminology basic to dis- pensational distinctions |
| | Col. 1:25-26 | Stewardship and the mystery |
| | Eph. 3 | The church as the new creation of God |

THEOLOGY 404
(ECCLESIOLOGY; CHRISTOLOGY; PNEUMATOLOGY)

| <u>COURSE AND AREA</u> | <u>CENTRAL PASSAGE</u> | <u>THEME</u> |
|---|--|---|
| Theology 404 I. ECCLESIOLOGY | Matt. 16:16-18; Acts 1:5; 11:15 | Universal church: foundation, basis and reality |
| | 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18; Eph. 3:10 | The church, the body of Christ |
| | 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9 | Leadership qualifications in the local church |
| | 1 Cor. 11:23-26 | The Lord's Supper |
| | Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48 | Baptism |
| II. CHRISTOLOGY (THE PERSON OF CHRIST) | Micah 5:2; Phil. 2:6; John 8:58 | Pre-existence |
| | Luke 1; Matt. 1 | Miraculous conception and Virgin Birth of Christ |
| | Gal. 4:4 | Humanity of Christ |
| | John 11:35 | Humanity of Christ |
| | John 10:30; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1; John 20:28 | Deity of Christ |
| | Phil. 2:6ff | Kenosis |
| | Heb. 4:15 | Impeccability |
| | Rom. 1:4; Luke 24 | Resurrection of Christ |
| | Acts 1:9-11 | Ascension |
| III. PNEUMATOLOGY | 1 Cor. 2:10-11; John 14:26 | Personality |
| | Acts 5:3, 4 | Deity |
| | John 14:26; 15:26 | Procession of the Spirit |
| | 1 Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:8-11 | Indwelling |
| | 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:5; Rom. 6:1-10 | Baptizing work of the Spirit |
| | Eph. 4:30 | Sealing of the Spirit |
| | Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12:8-10; 28-30; Eph. 4:11 | Gifts of the Spirit |

PNEUMATOLOGY CONT.

COURSE AND AREA

Theology 404
PNEUMATOLOGY

CENTRAL PASSAGE

Heb. 2:3-4

Eph. 5:18-20

Gal. 5:22-23

THEME

Suggested temporary nature of
some of the gifts

The Filling of the Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit

THEOLOGY 406
(ESCHATOLOGY)

COURSE AND AREA

CENTRAL PASSAGE

THEME

Theology 406
ESCHATOLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. 3:10; 1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9 | Pretribulation Rapture of the church |
| 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15: 51-57; John 14:1-3 | Descriptive narratives of Rapture |
| Dan. 9:27; Rev. 6:1--19:21 | The Tribulation |
| Rev. 20:1-3 | The millennium |
| Deut. 30:1-10; Isa. 11:9; Ezek. 37:21-28 | Descriptive narrative about millennium |
| Rev. 20:11-15 | Great White Throne Judgment |
| Rev. 20:4; 1 Thes. 4:16; Dan. 12:2 | The First Resurrection |
| Luke 16:19-26; 23:42; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15 | Eternal separation of the lost |

THEOLOGY 903
(SOTERIOLOGY AND EVANGELISM)

| <u>COURSE AND AREA</u> | <u>CENTRAL PASSAGE</u> | <u>THEME</u> |
|--|--|--|
| Theology 903 | | |
| I. ELECTION AND PRE-DESTINATION | Rom. 8:27-30; Eph. 1 | |
| II. THE DEATH OF CHRIST | Mark 10:45; Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:6 | Ransom paid, basis for accomplished action |
| | 2 Cor. 5:18-21 | Reconciliation |
| | Rom. 3:23-25; 1 John 2:2 | Propitiation |
| | 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21 | Substitution |
| | Gal. 3:13 | Redemption |
| III. THE EXTENT OF THE ATONEMENT | 2 Cor. 5:19 | Universal accomplishment in reconciliation (to be appropriated by faith) |
| | 1 John 2:2 | Universal accomplishment in propitiation (to be appropriated by faith--Rom. 3:22, 25*) |
| | 2 Pet. 2:1 | Price paid for all |
| | 1 Tim. 4:10; 1 Tim. 2:6 | |
| IV. THE PLAN OF GOD IN SALVATION (ORDO SALUTIS) | Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17 | General call |
| | Rom. 8:27-30 | Effectual call |
| | John 16:8-11 | Convicting work of the Holy Spirit |
| | Acts 16:31 | Faith as trust |
| | Acts 20:21 | Repentance and faith closely related (2 sides of one coin, so to speak) |
| | Rom. 3:23-25; Rom. 4:5; 5:1 | Justification |
| | Titus 3:5; James 1:18 | Regeneration |
| | Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:1-4 | Union with Christ |
| | Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5 | Adoption |
| V. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION AND THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER | 1 John 5:10-13 | Assurance based upon Scripture |
| | John 5:24; 10:28; Jude 24 | Eternal security |