

We will begin the first lecture on systematic theology. /I am Professor Hyo Cheon Jo. /I will be giving the first half of the lectures on systematic theology. /Professor Seong Nam Koh.

/Now, let's dive into **Part 1, Introduction of Systematic Theology.**

/Chapter 1, Theology. /I. The Nature of Theology.

/A. The definition of theology. /The origin of the word "theology" /comes from the Greek words "theos," which means "God," /and "logos," which means "the Word of God, or doctrine."

/Thus, theology can be defined as "the doctrine of God." /Theology is the study of God and all things done by God.

/II. The Possibilities of Theology. /A. Revelation of God.

/God's revelation can be divided into general revelation and special revelation.

/1. General revelation. /God is revealed through nature, history, and man's conscience. /God allowed all mankind to know him through these in each generation and place.

/a. Revelation in nature. /God revealed his wisdom, power, glory, and love through nature. /Romans 1:19, 20 /Psalm 8:1 /19:1 /Acts 14:15.

/b. Revelation in history. /God generally allows wicked nations conquer nations that are even more wicked. /God punishes wicked beings in this world. /God controls the history of the world.

/c. Revelation in the conscience. /God allowed man to intuitively distinguish between right and wrong through the conscience. /God urges us to distinguish between right and wrong, and choose what is right.

/When man does not choose what is right, he feels guilt. /Thus, God allowed man to know through the conscience about God's existence and that God despises sin. /Acts 23:1.

/2. Special revelation. /God allowed special individuals in special times to know God himself and the truth.

/a. Revelation in miracles. /God allows man to know his presence and power through supernatural miracles. /Genesis 14:21-25. /Miracles show that God is alive and is in control over the entire universe.

/b. Revelation in prophecies. /God allows special individuals to know about future events. /God lets them know that he is in control of future events.

/c. Revelation in Jesus Christ. /Jesus Christ is the center of the special revelation. /God,

who saves sinners, allowed man to know his love and wisdom through Christ. /Hebrews 1:1-3 /John 1:18 /3:16 /14:9.

/d. Theophanies. /God personally appeared before special individuals in special cases. /God appeared before Moses and Abraham. /God appeared before Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. /Exodus 3:3 /Genesis 12:1.

/God allows man to directly experience his presence through his appearance. /God also allows man to directly receive his revelation.

/e. Revelation in Scripture. /The Bible is a book without error that most clearly records all truths needed for chosen believers in each generation to receive salvation and worship God.

/Thus, God allows us to know him, worship him, and know the doctrine of salvation through the Bible.

/B. Functions of man. /1. Mental functions. /Man has the ability to perceive, compare, and make distinctions about facts with reason.

/2. Spiritual functions. /Adam had a spirit that was created in the image of God. /His spirit knew God, loved God, and served God. /However, Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and that resulted in the fall of man.

/All humans, who are all descendants of Adam, are born sinners. /Their spirits are in a state of death. /Ephesians 2:1. /Thus, Adam's descendants cannot know or serve God on their own.

/However, when sinners repent and believe in Jesus, they receive eternal life. /Thus, their dead spirits come to life, and they can know God, love God, and serve God. /John 3:5, 6.

/Chapter 2, Religion. /I. Religion as a Universal Phenomenon.

/The animal kingdom does not have religion, /and religion only exists for man who was created in the image of God. /Man originally has a spirit, and hence, he can know God, love God, and serve God.

/However, after the fall of Adam, all humans, who are born as his descendants, are sinners from birth. /Their spirits are in a state of death. /Anyone with a dead spirit cannot know God.

/Yet, humans have a religious instinct that makes them aware of a vague Absolute and want to serve this Absolute. /Thus, everyone of every generation and race have religion in one form or another.

/II. The Essential Nature of Religion.

/A. The essential nature of religion.

/The essential nature of religion is the relationship between God and man. /Man does not have the right to establish a relationship between God and man. /However, the Creator God can make this decision. /God established a relationship between God and man through his word.

/Man voluntarily subjugates himself to God and obeys, and he glorifies God. /Thus, God said that he would allow man to receive the greatest freedom and satisfaction in God. /Ecclesiastes 12:13.

/B. Definition of religion. /Religion can be defined as man's reverence of God and man's reliance on God. /True religion is distinguished from false religion depending on whether one correctly knows and serves God or incorrectly serves God.

/III. The Seat of Religion. /A. One-sided views.

/1. The view that there is only the intellect. /This is the view that religion is a kind of knowledge or philosophy.

/2. The view that there are only feelings. /This is the view that religion is the feeling of dependence on a superior being.

/3. The view that there is only the will. /This is the view that religion is a kind of practical ethics. /This view acknowledges that fixed duties as determined by the conscience are divine commands. /Yet, man's intellect, feelings, and will act as one unified person.

/Religion forms a relationship with man's whole character. /Thus, one-sided views are incorrect.

/B. A biblical view. /The seat of religion consists of the heart and spirit. /Matthew 22:37 / Romans 8:15 /1 Corinthians 14:15.

/1. The heart. /The intellect, feelings, and will of the material world are active in man's heart. /The Bible tells us to love and serve God with all our hearts. /1 Kings 14:8 /Matthew 22:37, 38.

/2. The spirit. /The intellect, feelings, and will of God and the spiritual world are active. / John 4:24. /1 Corinthians 2:13.

/IV. Origin of Religion. /A. Correct views of the origin of religion.

/1. Religion begins with the existence of God. /The origin of religion lies in God's special revelation. /God gave man the special revelation so that man could know God and enter into a proper religious relationship with God.

/2. Religion begins with man who was created in the image of God. /God gave man, who was created in the image of God, with the ability to understand and obey God's

revelation.

/3. Religion is possible through the special revelation and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /God did not only give man the special revelation but also the Holy Spirit. /Thus, the fallen man was able to believe and understand the revelation through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and was able to know God. /1 Corinthians 2:13.

/Chapter 3, Revelation. /I. God's Revelation.

/A. The concept of revelation. /God is complete, infinite, and great. /Hence, the insecure and limited man cannot completely know God.

/God gave the fallen man the revelation so that he might properly know and serve God. /Therefore, the definition of "revelation" is, "God's disclosure to man of God and the secret of the truth about God."

/B. Types of revelation.

/1. Classification of forms of revelation.

/a. The natural revelation. /This is the revelation that has been given through nature, history, and the conscience of man. /Romans 1:20.

/b. The supernatural revelation. /God personally gave this revelation to man through a supernatural way. /For example, these ways include God's word, dreams and miracles given directly from God, and God's appearance.

/2. Classification of subjects and nature of revelation.

/a. General revelation. /This is the revelation that God gave man before the Fall. /Yet, the general revelation is normally treated as having the same concept as the natural revelation.

/b. Special revelation. /This is the revelation that God gave man after the Fall. /We sinners receive the special revelation through the special works of the Holy Spirit.

/C. The general revelation is not enough.

/1. Sin changed the general revelation and man's sensibility.

/Man's sensibility became corrupted, and his wisdom became dark. /The spirit of the sinner was in a state of death, and had left God. /Therefore, the sinner cannot fully understand God's truth that is seen in nature. /Ephesians 2:1 /Jeremiah 17:9.

/2. The general revelation cannot fully convey God and the truth. /The spiritual knowledge that is conveyed through the general revelation is uncertain and limited. /Therefore, man cannot completely know God nor can he understand the spiritual truth by the general revelation alone.

/3. The general revelation cannot offer the way to salvation through Jesus Christ.

/Man cannot know Christ, the Savior of sinners, through the general revelation. /The

general revelation also cannot lead man to the glorious seat of God's child.

/Chapter 4, Scripture. /I. The Relation Between Special Revelation and Scripture.

/The "Scripture," or the Bible, is a book that records God's special revelation without error. /It is also God's recorded word.

/A. When the special revelation and Scripture differ.

/If the special revelation were to be seen as a revelation directly from God, the Scripture and special revelation would be considered different. /This is because the Bible includes individual experiences and historical facts. /The prophets and apostles received God's revelation even before the Bible was recorded.

/B. The special revelation and Scripture are the same. /The entire Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit without error. /Thus, the Bible is God's word and also a special revelation. /The individual experiences and historical facts recorded in the Bible are God's word that reveals the truth through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/Furthermore, all contents recorded in the Bible are God's word, /and the Bible is God's special revelation given to all peoples of all times in order that they would receive eternal life and holiness and purity.

/II. The Nature of the Special Revelation. /The one and only God gave the special revelation to many people of different generations in various forms. /Yet, the contents of the special revelation are fundamentally the same and are organically united. /Also, historically, the truth is revealed more clearly and progressively.

/A. The homogeneity of the special revelation. /The contents of the revelation that God gave Moses, the revelation that God gave through the prophets, and the revelation that God gave the apostles in the New Testament period are fundamentally the same.

/In the Old Testament, man would receive God's judgment and perish if he sinned. /God also promised that he would send Christ to save mankind from sin.

/In the New Testament, Christ, God's Son, came to this earth and completed redemption through the cross and resurrection. /Thus, sinners repented and received salvation through faith in the gospel of Christ.

/Therefore, when interpreting the New Testament, the Old Testament must be used as its background, /and when interpreting the Old Testament, it must be based on the New Testament.

/B. The unity of the special revelation. /Both the Old and New Testaments were written over thousands of years by different writers in different environments. /However, they are fundamentally the same and are organically united. /Genesis 3:15 /Isaiah 7:14 /Matthew 1:21.

/C. The gradualness of the special revelation. /God's special revelation was gradually developed through history. /For example, the revelation of Christ is shown more clearly through the revelation that was given to Abraham than that which was given to Adam. /Genesis 3:15 /Genesis 17:4-7.

/This revelation progressed even more in David's time from Abraham's time. /2 Samuel 7:12 /Isaiah 7:14.

/III. The Inspiration of Scripture. /The entire Bible was written by the inspiration of God. /Therefore, the Bible is God's word, and it is absolutely inerrant pertaining to the faith and actions of all peoples. /2 Timothy 3:16.

/A. Evidence that the Bible was written through inspiration.

/1. The Bible was recorded by God's command. /Those who recorded the Old Testament Bible said, "The LORD said." /Genesis 17:14 /Numbers 33:2 /Isaiah 8:1 /Jeremiah 25:13 /Ezekiel 24:2 /Daniel 12:4.

/2. The prophets delivered God's word. /The prophets were aware that they were "delivering God's word." /Numbers 23:12 /Exodus 9:1-4.

/3. The Old Testament Bible is called, God's word. /Those who recorded the New Testament Bible quoted the Old Testament Bible and said, "God said." /Matthew 15:4 /Hebrews 1:5 /Acts 13:2 /1 Timothy 4:1.

/4. Jesus often quoted the Old Testament Bible. /Matthew 4:4 /11:10 /12:18 /13:14 /21:5.

/5. Paul preached the words taught by the Holy Spirit. /Paul wrote a letter, the first epistle to the Corinthians, to the church in Corinth, and he said it was the words of the Holy Spirit. /1 Corinthians 2:13.

/6. The entire Bible was recorded by the inspiration of God. /Those who recorded the Bible did not record their own thoughts. /The Bible was recorded solely by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /2 Timothy 3:16.

/B. The nature of inspiration. **/1. Mechanical inspiration.** /This is the theory that those who recorded the Bible mechanically wrote down the words God spoke to them. /This is an incorrect theory.

/<Criticism> a. Those who recorded the Bible were normal in mentality, and they investigated everything. /Luke 1:1-4. /They also gathered historical information.
/b. The styles of writing of those who recorded the Bible are all different.

/2. The dynamical theory of inspiration. /This theory claims that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible only about the purpose of their writing. /This theory asserts the general inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but denies the direct activities of the

Holy Spirit. /This is incorrect.

/<Criticism> a. This acknowledges the possibility of errors in other parts of the Bible, with the exception of the purpose.

/b. This results in the deprivation of the supernatural characteristic of the Bible.

/c. This devalues the Bible to the level of the general revelation.

/3. The organic theory of inspiration. /When God recorded the Bible, he used the writers' characters, dispositions, gifts, and talents. /God also used education and culture, terminology and grammar, styles of writing, and etcetera.

/The Holy Spirit also inspired the writers so that they would record God's word without error. /Furthermore, words were chosen and sentences were formed by writers with normal consciousness. /The writers' experiences and historical information were collected, but the Holy Spirit had them recorded the Bible without error. /2 Timothy 3:16.

/This theory agrees with the Bible.

/C. The scope of inspiration.

/1. The thought inspiration theory. /This theory claims that the thoughts were inspired, but the language depended on the writer's choice. /This is an incorrect theory.

/2. The partial inspiration theory. /This theory claims that only specific parts of the Bible were inspired. /This is incorrect.

/3. The verbal inspiration theory. /This theory claims that each word in the Bible was inspired. /When the writer recorded the Bible, he chose certain terms and expressions. /However, the Holy Spirit inspired and watched over each word that was written so that there would be no errors.

/Thus, every punctuation mark and every word of the Bible was recorded without mistakes. /This theory agrees with the Bible. /Matthew 5:18 /Revelation 22:18, 19. /The Bible was also inspired through plenary inspiration.

/With this we will conclude the first lecture on systematic theology. /Thank you.