

We will begin the second lecture on systematic theology.

/IV. Perfections of Scripture. /A. Divine authority of Scripture. /The Bible is God's word that we recorded through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and hence, the Bible has divine rights.

/1. Historical authority. /God chose specific people to record the Bible, and he allowed them to record his word through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /These facts show that the Bible is historically true and believable.

/2. Normative authority. /The contents of the Bible are the absolute law of faith and actions. /Thus, the Bible is God's word. /Therefore, man must believe the Bible and obey.

/B. Necessity of Scripture. /God saves sinners through the Bible, God's word. /Therefore, we need the Bible until this world comes to an end. /Matthew 5:18.

/1. The sinner is saved through faith in the gospel. /Romans 10:17 /Romans 5:1 /John 1:12.

/2. The believer pleases God through his obedience to the Bible. /God's word is God's holy will. /1 Samuel 15:22.

/3. The believer becomes holy through his obedience to the Bible. /John 17:17 /2 Timothy 3:17.

/4. The believer receives blessings through his obedience to the Bible. /Deuteronomy 28:1-6. /Thus, the Bible is God's word that the believer needs at all times even after he has been saved.

/C. Perspicuity of Scripture. /Anyone who truly wants to receive salvation in his heart can receive faith through the Bible. /The Bible is clear enough for one to receive necessary knowledge of the truth through it. The Bible is written with clarity so that man can understand the Bible. /Psalm 19:7, 8.

/1. God gives grace to those who yearn for the truth through Scripture. /Psalm 107:9.

/2. The spiritual man can make judgments about and understand the truth. /1 Corinthians 2:15 /1 John 2:20. **/3. The believer can understand the truth through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.** /1 Corinthians 3:16 /1 John 2:20.

/D. Sufficiency of Scripture. /The Bible is sufficient. /Reformists believe that the Bible is sufficient with the truth about faith and actions. /Therefore, the believer does not need a new revelation aside from the Bible. /Anything that is not recorded in the Bible cannot be considered equal to the Bible. /Revelation 22:18, 19.

/1. The way to salvation is sufficiently revealed in Scripture. /The truth of salvation that a sinner receives forgiveness of his sins, receives eternal life, and becomes a child of God is thoroughly revealed in the Bible. /Mark 1:14 /John 1:12.

/2. The truth necessary to serve God is sufficiently revealed in Scripture. /Matthew 7:21.

/3. The truth to become a holy person and receive blessings is sufficiently revealed in Scripture. /John 17:17 /Psalm 19:7, 8 /Deuteronomy 28:1-6.

/E. Proof that the Scripture is God's word.

/1. Indestructibility of Scripture. /The Bible was recorded from 1500 BC to AD 100.

/The Bible was recorded over a span of 1,600 years. /The enemies made many attempts to annihilate the Bible.

/In the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church forbid believers from reading the Bible. /Yet, the Bible today has been translated into thousands of dialects throughout the world. /The Bible is the most read book on earth. /This is proof that the Bible is protected by God's special providence because it is God's word.

/2. Unity of Scripture. /The Bible records one united theme and story from Genesis to Revelation. /At the center of the Bible is Jesus Christ. /The Bible says that anyone who repents of his sins and believes the gospel of Jesus Christ will receive salvation.

/The Bible was recorded by over forty writers over the span of 1,600 years. /Each writer lived in different time periods and different environments, /and still, the Bible was recorded as one book, one system of doctrine, one standard of ethics, and one salvation plan.

/3. Nature of contents of Scripture. /The Bible testifies to God's holiness and love from beginning to end. /The Bible also speaks of salvation that is given through Christ. /It also tells of Christ's return, the resurrection of believers, and Christ's judgment. /The Bible also speaks of the Millennial Kingdom and eternal heaven. /Thus, the Bible is God's word that was recorded through the inspiration of God.

/4. Fulfillment of prophecies of Scripture. /All prophecies in the Bible are accurately being fulfilled. /Some prophecies were fulfilled the day it was prophesied, /and some prophecies were fulfilled thousands of years after it was prophesied. /The prophecies of the Bible did not fail to be fulfilled. /The entire Bible is being fulfilled. /Thus, this proves that the Bible truly is God's word.

/Part 2, The Doctrine of God. /Chapter 1, The Being of God. /I. The essential nature of God. /A. Knowledge of God.

/1. Innate knowledge. /Man has the ability to know God when he comes into contact with God's revelation in his natural normal state. /This is known as innate knowledge. /Matthew 11:25.

/However, it does not mean that man was born with knowledge of God. /It also does not mean that man originally possesses the ability to completely know God.

/2. Acquired knowledge. /Man gradually gains knowledge of God through the acceptance of the general revelation and special revelation.

/B. Demonstration of the being of God.

/1. The cosmological argument. /All things in existence are self-existent, or are formed as a result of a certain cause. /However, the universe cannot be self-existent because it has neither life nor a conscience.

/Hence, the universe cannot exist forever. /All things within the universe cannot be the universe's creator. /Thus, the universe was created by a being with intelligence and great power, one who alone could create the universe.

/2. The teleological argument. /Parts of the universe cannot give purpose and order to its own parts. /The reason for this is because the parts of the universe are not intelligent or volitional beings. /Celestial bodies, animals, and plants that lack reason cannot choose a purpose or cooperate in an orderly manner on their own.

/Man's intellect and will also did not give purpose and order to the universe. /This is because man too relies on other parts of the universe to live. /The universe is also vast enough to the point that man's power falls short of its extensiveness.

/Furthermore, the one who gives order for the fulfillment of the full purpose of the universe is God, who possesses extremely great wisdom and power.

/3. The ontological argument. /Man universally assumes that God is "absolutely complete and is the greatest," and worships God in his heart. /Then, there must be the existence of an absolutely complete being. /He who does not exist cannot be complete.

/Man believes that God is the greatest and is a complete being. /There can be no other being that is greater than God. /Therefore, God is the greatest and is absolutely complete.

/4. The moral argument. /Man has a perennial law of morals that is formed through the conscience.

/In the case that the law of morals is destroyed, man feels guilt in his conscience regardless of his own will. /This law of morals cannot be seen as something that man bestowed on himself.

/In the case that the law of morals is destroyed, the one who imposes punishment will have a greater moral authority than man. /The righteous being who punishes sin is God.

/C. The essence of God. /1. God is spirit. /John 4:24.

/a. The spirit is not a substance nor does it have a specific shape. /God is not a substance and does not have a shape, God cannot be seen with the eye and he has no scent. /The Bible describes God as having hands, feet, eyes, and ears. /This is a homogeneous

description of God. /This is also known as “anthropomorphism.”

/We cannot actually see God, but we can see the reflection and effects of his glory.
/Genesis 32:30 /Judges 6:11-23 /Exodus 3:6. /In special cases, God appears before man so that man can see God with his own eyes. /Genesis 16:7-14 /22:11-18.

/b. The spirit has life. /God is always alive and is the source of all life. /1 Timothy 3:15.

/c. The spirit is a personal being. /God is a personal being with intelligence, feelings, and will. /God sees our every action, hears all that we say, speaks, and works. /Exodus 3:8.

/2. God is self-existent. /God exists in himself. /When Moses asked of God’s name, God answered, “I AM WHO I AM.” /Exodus 3:14.

/a. God is eternally self-existent. /God’s existence was not the result of a specific something. /God exists eternally in himself.

/b. God is the Creator. /God exists in himself, and all other things in the universe are God’s creations.

/c. God is omniscient and omnipotent. /God does not depend on anything, and he is omniscient and omnipotent so that he is self-existing.

/3. God is infinite. /a. The immensity of God. /The immensity of God pertains to God’s infiniteness regarding space. /God’s existence is complete at all times and at all places. /God is not limited by space. /God works in different ways at the same time, at the same moment. /Jeremiah 23:24.

/b. The eternity of God. /Eternity refers to God’s infiniteness regarding time and space. /God’s existence and attributes are eternal. /God has no beginning or end, and he exists continuously from eternity to eternity. /God also knows our pasts, present, and futures at each moment. /Psalm 90:2.

/c. The unity of God. /God is one spirit, and his nature and attributes are one. /God is not composed of several parts, /and God is not composed of several attributes. /It is also impossible to separate or take God apart. /God is, however, the Trinity God. /Deuteronomy 6:4.

/II. Names of God. /A. Names of God in the Old Testament. /God displays his greatness through his names. /Many names were used to reveal God’s great characteristics.

/God’s name is expressed in man’s language, but God’s name was not made by man. /Exodus 3:14 /Luke 15:18 /Genesis 17:1 /1 Samuel 2:6 /Daniel 4:34, 35.

/1. God reveals his great and transcendental being.

/a. El. /This means, God Almighty. /Joshua 22:22 /Psalm 50:1 /Nehemiah 5:5 /Proverbs 3:27 /Micah 2:1.

/b. Elohim. /This emphasizes that God is strong and powerful, and is a subject worthy of reverence. /Genesis 1:1 /Psalm 82:1.

/c. Elyon. /This emphasizes that God is sublime and worthy, and is a subject of worship. / Psalm 9:2 /21:7.

/d. Adonai. /God is the holder of all mankind, the sovereign ruler, the Lord. /God is the holder and ruler of all things. /The Israelites could not carelessly call on the name of the LORD, and hence, they called God, Adonai. /Genesis 18:3 /Exodus 4:10.

/2. Humbled names of God for friendly relation with creation. /God humbled himself and the names for himself to have friendly relations with creation.

/a. Shaddai. /Or El Shaddai. /This emphasizes God's divine greatness. /This illustrates God's blessing and God as the source of comfort for his people. /God governs all of creation, and all creation contributes to God's purpose. /Ruth 1:20.

/b. Jehovah. /This is God's most holy and exceptional name. /This name was too holy and the Israelites did not dare call on God by this name, and hence, they called God, Adonai. / Thus, no one knows the exact pronunciation of this name.

/This name, "Yahweh," consisted only of consonants, and the name "Adonai" was made by adding vowels to it. /The name was pronounced "Yahweh," based on God's name, "I AM WHO I AM," in Exodus 3:14.

/This name showed that God would remember his covenant with the forefathers of the Israelites, free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, /and that God would make the Israelites his holy people. /Exodus 6:5-7.

/Thus, the name "Jehovah" means that God is the Creator, and he is the source of all life. /Genesis 2:4. /The name also means that God is a faithful God who saves his people according to his covenant promise. /Exodus 3:15 /Genesis 17:4 /26:3.

/The name also means that God's existence and attributes are forever, and he is unchanging. /Psalm 102:12 /Genesis 17:7. /It also means that God is a holy God who judges sin. /Ezekiel 38:21.

/c. The LORD of hosts. /God is escorted by an army of angels, /God reigns over all of creation for his people, /and God is King who receives glory from all of creation. Zechariah 1:3; Malachi 3:1.

/B. Names of God in the New Testament. /1. Theos. /"Theos" was translated to "God." /This name reveals the Most High God. /It reveals the Almighty God.

/a. “Theos” refers to God in heaven. /Luke 15:18 /John 3:27. /Heaven is a big and high place. /It refers to one who is almighty and absolutely sovereign. /It refers to one with great authority and glory.

/2. **Kurios.** /This is a name for Christ, which translates into “Lord.” /It emphasizes that God is the owner and ruler of his people. /This shows that God has the power and authority of a king.

/3. **Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω).** /This means that God is the beginning and the end, /the first and the last, /and it refers to the immutability of God. This shows that God completed his salvation ministry from beginning to end. /Revelation 1:4 /2:8 /21:6 /22:13.

/4. **Pater.** /This is a name that was translated to “Father.” /This name reveals God as Creator. /Matthew 6:32 /1 Corinthians 8:6 /Ephesians 3:14. /God is the Father of Israel. /Deuteronomy 32:6 /Isaiah 63:16.

/God is the first person of the Trinity. /John 8:18-19. /God is also the Father of all believers. /Matthew 5:45.

/III. The Attributes of God. /A. Absolute attributes.

/1. Independence and self-existence.

/This attribute of God shows that God’s foundation is within God himself.

/This means that God does not depend on anything other than himself, unlike man, who depends on other things. /God is independent in his existence. /God is independent in virtue and his every action, and hence, all of creation depends on God.

/2. **Immutability.** /God is eternally the same regarding his divine existence and his completeness. /God is also the same regarding his purpose and promise. /Malachi 3:6 /Hebrews 6:17 /James 1:17 /Numbers 23:19 /Psalm 33:11.

/God’s being and attributes are infinitely complete. /Therefore, God does not change or grow. /God’s essence, attributes, purpose, and plans are unchanging.

/3. **Infiniteness.** /This attribute of God indicates that God is not limited by anything or anyone. /God’s infiniteness can be divided into three attributes.

/a. Absolute perfection. /God is not limited in his knowledge and wisdom, his goodness and love, or righteousness and holiness. /Job 11:7-10 /Psalm 145:3.

/b. Eternality. /God’s infiniteness regarding time is defined as the eternity of God. /The Bible describes eternity as a period without an end, /but in actuality, the eternity of God means that God transcends time and is not limited by time. /Only the present exists to God.

/c. Immensity. /God's infiniteness regarding space is defined as the immensity of God. /This is also known as the omnipresence of God. This means that God is present everywhere. /God exists everywhere, /God fills all space, /and God dwells among his creation, /but God is never limited by space. /1 Kings 8:27 /Psalm 139:7-10 /Isaiah 66:1 /Jeremiah 23:23, 24 /Acts 17:27, 28.

/4. Unity or simplicity. /This is God's uniqueness, simplicity, or unity. /God is not made up of different parts. /The simplicity of God means that God is not separated into distinct parts. /Thus, God and his attributes are one. /God is life, light, love, righteous, and is the truth.

/Here we will conclude the second lecture on systematic theology. /Thank you.