

We will begin the fourth lecture on systematic theology. /Today, we will discuss **the divine nature of the Holy Spirit**.

/c. The divine nature of the Holy Spirit. /(1) The Holy Spirit is given divine names. /Acts 5:3-4 /1 Corinthians 3:16 /2 Timothy 3:16 /2 Peter 1:21.

/(2) The Holy Spirit has attributes of God. /Eternality. /Hebrews 9:14. /Omnipresence. /Psalm 139:7, 8. /Omniscience. /1 Corinthians 2:10, 11 /John 14:26 /John 16:12, 13. /The Holy Spirit is omnipotent. /Luke 1:35.

/(3) The Holy Spirit carries out divine ministries. /He created. /Job 33:4 /Genesis 1:2 /Psalm 104:30. /The Holy Spirit makes the sinner be born again. /John 3:5. /The Holy Spirit inspires the Bible. /2 Peter 1:21. /The Holy Spirit brings the dead to life. /Romans 8:11.

/(4) The Holy Spirit receives divine honor and glory. /Matthew 28:19.

✖ There are those who deny the divine nature of the Holy Spirit. /Arius (AD 320) claimed that the Holy Spirit was a created creation by God the Son. /Macedonius (AD 362) was a bishop of Constantinople, /and he claimed that the Holy spirit was a creation subject to God the Son. /These are false claims.

/d. Ministry of the Holy Spirit. /(1) The Holy Spirit completes the works of God within the domain of creation and redemption. /Acts 10:38.

/(2) The Holy Spirit works within the domain of nature. /Job 33:4 /Psalm 33:6. /The Holy Spirit gives talents to man. /Exodus 28:3 /Exodus 31:2 /Exodus 35:35 /1 Samuel 11:6.

/(3) The Holy Spirit works in the domain of redemption. /The Holy Spirit worked at the birth of Christ. /Matthew 1:18. /The Holy Spirit gave authority to Christ. /Acts 10:38. /The Holy Spirit inspired. /2 Peter 1:21.

/The Holy Spirit forms and expands the church. /1 Corinthians 3:16 /1 Corinthians 12:3 / Ephesians 2:22. /The Holy Spirit teaches, protects, and guides the church. /John 14:26. /The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus. /John 15:26.

/The Holy Spirit guides the believer to believe in the truth. /John 16:13 /1 Corinthians 2:13. /The Holy Spirit gives power to the believer so that he would serve. /Acts 1:8. /The Holy Spirit makes the believer holy. /2 Thessalonians 2:13. /The Holy Spirit communicates with the believer. /2 Corinthians 13:13.

**/Chapter 2, The Works of God. /I. The divine decrees in general.**

**/A. The decrees of God.**

**/1. Definition of the decrees of God.** /God first chooses an eternal purpose for his ministry. /God chooses and plans in advance all things that will happen in order for him

to accomplish his purpose.

**/2. Characteristics of the divine decrees.** /a. God's eternal purpose and plan. /God first chose an eternal purpose, and God established creation, providence, salvation, and judgment in order that he would fulfill his purpose. /Malachi 3:6.

/b. Determination for God's glory. /The primary purpose of the decrees of God is so that God would be glorified. /Isaiah 43:7 /Psalm 19:1 /Acts 14:17.

/c. Determined by God's infinite wisdom. /God chose the best purpose with his infinite wisdom. /God chose the best way in order to fulfill his purpose. /Therefore, God's determined works cannot change or fail, and his works will surely be fulfilled.

/d. Determined by God's holy will.

/e. Determined freely by God. /God was not pressured by any eternal forces, but freely determined his purpose and plan.

/f. Determined all works of the past, present, and future. /God determined man's good works and wicked deeds. /Ephesians 2:10 /Proverbs 16:4 /Acts 2:23. /God determined accidental incidents. /Proverbs 16:33. /God determined purposes and methods. /Ephesians 1:4. /God determined man's lifespan and place of dwelling. /Job 14:5 /Acts 17:26.

/g. Effective determination and permissive determination. /The things that God determined will surely be fulfilled. /However, all things that God determined are not fulfilled within the scope of God's direct and personal works.

/(1) The effective determination indicates that God determines that his purpose will be fulfilled within the scope of God's direct and personal works.

/(2) The permissive determination /indicates that God indirectly allows his determined works to be fulfilled through creation.

/Regarding sin, God determined that his creation be given free will to choose and see results. /Job 1:12. /God allowed sin so that he would fulfill his good purpose. /God refines believers with sin.

/God also judges sin and reveals his justice. /God allows sin, but God does not like sin. /The responsibility of sin does not lie in God.

/God is always righteous and always hates sin. /Therefore, the responsibility of sin lies wholly within creation. /This is because creation chose to sin by their free will. /Matthew 26:24 /Genesis 20:6.

**/B. Objections to the doctrine of the decrees.** /Pelagianism and Socinianism claim that God's doctrine of the decrees is unbiblical and irrational. /Arminianism claims that the decrees of God are founded on the foreknowledge of God.

**/1. The claim that the doctrine of the decrees is contradictory to man's moral freedom.** /They claim, "If God determined all of man's actions, then man would have to act according to it." /"Hence, man would not be responsible for any of his actions."

/Let's take the time to **criticize** this theory. /Man acts freely without knowledge of God's plans. /Man has free will to choose freely between good and evil. /Man must take responsibility for his own choices and the results of his choices.

**/2. The claim that the doctrine of the decrees keeps man from making efforts.** /They claim, "If God determined all things, all things will then happen according to God's plans." /"Those who were chosen to be destroyed will perish no matter how great of an effort they may make." /"Those who were chosen to be saved will be saved without making an effort." /"Therefore, God's doctrine of decrees is an irrational doctrine that keeps man from making efforts."

/Let's **criticize** this theory. /Man does not know whether he has been chosen to be saved or if he has been chosen to perish. /Man has the obligation to believe and obey God's word so that he might be saved.

/God also did not only determine the outcome, but also planned the steps and methods leading to the outcome. /God determined that those who would be saved would believe in the gospel. /Therefore, man must make the effort to believe in the gospel so that he might be saved.

**/3. The claim that the doctrine of the decrees makes God the creator of sins.** /They claim, "If God determined everything, then God must have created sin as well." /"God's doctrine of the decrees makes God the creator of sins."

/Let's **criticize** this claim. /God does not produce sin in his direct actions. /God is holy and righteous, and he hates and forbids sin. /Genesis 2:17 /Habakkuk 1:13.

/God does not in any way let his actions produce sin. /Job 34:10 /1 John 1:5. /Sin was produced as a result of creation's defiance of God's will by their free will. /Jude 1:6 /Genesis 2:17. /Therefore, the responsibility of sin lies entirely in creation.

/To conclude, let's look at **the reason why God allowed sin.** /God, who punishes sin, allowed sin in order that his justice would be revealed. /2 Samuel 12:10-12. /It was also in order that God's great love in saving sinners would be revealed. /John 3:16. /It was so that God would fulfill his good will through sin. /God also refines believers through sin. /Genesis 45:5.

**/C. We will gain benefits in our faith when we believe in the decrees of God.**

**/1. We must not complain or be disheartened in the midst of sufferings.** /Sufferings are a part of God's plans, and sufferings fulfill God's holy will. /Therefore, we must not complain or be dishearten, but must discover God's will and obey. /Romans 8:28.

**/2. We must not be arrogant in times of prosperity but give thanks to God.** /If we believe in God's decrees, we know that we believe in God's will, and we will give thanks to God and serve God all the more. /Deuteronomy 8:17, 18.

**/II. Predestination.** /God's predestination is God's determined plans regarding rational and moral creation. /Acts 4:28.

**/A. Objects of predestination.** /Both the good and evil, /individuals and groups are objects of predestination. /Acts 4:28 /Romans 8:29 /9:11-13 /Ephesians 1:4-6.

/The holy angels and the wicked angels are objects of predestination. /Mark 8:38 /Luke 9:26 /Jude 1:6. /God predestined that Jesus Christ be Savior of sinners. /Isaiah 42:1-4 /Luke 23:35.

**/B. Two parts of predestination. /1. Election.** /a. Election of a nation. /God chose Israel for special service and special privileges. /Deuteronomy 4:37 /7:6-7 /10:15.

/b. Election of office. /God chose priests to office and for special service. /Deuteronomy 18:5. /God chose kings. /1 Samuel 10:24 /Psalm 78:70. /God chose prophets. /Jeremiah 1:5.

/c. Election to be children of God. /God chose individuals to be his children who would be heirs of eternal glory in heaven. /Matthew 22:14 /Romans 11:5 /1 Corinthians 1:27 /Ephesians 1:4, 5. /This is election of individual salvation.

**/2. Reprobation.** /Reprobation is God's eternal damnation or abandonment of sinners. /God let some men receive punishment and destruction through their sins.

/This was so that God's justice would be revealed. /Some men receive God's wrath because of their sins. /However, God is in no way responsible. /Matthew 20:14, 15 /Romans 9:22, 23.

/The doctrine of election suggests that God did not plan to save all of mankind. /God chose to save just a portion of mankind, and planned not to save the rest.

/Thus, we can see that God chose not to save the rest. /Matthew 11:25, 26 /Romans 11:7, 8 /2 Peter 2:9 /Jude 1:4. /Some say that the doctrine of predestination makes God responsible for the unfairness.

/This is not unfairness. /All of mankind sinned and as a result, lost God's blessing. /Man does not have the right to demand an explanation from God about election and reprobation. /Even if God did not save a single human being, God would still be absolutely fair.

**/III. Creation. /A. Creation in general.** /The creation is the beginning of God's revelation, and it the foundation of revelation. /This is because God's revelation began

through creation. /Creation is the root of an ethical lifestyle and a religious lifestyle.

/It was revealed through creation that God is Creator and man is his creation. /It was revealed that man must obey God.

**/1. Concept of creation.** /God created the entire universe and all things created within it without existing data. /Genesis 1:1, 3. /Creation is the work of the Trinity God. /Genesis 1:1, 3 /Job 26:13 /Psalm 33:6 /Isaiah 40:12, 13 /John 1:3 /1 Corinthians 8:6.

/a. God created freely. /When God created the universe, he did not receive any external suppression or intervention. /God created all things according to his sovereign will and voluntary decision. /Ephesians 1:1 /Revelation 4:11. /God created the universe with his love for creation.

/b. God created for his glory. /The primary purpose of creation is for the glory God. /Genesis 1:4 /Verse 10 /Verse 18. /The first purpose of creation is that God created the universe for his glory. /The second purpose of creation is for the happiness of creation. /Genesis 1:28-30.

/c. The universe is not God. /The universe is not a part of God. /The universe is separate and distinguished from God. /Not only that, but the universe always depends on God. /God is omnipresent in the universe, and the universe is held together by the power of God. /Job 34:14, 15.

**/2. Time and period of creation.** /a. In the beginning God created. /The beginning refers to the beginning of matter and the beginning of time. /God created both time and space.

/b. God created for six days. /God created for six days, which shows God's omniscience and omnipotence.

**/3. Method of creation.** /a. God created with his word. /God created something out of nothing. /Genesis 1:1 /Psalm 33:9 /Hebrews 11:3. /God completely created the entire universe.

**/4. Ultimate purpose of creation.** /The purpose of creation was for the glory of God. /God's completeness, wisdom, power, and love are displayed in creation. /God allows creation to survive and maintain order.

/God increases creation's happiness. /Thus, creation gives thanks and glory to God. /Isaiah 43:7 /61:3 /Ezekiel 36:21 /Romans 11:36 /1 Corinthians 10:31 /Ephesians 1:5, 6 /Colossians 1:16.

**/5. False theories about the doctrine of creation.** /a. The dualistic theory. /This theory claims that God and all matter are both eternal, and God is not the creator, but a rescuer.

/Let's take the time to criticize this theory. /Two eternal and infinite beings will have no

choice but be in conflict with each other. /God and matter cannot be eternally coexist. /Matter is organized in a way that would fulfill a certain purpose, /and matter has clear components and arrangements. /Therefore, matter, which does not have reason, cannot have distinctly organized itself to exist.

/b. The emanation theory. /The material world has been inevitably emanated from a divine being. /Therefore, God and matter are essentially one. /The emanation theory has pantheistic characteristics.

/Let's criticize this theory. /Matter is limited and it changes, grows, and advances, and hence, it cannot be complete. /Matter that cannot be complete cannot be God.

/Man was placed in the seat of God, and responsibilities and moral qualities were taken away from man. /This theory claims that sin came from God, and puts the responsibility of sin on God.

/c. The evolution theory. /The theory of evolution is a theory that claims that living organisms gradually evolved from small variations in the beginning, which then the universe was formed as a result.

/Let's criticize this. /Evolutionists cannot reveal how the "small variations in the beginning," which the premise of the evolution theory is based on, came to exist. /The Bible says that God created all living things according to their various kinds. /Therefore, the idea that organisms evolved from one kind to another does not agree with the Bible. /Genesis 1:11.

/If the theory of evolution is correct, each step of evolution should in discovery in real life. /If organisms changed from one kind to another, there must be countless "intermediate stages." /Yet, there is no example of an intermediate stage of change in the real world.

/d. The theory of the theistic evolution. /God created the "small variations in the beginning," which is the basis of evolution. /These small variations gradually evolved to form the universe.

/Let's criticize this. /Their claims about creation do not agree with the Bible, /and it does not even agree with the claims of the theory of evolution. /This is not a biblical claim.

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