

THS201 Systematic Theology I  
Pacific Life Bible College  
Fall 2013  
Fridays 8:00-11:20am

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**College Mission Statement:**

At Pacific Life Bible College, our purpose is to equip Christian men and women "for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11). We assist your local church in fulfilling the Great Commission by helping develop the character, knowledge, and skills you need to reach your world for Jesus.

**Character Development**

Your character development is encouraged through courses that emphasize personal integrity, dynamic classroom and chapel experiences, an on-going mentoring program, and a community of supportive faculty, friends, and fellow students. We consider character qualities to be the main criteria for assessing leadership potential (1 Timothy 3).

**Academic Excellence**

On the foundation of godly character, we add knowledge: systematic instruction from God's Word, applied to a changing world. Leaders that make an eternal difference in their world have a thoroughly Christian worldview, understanding people and current events from the timeless perspective of Scripture.

**Ministry Experience**

While we strive to instill in you a sense of academic excellence, we don't end the process there. Hearers of the Word are to also be doers of the Word. We help you apply learning to practical service to others through connecting to local church leadership for guided hands-on practicums and internship programs. Our goal is to help you become a leader, firmly founded on sound doctrine and reaching out in the effective power of the Spirit.

**Course Description:**

This course is a study of the nature and authority of Scripture (Bibliology), and the nature of the person and works of God as revealed in the Scripture (Theology Proper).

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Embrace and articulate the importance of the task of doing theology well.
2. Use tested evangelical approaches and methods to do theology on their own.
3. Use tested evangelical approaches and methods to discern between competing theologies and truth claims.
4. Embrace and defend the primacy and functional centrality of the Scripture for all knowledge and practice.
5. Use the language and conventions of theology to have and express a growing and accurate description of the nature and character of God, which results in deeper worship and life change.
6. Live an increasingly intimate, productive walk with God that is the result of an integrated, thoughtful, purposeful Christian worldview.

## Course Textbooks:

### Required Textbooks

Holy Bible in a literal or dynamic equivalent translation (no paraphrase).  
Erickson, Millard, J., Introducing Christian Doctrine 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (ICD), Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2001.

Packer, J. I., Knowing God (KG), Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1993.

### Optional Textbooks – (Student will choose one of these five)

Piper, John, Think, Wheaton, Crossway, 2010.

Schaeffer, Francis A., The Great Evangelical Disaster, Wheaton, Crossway, 1984.

Sproul, R.C. The Holiness of God (Second Edition). Wheaton, Tyndale House, 1998.

Tozer, A. W., The Knowledge of the Holy, New York, Harper One, 1961.

Wells, David F., The Courage to be Protestant, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2008.

## Course Requirements:

1. **Class attendance**- The student is to be present, to be on time, and to actively participate in class discussion and activity. See the PLBC attendance policy below.
2. **Scripture Reading** – Students will read the assigned Scripture passages before the class in which they will be discussed. The student will get more out of the in-class activities if they have thought through the teaching of these passages ahead of time. The verses can be found in the “Lecture Notes” section of the Course pack.
3. **Textbook Reading, Quizzes and Discussions**- The student will read the ICD and KG textbook assigned readings according to the course schedule. The readings are to be completed before the class session. A brief quiz will be given and in-class discussion will take place each week on the assigned readings. A Study guide is included in the course pack and practice quizzes/reviews are posted online to help the student prepare for the quiz and discussion.
4. **Textbook Reading and Critical Review**- The student will choose one of the four optional textbooks, read it in its entirety, and write a 1000-2000 word critical review. The review must be typewritten and contain the following items:
  - 1) Describe the overall thesis/message of the book.
  - 2) Summarize each of the chapters and how each chapter contributes to the overall message.
  - 3) Describe what about the book impacted you the most and how it will impact your life and ministry.
  - 4) Describe the action steps you plan to take to implement and apply what you have learned and gained from reading this book.

**Due Friday Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am.**

5. **Theological Glossary**- In conjunction with their readings and class materials, the student will write a brief (1-3 sentence) definition/description of each of the terms listed on the assignment sheet. Definitions must be in the student’s own words and will be graded on how well they demonstrate understanding of the terms and integration into a Christian worldview.

**Due Friday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am.**

7. **Research Paper-** The student will write a 2000-2500 word research paper on one of the following questions:

- 1) Compare and contrast a Biblical/Christian epistemology with one or more alternate explanation of how we can have knowledge.
- 2) Why should we trust the Scripture in all matters of life and faith?
- 3) What difference does it make to a person's life that God is...(choose an attribute of God)?
- 4) How does our understanding of general and special revelation influence our view of evangelism/global missions and our practice(s) in ministry?
- 5) You may choose an alternate topic from the material covered in this course (pending instructor approval)

The student will follow the procedure modeled in class (Scripture – Synthesis – So what?) to research the topic – primarily from Scripture, but freely drawing from secondary theological resources. The student will not just give their opinion/conclusion, but will back up the conclusion with Scriptural and Theological justification. All sources will be documented with standard citation.

**Due Monday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 5pm.**

8. **Final Exam-** The student will write a 110 minute exam covering all of the course material.

**Friday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am.**

## Course Evaluation

Textbook Reading and in-class quizzes	20%
Textbook Reading and Critical Review	20%
Theological Glossary	20%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

# Course Calendar

Dates	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	Assignment Due
<b>Wk. 1</b> Sept. 13	Course Introduction	Theology Introduction	Theology Introduction	None
<b>Wk. 2</b> Sept. 20	Reading Quiz and Discussion	How to Do Theology	How to Do Theology	ICD chs. 1-2 KG preface ('73) ch. 1
<b>Wk. 3</b> Sept. 27	Reading Quiz and Discussion	Epistemology	Epistemology	ICD ch. 3 KG chs. 2-3
<b>Wk. 4</b> Oct. 4	Reading Quiz and Discussion	Theology from Above & Below	Theology & postmodernity	ICD chs. 4-5 KG ch. 4
<b>Wk. 5</b> Oct. 11	Reading Quiz and Discussion	Epistemology Summary	Theological Process	ICD ch. 6 KG ch. 11
<b>Wk. 6</b> Oct. 18	Reading Quiz and Discussion	General Revelation	Special Revelation	ICD ch. 7-8 KG ch. 7
<b>Wk. 7</b> Oct. 25	Reading Quiz and Discussion	Nature of the Bible	Inspiration	ICD chs. 9-10 KG chs. 8
<b>Wk. 8</b> Nov. 1	Reading Quiz and Discussion	Inerrancy & Authority	Illumination & Canonization	ICD ch. 11 KG chs. 9-10
<b>Wk. 9</b> Nov. 8	Reading Quiz and Discussion	God's Attributes: introduction	Trinity	ICD ch. 12 KG chs. 6, 12
<b>Wk. 10</b> Nov. 15	Reading Quiz and Discussion	God's Absolute Attributes	God's Relational Attributes	ICD ch. 13 KG ch. 13 <b>Textbook Critique Due</b>
<b>Wk. 11</b> Nov. 22	Reading Quiz and Discussion	God's Relational Attributes	God's Moral Attributes	ICD ch. 14 KG chs. 14-15
<b>Wk. 12</b> Nov. 29	<b>READING BREAK NO CLASS</b>			
<b>Wk. 13</b> Dec. 6	Reading Quiz and Discussion	God's Moral Attributes	God's Plan & Providence	ICD ch. 15 KG ch. 16
<b>Wk. 14</b> Dec. 13	Reading Quiz and Discussion	Creation	Problem of Evil	ICD ch. 16 KG ch. 17 <b>Glossary Due (Fri. 8:00 am)</b> <b>Research Paper Due (Mon. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 5pm)</b>
<b>Final Exam</b> Friday December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00-11:20 am				

# Bibliography

## General Theology

- Berkhof, Louis, Summary of Christian Doctrine, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1938.
- Bloesch, Donald G., Essentials of Evangelical Theology Vol. 1: God, Authority, & Salvation, San Francisco, Harper Collins, 1978.
- Boice, James Montgomery, The Sovereign God, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1978.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Foundations of the Christian Faith. Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1996.
- Calvin, John, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Peabody MA, Hendrickson, 2008 [1559].
- Elwell, Walter A. (ed.), Evangelical Dictionary of Theology. Grand Rapids, Baker, 1984.
- Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994.
- Horton, Michael, The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2011.
- McGrath, Alister E. Christian Theology An Introduction (Fourth Edition). Malden MA, Blackwell Publishing, 2007.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (ed.). The Christian Theology Reader (Second Edition). Malden MA, Blackwell Publishing, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Theology The Basics. Malden MA, Blackwell Publishing, 2004.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Understanding Doctrine. London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1990.
- Nash, Ronald H. Life's Ultimate Questions. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.

## Theological Method

- Huffman, Douglas S. and Eric L. Johnson (eds.), God Under Fire, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2002.
- Kaiser, Walter C. Jr., Toward an Exegetical Theology, Grand Rapids, Baker, 1981.
- Kapic, Kelly M. A Little Book for New Theologians – Why and How to Study Theology, Downers Grove IL, InterVarsity Press, 2012
- Lewis, Gordon L. & Demarest, Bruce A. Integrative Theology. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1996.
- Muller, Richard A., “The Study of Theology”, in Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation, Moises Silva (ed.), Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1991.
- Piper, John, and Justin Taylor eds., The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World, Wheaton, Crossway, 2007.
- Tozer, A.W., The Pursuit of God, Camp Hill PA, Christian Publications, 1982.
- Wells, David F., No Place for Truth – or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1993.
- Woodbridge, John D. and Thomas Edward McComiskey (eds.), Doing Theology in Today's World, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1991.
- Emergent Truth: The Postmodern View of Truth and Its Destructive Effects on Orthodox Christianity - <http://christiantheology.wordpress.com/2007/11/29/the-emergent-church-the-postmodern-view-of-truth-and-its-destructive-effects-on-orthodox-christianity/>

## The Christian Mind

- Alexander, John F. The Secular Squeeze – Reclaiming Christian Depth in a Shallow World, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1993.
- Blamires, Harry, The Christian Mind, Ann Arbor, Servant Books, 1963.
- Boice, James Montgomery, Mind Renewal in a Mindless Age, Grand Rapids, Baker, 1993.
- Guinness, Os, Time for Truth, Grand Rapids, Baker, 2000.
- McGrath, Alister, A Passion for Truth, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1996.
- Moreland, J.P., Love Your God With All Your Mind, Colorado Springs, NavPress, 1997.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Kingdom Triangle: Recover the Christian Mind, Renovate the Soul, Restore the Spirit's Power, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2007.
- Sire, James W., Discipleship of the Mind, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1990.
- Stott, John R. W., Your Mind Matters, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1972.

## Bibliology

- Carson, D. A., Collected Writings on Scripture, Wheaton, Crossway, 2010.
- Carson, D. A. & Woodbridge, John D. (eds.) Scripture and Truth. Grand Rapids, Baker, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Hermeneutics, Authority and Canon, Grand Rapids, Baker, 1995.
- Frame, John M., The Doctrine of the Word of God, Phillipsburg NJ, P&R, 2010.
- Geisler, Norman L., (ed.), Inerrancy, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1980.
- Grudem, Wayne, "Scripture's Self-Attestation and the Problem of Formulating a Doctrine of Scripture" in Scripture and Truth, Grand Rapids, Baker, 1992.
- Henry, Carl F.H. God, Revelation and Authority. Waco, Word Books, 1976.
- Hunt, Arthur W. III, The Vanishing Word: The Veneration of Visual Imagery in the Postmodern World, Wheaton, Crossway, 2003.
- Packer, J.I. God Has Spoken, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1979.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Truth & Power – The Place of Scripture in the Christian Life, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1996.

## Theology Proper

- Bray, Gerald, The Doctrine of God, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1993.
- Charnock, Stephen, The Existence and Attributes of God, Grand Rapids, Kregel, 1958 [1682].
- Johnson, Darrell W., Experiencing the Trinity, Vancouver BC, Regent College, 2002.
- Phillips, J.B., Your God is Too Small, New York, Collier, 1961.
- Piper, John, The Pleasures of God, Sisters OR, Multnomah, 1991.
- Pratney, W.A., The Nature and Character of God, Minneapolis, Bethany House, 1988.
- Spittler, Russell P., God the Father, Springfield, MO, Gospel Publishing House, 1976.
- Sproul, R.C., One Holy Passion, The Attributes of God. Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1987.
- Trevethan, Thomas L., The Beauty of God's Holiness, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1995.
- Watson, Thomas, A Body of Divinity, Carlisle PA, Banner of Truth, 1986 [1692].

## Plan, Creation, Providence

- Carson, D.A., Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility, Grand Rapids, Baker, 1981.
- Edwards, Jonathan, "The End for Which God Created the World" in John Piper (ed) God's Passion for His Glory, Wheaton, Crossway, 1998.
- Flavel, John, The Mystery of Providence, Carlisle PA, Banner of Truth, 1995 [1678].
- Helm, Paul, The Providence of God, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1994.
- Packer, J.I., Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1961.
- Piper, John, God is the Gospel, Wheaton, Crossway, 2005.

## Problem of Evil

- Blocher, Henri, Evil and the Cross, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1990.
- Carson, D.A., How Long, O Lord? – Reflections on Suffering and Evil, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1990.
- Piper, John, and Justin Taylor eds., Suffering and the Sovereignty of God, Wheaton, Crossway, 2006.
- Plantinga, God, Freedom, and Evil, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1974.
- Stackhouse, John G. Jr., Can God Be Trusted? – Faith and the Challenge of Evil, Oxford, University Press, 1998.

## Good Theological Web Sites

- <http://thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <http://www.truthforlife.org/>
- <http://www.whitehorseinn.org/>
- <http://t4g.org/>
- <http://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <http://www.9marks.org/>
- <http://pitibayan.wordpress.com/2006/10/17/d-a-carson-audio-sermonslectures/>
- <http://teampyro.blogspot.com/>
- <http://psalm305.blogspot.com/2007/03/bruce-ware-mp3-sermons.html>
- <http://www.theresurgence.com/>
- <http://cominsense.wordpress.com/>

## **PLBC Academic Freedom Statement**

PLBC Faculty and students are granted academic freedom within the context of submission to God's revealed truth. The Scripture is the final and primary functional authority on all questions of truth, value and practice. Instructors should model a passionate pursuit of truth wherever it leads, fairly present all major sides of controversial issues, demonstrate academic integrity in evaluating diverse truth claims, extend gracious, loving respect toward those who disagree, and exemplify courageous faithfulness in holding to those truths that are Biblically justified. Instructors need to demonstrate unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials and charity in all things. Students should follow and embrace the Biblical ideal of passion for truth in a context of intellectual freedom under humble submission to God and love for one another.

## **PLBC Absence Policy:**

Students are expected to be present, prepared and on time for all classes. Instructors will mark attendance for each class. Unexcused absences and tardiness may result in lowering the final grade. Total absences in excess of 25% of classes may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the class with a fail. Students are expected to schedule all other appointments after class hours. If at any time during the semester, you are absent or late for a class, you are required to check with the instructor before the next class period to see what assignments and/or tests you may have missed, as you are responsible for all assignments.

## **Course Extension Policy**

Instructors are able to grant students an informal extension of one week after the PLBC assignment deadline date. If more time is required, the student must apply and pay for the formal extension (maximum extension of one month from the school assignment deadline date at the end of the term). The formal request for an extension must be made before the end of the semester. Valid reasons for extensions consist of issues such as a death in the family, a family emergency, personal health issues, or a documented learning disability. The instructor has the right to deny any extension request. The request will most likely be denied if the student has demonstrated a lack of diligence and discipline throughout the term. When an extension is approved the final course grade will be set to "I" (Incomplete) and after the one month extension has expired, a grade is assigned to the student based on the course work received to date. A fee of \$15 per credit hour is charged for course extensions.

## Class Policies

In order to be fair to all students, to organize my workweek, and to be prompt with marking, the following policies will be adhered to. It is also an important aspect of preparation for life after PLBC that students should learn to plan and use their time effectively so as to meet deadlines, and learn also to work within the parameters set for assignments.

- All assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the date they are due. If class will be missed because of illness, assignments may be submitted via e-mail *before* scheduled class time. Any assignment not submitted at the requested time will be considered late.
- Late work will receive a deduction of 10% per day late (excluding weekends) up to 50% deduction. You may submit a late assignment either in class, via e-mail, via Populi or via the PLBC office.
- Extensions for late work may be given for a short period when circumstances arise which in my view could not reasonably have been foreseen and which are sufficiently serious to warrant an exception to the rule.
- All work must be neat and legible. All work must be typewritten (excluding quizzes and exams).
- All assignments must be your own work. Work sharing and plagiarism are not acceptable.
- Because of the limited number of tools in the library, I ask that you be considerate of others and not monopolize the resources. I would also ask that dorm students give priority to off campus students or those with more limited schedules.
- Because of the uneven quality of the information, Wikipedia and other similar information sharing resources are not acceptable reference for this class. Students should learn to find and use the best quality resources, not the most convenient.
- I expect all students to think critically and be willing to disagree with the texts, teacher, or each other when warranted. I am confident that all of you will do so in a diligent, zealous, yet humble and gracious manner, which is fitting for Bible College students and ministers.

## Helpful Information

- Your best resource for this course is the people around you. The instructor is willing and available to help you as much as my very busy schedule will allow. However, your peers are also an invaluable source of insight. And you will be wise to share with other students outside of class and help each other explore and develop, meditate upon and apply the concepts of this course.
- I cannot read minds. If you don't understand something or are struggling, I want to help. But in many cases I won't become aware of the problem until it is too late. Please feel free to take the initiative and approach me with questions or problems and I will do my best to help.
- Course Stuff will be posted on Populi under the course information page. Also, if you go to my profile (search on 'Brad Copp') and go to "Bulletin Board" and click "Follow Brad", then any updates I post for this class will automatically be posted to your home page on Populi. Please check back often because the class section will be regularly updated.
- In addition, I will put course material including study guides, reviews, and practice quizzes on my website. Go to my homepage and follow the appropriate link. The address is [www.bradcopp.com](http://www.bradcopp.com). Please check back often as the website will be updated on a regular basis.
- Please realize that, at best, this course can only be an introduction to these theological topics. It is hoped that this course will give you a foundation upon which to launch a lifetime of study, devotion, living, teaching and preaching these truths. Be encouraged (even commanded – see Matt. 22:37, 2 Tim. 2:15, etc.) to continue in your theological pursuit even after the course.
- Finally, do not lose God in the process of education. Take advantage of the College Student Ministry and Discipleship. Take time to interact with Jesus about every part of your life. Specifically, invite the Lord to teach and lead you in the course material. These books were written out of lives of prayer, worship, devotion and wisdom's wrestling with life and the Mighty Acts of God. It would be a tragedy and violation of the books if you treated this course as only an intellectual exercise. I also hope that you learn to rely on Him for the strength to learn and grow and fulfill all of the expectations placed on you at PLBC. "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God." Phillips Brooks.

## Course Presuppositions:

The motivation for teaching a course on theology is rooted in our presuppositions and the implications of those presuppositions regarding the nature and function of God's Holy Word, the Bible. These introductory words will serve to articulate our core values concerning the Scripture and provide a framework for the task being learned and practiced.

Our presuppositions regarding the Scriptures cover the nature of the Bible, core values regarding the interpretation of the Bible, and the implication of the above for the church. In terms of the nature of Scripture we affirm the following:

- We affirm that “the Bible is a supernatural book, God’s written revelation to his people given through prepared and selected spokespersons by the process of inspiration.”<sup>1</sup>
- We affirm that the Bible is God’s infallible, inerrant Word and is authoritatively true and is effectual in accomplishing its purpose.
- We affirm that “the Bible manifests unparalleled spiritual worth and a capacity to change lives. The Bible has the unique power to affect the reader spiritually.”<sup>2</sup>
- We affirm that the Bible is characterized by both unity and diversity. It is diverse in that it represents a variety of human authors, different languages, different cultures, and a variety of literary genre that comes to us over a vast span of time. It is unified in that the Bible possesses an inherent unity because ultimately it has one divine author.<sup>3</sup>
- We affirm “that the Bible is understandable; it is an accessible book. It presents a clear message to anyone willing to read it, and that is why people throughout history have understood its teachings.”<sup>4</sup>
- As spiritual descendants of the Great Reformation “we accept the 66 books of the canon as the entirety of God’s scriptural record to his people.”<sup>5</sup>

In terms of interpreting the Scripture we affirm the following:

- We affirm that truth and meaning are to be found in the text. We deny that truth and meaning are dependent upon the reader or the interpreter. Meaning is not to be imposed on the text, rather, the reader or interpreter will gain understanding by submitting to the authority of the Bible, applying sound interpretive technique, and heeding the presence of the Holy Spirit who brings understanding through illumination.

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<sup>1</sup> Klein, Dr. William W. and Blomberg, Dr. Craig L. and Hubbard, Jr., Dr. Robert L. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Dallas, London, Vancouver, Melbourne: Word Publishing, 1993. (88)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid (91)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid (91-92)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid (92)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid (92)

- We affirm that a text contains only one meaning, however, in some cases there may be many appropriate applications of a text to life.
- We affirm that proper interpretation must take into account issues of continuity and discontinuity in the relationship between the Testaments. This means that we recognize a promise/fulfilment motif with Jesus Christ being the ultimate fulfilment of God's redemptive plan.

These affirmations regarding the Scripture and its interpretation form the basis on which to place the techniques which will be learned in this course of study. It is of utmost importance that exegetical procedures be performed with these core values in mind.

It is not enough, however, to merely learn responsible hermeneutical procedures without thinking of applying truth to the lives of God's people. In light of this we affirm the following in regards to God's church:

- We affirm that the church is in constant need of reformation.
- We affirm that sound theology based on biblical exegesis is one of the primary means God uses to bring reformation about.
- We affirm that the ideal for the Christian is a synthesis of intellectual excellence and a relational, passionate faith. Whenever reformation has occurred, the Church has been able to achieve something of this synthesis. This synthesis is accomplished through bringing all of life under the authority of God's Word, which is the goal of exegesis.
- We affirm that the health of the church depends on its use of the Scriptures. The authority of the Scriptures must be believed and practiced in every aspect of the life of the church. The mission of the church as salt and light is gauged in part by its' use and treatment of the Scriptures.

The presuppositions articulated in this prologue provide you, the student, with a frame of reference that reveals our positions on important matters regarding the nature and function of the Word of God. We have not attempted to defend our positions in this prologue. We have merely put them forward and we are committed to conducting ourselves in such a way that we will be faithful to these core values.