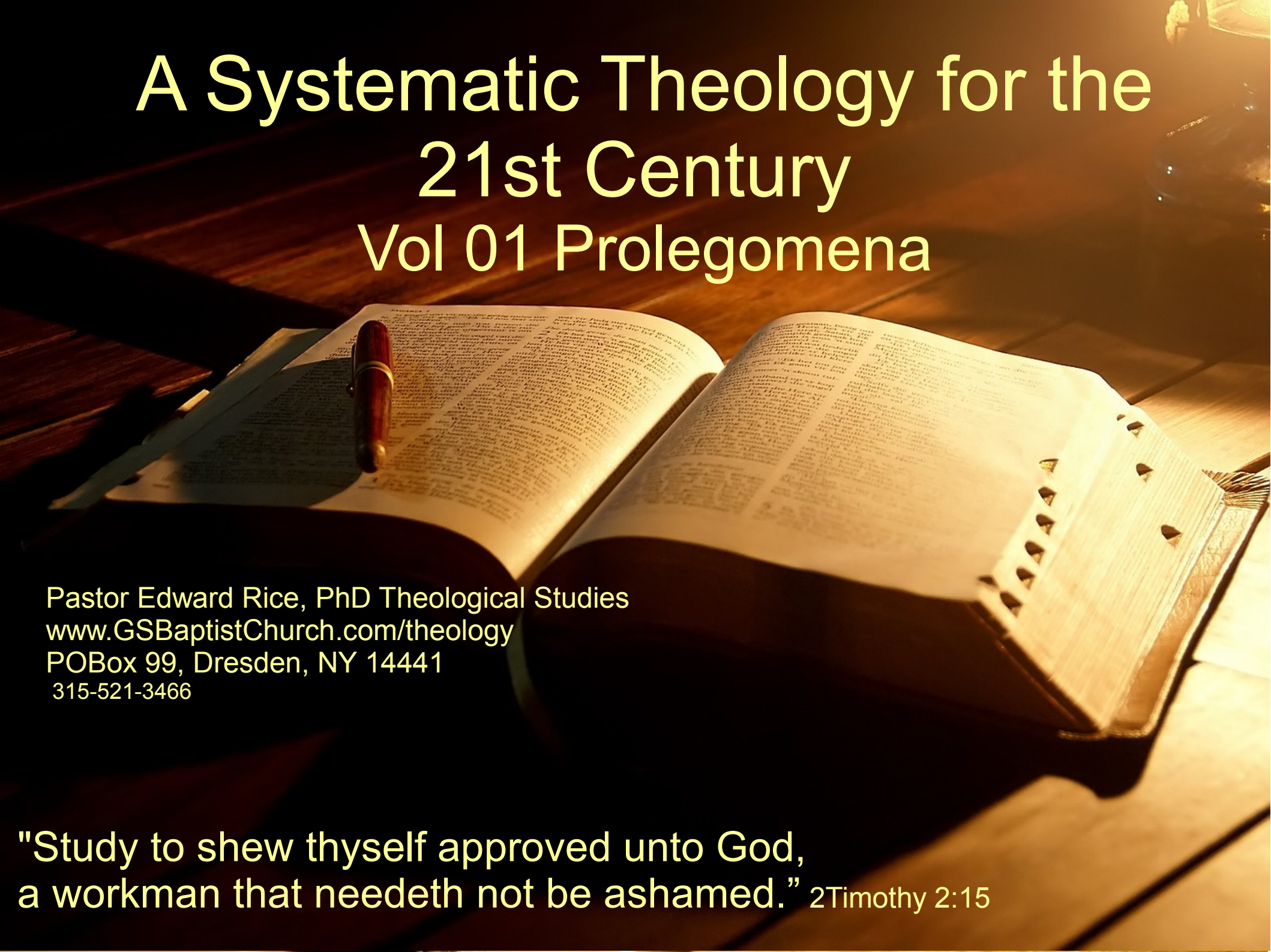


A Systematic Theology for the 21st Century Vol 01 Prolegomena

An open book with a pen resting on it, set against a warm, golden background. The book is open to a page with dense text, and the pen is a dark, possibly wooden or leather, with a silver band. The background is a soft, warm glow, suggesting a lamp or a window with light filtering through. The overall mood is one of quiet study and intellectual pursuit.

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"Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not be ashamed." 2Timothy 2:15

A Systematic Theology for the 21st Century Vol 01 Prolegomena
Presentation for the
Evangelical Theological Society - Northeast Region
Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 28, 2020

Pastor Edward Rice, PhD Theological Studies



Introduction

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.


*Man that is in honour, and understandeth not,
is like the beasts that perish.* Psalm 49:20

There is no Systematic Theology work that has the inerrant, infallible, verbally inspired word of God as its sole authority.

There ought to be. There is a cause.

Baptists, by definition, have the inerrant, infallible, inspired Holy Bible as their sole authority for all faith and practice.

They should have a systematic theology book that does as well.

A portrait of Dr. Edward Rice, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The background of the portrait is a blurred outdoor setting.

Dr. Edward Rice, Pastor, Good Samaritan Baptist Church,
54 Main St., Dresden NY 14441 (315) 521-3466

As a systems engineer for thirty years (since 1972), I focused on systems analysis.

Systematic theology has intrigued me ever since my first Bible institute course in 1975.

In 2013 seminary work at Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary assigned me to read and analyze six volumes of “Systematic Theology” by Lewis Sperry Chafer.

Initial critique of Chafer's neo-evangelical, voluminous, wordy, often unorganized work, answered the question, “Is there not a cause?” A Systematic Theology for the 21st Century is indeed a valid need. It cries out to be written and it is a work that I must needs endeavor.

Immediately there are four principle flaws that need to be overhauled in previous works.

Previous systematic theologies spend effort systematizing creeds, Roman dogma, philosophies, and “everything that man ever believed about God,” rather than the systematization of Bible revelation.

Current “Systematic Theologies” follow the deceived definition of Dr. Chafer who states that a systematic theology is an unabridged organized rendition of **everything ever believed about God**.

Where is the sole-authority of the Bible in that?

Secondly, previous systematic theologies spend effort defending philosophies of man and rationality of man rather than systematizing Bible revelation.

All the previous listed theologians spend undo time and effort wrestling with the ontological and teleological proof that there is a God.

The Bible spends no effort in such vain philosophies of man.

i

Thirdly all systematic theologies treated theology as a science.

They tried to exalt it by calling it the “Queen of the Sciences”, but they still tried to discover truth by

1) hypothesizing what it might be,

2) exploring their hypothesis until it might be a theory about how God operates and thinks, and then

3) supposing that, when their theory is believed by enough “scholars”, it was a discerned truth.

That is how the scientific method discovers laws of natural science. That is the scientific method. It does not work on God who is Super-natural.

Theology is not a science nor dare one use the scientific method to find the Truth of God.

Once again, A Biblical Systematic Theology, with the Bible as its sole authority, was direly needed.

Lastly Thiessen and Chafer, by their own insistence, have no access to a verbally inspired, inerrant, infallible Holy Bible.

They insist that nowhere in the world does such a Bible exist.

Both base their systematic theologies on what textual critics, modern translators, and modern scholars thought God meant to say. They put it in their copyright versions of the bible.

A true theologian must base all theology on an inerrant, infallible, verbally inspired Holy Bible; it is our sole authority.



Four Flaws In Previous Systematic Theologies

- 1) They systematized Roman Dogma and Westminster Confessions and Not Holy Bible, i.e. the complete REVELATION of the LORD God.
- 2) Previous systematic theologies spend effort defending philosophies of man and rationality of man rather than systematizing Bible revelation, i.e. ontological and teleological proofs of God, and the dichotomy of man.
- 3) They treat theology as the “Queen of Sciences” with natural theories and proven natural laws, rather than the “Thus Saith The LORD” of true theology. i.e. God's thoughts & ways are not man's thoughts and ways.
- 4) We have a verbally inspired Holy Bible! They do not!
They have NO INSPIRED BIBLE EXTANT. None! Nowhere to be found!
Even young Timothy, they suppose, didn't have one when The Apostle Paul said, “ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD.”
They suppose, “We only have what Bible critics think God meant to say!... and that is copyrighted!”

Volume 01 Prolegomena Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Four Flaws in Previous Works 2

Why Baptists Use Only the Authorized King James Bible 4

The Issue of the Copyrights. 5

The Four Superiorities of the Authorized Version: 6

Copyright Bibles Must Be “SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT” 7

The Thees and Thous of an Accurate Bible Translation 9

Prolegomena 10

Theology is for Everyone 13

Why Systematic? 15

Theology Is Not a Science 16

Theology Has Not Been Systematic 20

Consider the System In Systematic 24

Systematic Is Accomplished With Actual Systems 25

Systematically Based On a Solid Bible Doctrine 33

The New Improved Systematic Methodology 38

Why True-To-Scripture Baptists Use Only the Authorized King James Bible - The ONLY Complete English Bible

All modernists ecumenical Bibles completely leave out 20 verses that have always been in the Holy Bible. They say that Matt 17:21 is not supposed to be in the Bible. They take their pen knife and cut it out! Then they take their knife and cut out Matt 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44 & 46, 11:26, 15:28, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Rom 16:24, and 1 John 5:7, then they take Col 1:14 and cut out the clause "Through His Blood" because they think God did not mean to say that. For over nineteen hundred years believers have considered these 20 verses to be inspired, inerrant, infallible Scripture.

Modernist ecumenical scholars contend that no Bible in existence today is inspired.

Baptists will never agree with such folly. We use the ONLY complete English Bible with these verses still intact, the Authorized King James Bible.



Why True-To-Scripture Baptists Use Only the Authorized King James Bible - The ONLY Complete English Bible

If you use a modernist bible you should know that it has SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS from the HOLY BIBLE.

In order to secure a copyright on a new bible translation it must be demonstrated legally that there are SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS from any previous work, 64,000 of them! The race to get copyrights on so many SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS has been so intense that now the NIV is proposing a (per)version that changes God the Father to Mother God, just to secure another lucrative copyright on what used to be GOD'S uncopyrighted WORDS.

Shame on Ecumenical Modernists.

They cannot just say the same thing in a different way, they must have a “significantly different” presentation of material. Ergo (John 18:38).

Case in point, after Pilate's question, “What is truth?”, his next declaration, exactly translated from the Greek, was “I find in him no fault at all.” But copyright requires that quote to change.

Perhaps he said, “I cannot find anything wrong about him.”, as copyright by James A.R. Moffatt D.D., D.LITT., in his 1950 The Bible – A New Translation. But Dr. Moffatt was also thinking that Pilate asked “What does truth mean?”, instead of “What is truth?”

Or was it “I find no guilt in him”, as copyright by The Lockman Foundation, California in their 1960 NASB (NASB is a registered trademark of the same, standing for the New American Standard Version).

Or was it, “For my part, I find no case against him”, as copyright by the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press in their 1961 NEB (NEB is a registered trademark of the same, standing for the New English Bible).

Or was it “I find no crime in him”, as copyright by the World Publishing Company in their 1962 RSV (RSV is a registered trademark of the same, standing for Revised Standard Version).

Or was it “I cannot find any reason to condemn him”, as copyright by the American Bible Society in their 1966 Good News Bible- Today's English Version.

Or was it “Speaking for myself, I find no case against this man”, as copyright by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in Washington D.C. in their 1970 NAB (NAB is a registered trademark of the same, standing for New American Bible).

Or was it “I find no basis for a charge against him”, as copyright by the New York Bible Society International in their 1973 NIV (NIV is a registered trademark of the same, standing for New International Version).

Or was it “I don't find this man guilty of anything!”, as copyright by the American Bible Society in their 1995 CEV (CEV is a registered trademark of the same, standing for Contemporary English Version).

Or was it “I find no guilt in him”, as copyright by Crossway in their 2001 ESV (ESV is a registered trademark of the same, standing for English Standard Version).

Many will read all these copyright renditions and repeat Hillary Rodham Clinton's line “What possible difference could it make anyhow!” They might continue, “Pilate found nothing wrong with the dude!”

Two important observations on these multiple renditions. First, words are important. Many of the words added by these translators are not represented at all in the Greek New Testament.

Further, the word used in the Greek, and consequently in the Authorized King James Bible, is exactly the word used to describe the Old Testament Passover lamb and/or sin sacrifice which was to be without fault or blemish. But that exact word is carefully avoided by all modern versions.

Why True-To-Scripture Baptists Use Only the Authorized King James Bible

The Four Superiorities of the Authorized Version:

The Superior Texts are manifest in the 20 verses mentioned previously which are ripped out of a modernist's Greek text.

The Superior Translators are manifest in Mark 1:2 where the Bible says "As it is written in the prophets" but ecumenical modernist translators, changed it to "As it is written in Isaiah the prophet."

The Superior Technique shows when with formal equivalence Jesus calls sin: "Whosoever is angry with his brother **without a cause.**" Ecumenical modernists translators change his words!

The Superior Theology "God, who created all things by Jesus Christ", ecumenical modernist translators rip out the "by Jesus Christ."

Why True-To-Scripture Baptists Use Only the Authorized King James Bible

The Thees and Thous of an Accurate Bible Translation

Ecumenical modernists have argued that the 'thee's and 'thou's ought to be removed from the Bible because they have no place in 'modern' English, but I (not me) don't think it is right for me (not I) to take away accuracy and change these insightful second person singular pronouns which carefully indicate the objective, nominative, and possessive parts of speech in accurately detailed written literature. Dost thou? Dost (second person singular present tense of do), thou (second person singular nominative personal pronoun)?

If you can learn where to use the first person singular pronouns I, me, my and mine, and their plural counterparts, we, us, our and ours, like most of us (not we) did in kindergarten, don't be hasty to give up on the important speech indicators of thou, thee, thine and thy as used in an accurately translated Holy Bible.

These second person singular pronouns were not translated into the King James Authorized English Bible because English people spoke like that back then. Actually people began to speak like that back then because the Bible taught them how to read.

Why True-To-Scripture Baptists Use Only the Authorized King James Bible

The Four Superiorities of the Authorized Version:

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Why Systematic Theology Needs To Be Systematic

Four Sources of TRUTH

Pilot asked Jesus "What is Truth?" In my statistics class I taught that truth is discovered by four primary means, only one has proven reliable.

- 1) Philosophy says "I think therefore I am." In their field one thinks, reasons, deduces and believes, expecting he has therein discovered truth.
- 2) In the turn of the last century scientists formalized the scientific method, and used it in founding natural laws operating in our universe.
- 3) Statistics had an ugly beginning. It had trouble overcoming its nemesis, "Figures don't lie, but liars figure." The surveys and studies, the analysis and presentation of averages and standard deviations, could surely lead to truth.
- 4) The "Thus saith the LORD" method.

Why Systematic Theology Needs To Be Systematic

Sources of TRUTH Philosophy

For philosophy rationally comprehending something makes it a personal truth. One need only mention Christian Science founder Mary Baker Glover Eddy's idea that this world is "only in the mind" to alert the dangers of philosophy.

Theologians want to use profound philosophies as a source of wisdom. They will reference Socrates (469-399 BC), Plato (428-348 BC), Aristotle (384-322 BC), even Mani (216-274 AD). Philosophy is the pursuit of wisdom by purely intellectual means.

Although philosophy will not achieve a theology, one's theology should not be void of logical reasoning. God's philosopher Job, spends forty two chapters philosophizing about man being justified before a Holy God. God's philosopher, Solomon, spends twelve chapters philosophizing about the vanity of man. Both are clearly philosophy books. Both are frustrated in finding truth, until God steps in.

Why Systematic Theology Needs To Be Systematic

Sources of TRUTH Statistics

Statistics had an ugly beginning. It had trouble overcoming its nemesis, "Figures don't lie, but liars figure."

The surveys and studies, the analysis and presentation of averages and standard deviations, could surely lead to truth. But consider how statisticians and politicians readily misleads people into some grandiose untruths.

In statistics a majority believing something is supposed to derive the truth. If the survey says, "All men are liars," how much should one trust the survey of all men.

Statistical analysis might have a place in categorizing the contributions and side effects of certain drugs, but statistical analysis is never reliable in determining absolute truth.

Why Systematic Theology Needs To Be Systematic

Sources of TRUTH Science

Theology is long considered a science, like Biology, Archaeology, Astronomy and Physics, and oftentimes it is called “the Queen of the Sciences.”

But theology is not a science at all, and dare not follow a scientific method.

The scientific method is based on hypothesizing about observations and then extensively testing the hypothesis. This scientific method, actually formalized on Charles Hodge's 50th birthday, involves five steps: 1) Formulation of the question about an observed phenomena, 2) Formulating a hypothesis which conjectures its answer, 3) Predicting the logical consequences of the hypothesis, 4) Testing to see if the real world behaves as predicted by the hypothesis and, finally, 5) Analyzing the results of the real world experiment in order to refine the hypothesis. Now after a hypothesis has been extensively tested and widely and generally accepted, with no evidence to dispute it, it may be generalized and summarized into a theory. After a theory has been extensively tested and widely and generally accepted, with no evidence to dispute it, and no exceptions to be found, it may be generalized and summarized as a law. Does this seem like a sound way to determine theology? I trow not.

Why Systematic Theology Needs To Be Systematic

Sources of TRUTH Science

Charles Hodge (1797-1878), from Princeton Theological Seminary, may be considered the Father of the Published Systematic Theologies. He was very genius, a very gifted communicator, and very Presbyterian. Such a Father of the Published Systematic Theologies made this glaring error, Charles Hodge considered theology a science which must follow a scientific method, just like the other sciences.

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), German mathematician, astronomer and astrologer, used this very method for constituting the laws of planetary motion, but what we know about God, in our theology, has absolutely nothing to do with observing, questioning, hypothesizing, theorizing and constituting natural laws.

Charles Hodge erred when he attempted to fit the scientific method into his theology development, and that glaring error has found root in systematic theologies right up to Geisler's 2002 extensive publication.

Why Systematic Theology Needs To Be Systematic

The Sole Source of TRUTH “Thus Saith The LORD”

The Father of Systematic Theologies, Charles Hodge, supposed that theology was a science and theorized that the scientific method, used to explore the natural sciences, would work just fine on the Supernatural. It did not.

Chafer's desire that his theology would be an unabridged thorough exploration of “everything ever believed about God” has tarnished the field with two other dangerous methods. The proof of God and the Truth of God cannot be found in a quote of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle or Mani. Philosophy rattles around in the brain of man trying to discover Truth and forgets that God's ways are not man's ways, nor God's thoughts, man's thoughts (Isa 55:8-9).

Only the revelation of God leads to the Truth of God.

Why Systematic Theology Needs To Be Systematic

The Sole Source of TRUTH “Thus Saith The LORD”

This premise, this systematic methodology based solely on God's Word, is the basis for the development, documentation, and publication of this Systematic Theology for the 21st Century.

It will unite Biblical Theology and Practical Theology with a true Systematic Theology. It is a different approach than has ere been documented for theology. It hails from the halls of the systems engineer and systems analyst. It is holistic.

It is prudent that it be the premise for every theology. It is presented here as a tool, that the student of God might:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker. 2Timothy 2:15-17

God bless you as you make your theology systematic.

A Systematic Theology for the 21st Century by Edward Rice

Available at www.GSBaptistChurch.com/theology

Volume 01 Prolegomena

Volume 02 Bibliology (The Doctrine of the Bible)

Volume 03 Theology (The Doctrine of God)

Volume 04 Christology (The Doctrine of Christ)

Volume 05 Pneumatology (The Doctrine of Holy Spirit)

Volume 06 Anthropology (The Doctrine of Man)

Volume 07 Hamartiology (The Doctrine of Sin)

Volume 08 Soteriology (The Doctrine of Salvation)

Volume 09 Ecclesiology (The Doctrine of the Church)

Volume 10 Angelology (The Doctrine of Angels)

Volume 11 Eschatology (The Doctrine of Last Things)

Volume 12 Epilogue over 500 pages of Systematic Theology

Hamartiology (from Greek: ἁμαρτία, hamartia, "missing the mark, error" and -λογία, -logia, "study"), a branch of Christian theology, studies sin.

UPCOMING COURSE WORK

This is the heart of this GSCB Bible Study Group You are in the Beta Release of this work. All Theology Volumes are in draft and will be published on line or sent to you by CD/email in a pdf format.

Contact Pastor Rice to enroll
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A Systematic Theology for the 21st Century Part 02 Bibliology

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“The words of the LORD are pure words:
as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified
seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O
LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this
generation for ever.” Psalm 12:6-7