



THE DIVINE DRAMA

Presented by Paul Dunk, KW REDEEMER CHURCH, March 2019

An overview of systematic theology

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever should believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

GRK - οὕτως - "in this manner."

"The church has a mission: to see to the speaking of the gospel, whether to the world as a message of salvation or to God as appeal and praise. Theology is the internal reflection of the church to it's labour on this assignment."

- Robert Jenson, *Systematic Theology, Volume 1: The Triune God*, p.11

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:1-2

"To put great emphasis on those things that the Scripture puts very little emphasis on and give very little emphasis to the things that Scripture puts great emphasis on, is a very dangerous thing."

- Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections* p.438

*"The great North American spirituality is that it is all about us; fulfilling our potential, getting blessings from God, expanding our influence, finding our gifts, getting a handle on principles by which we can get an edge on the competition. And the more there is of us, the less there is of God." - Eugene Peterson, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, p.335*

Theology draws together, and then operates within, the interrelated focus throughout the Scripture:
DRAMA | DOCTRINE | DOXOLOGY | DISCIPLESHIP |

WE GET THE DIVINE DRAMA, OUR DOCTRINE FROM THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE ..

The bible is clear that it has DUAL AUTHORSHIP: Divinely inspired human writings.

Human writings ...

Exodus 4,7 - God calls Moses to be a prophet and states that Moses will carry divine authority

Jeremiah 1- clearly defines the prophet - names his father as an ancient "footnote"

Luke 1:1-4 - Luke is clearly writing an orderly account to Theopolis on the life of Christ. He did orderly research.

II Peter 1:12 - "I intend to remind you..." This is a reflective process of human intention the bible does not hide.

... and yet Divinely Inspired ...

II Timothy 3:16 Affirms the dual authorship of scripture by describing them as God breathed.

Psalm 12:6 - describes the words of the Lord as flawless

Psalm 118:89 - asserts that the Word is eternal, it stands firm

Matthew 5:18 - Jesus said that not one word will pass away until all is fulfilled

II Peter 1:20-21 - asserts that all prophecy of Scripture came by the Spirit

The Word of God is inerrant and infallible

Where did the bible come from? Who wrote it?

- **Conservative scholarship:** *OT:1450 BC | NT: 65AD – 1500-1600 years to complete*
 - o All agree that by the end of the first century the writing of the bible was completed.
 - o 1500 years by 40 authors.

The determining principle of the OT canon:

The determining principle of the NT canon:

What difference does all this make how we read the bible? It's not an anthology.

The Bible is an Epic: revolving around 1 Hero, Christ the Messiah

- There is a consistency of symbol
- There is a consistency of doctrine
- It all points to Jesus Christ

You cannot have 40 different authors writing centuries apart and expect any consistency - unless it is divinely inspired.

THE 3 DIVISIONS OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Creation and the Fall

Christ and the Church

Salvation and Eschatology

Genesis 1 - "The Song of Creation"

1st Trinity in Creation (Days 1-3) – verb: to divide / separate

- The first three days overcome formless. To overcome formlessness, God brings distinction.

2nd Trinity in Creation (Days 4-6) – verb: to fill

- The last three days overcome void. To overcome the void, God fills.

There is a notable order, form and process: division then filling.

Life comes forth on the 3rd day.

V11-12 – the earth brings forth organic life on the 3rd Day. The Song of Songs confirms this in emblematic parallelism to Christ being represented by the fruit trees themselves.

Verse 26 Man – Created in His Image – the capstone of Creation

Genesis 2 - God Finishes His Work

The Breath of Life

The Two Trees (Genesis 2:9)

Tending and Keeping the Command of God

V15 – The "it" does not refer to the garden. The "garden" is HEB masculine and the "it" is feminine. Therefore the text is not inferring that Adam is to keep "the garden", but keep and serve the commandment. *(Dr. Warren Gage, prof of OT, Knox)*

Here is how imputation works:

None of us were in the garden, therefore their sin was imputed to us

None of us were on the cross, therefore our sin is imputed to Christ

Romans 5:18-19 reveals how by trusting in Christ's sacrifice, our sin is covered by His grace:

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Alienation in the Fall

Genesis 3:9-15 = God's Gracious Response to Sin:

"Where are you? What did you do? I'm Coming to save you."

Redemption on display in Genesis 3:15: The devil used a woman to bring death to the man, and redemptively God will use a woman again to bring life to mankind.

The First Sacrifice anticipates the Last Sacrifice
