

Syllabus for Theology I (BST 601)  
Bibliology (Scripture), Prolegomena (Introductory  
Matters, Theology Proper (Study of God)  
Front Range Bible Institute (Fall 2020)  
Professor Tim Dane

## I. Course Description

Theology I is the first of four theology classes. This course will include a study of the first four of the ten major branches of theology and will embrace three topics of Systematic Theology: Bibliology, Prolegomena, and Theology Proper.

The course will include classroom lectures that are primarily based upon the professor's notes, although the format will not be in a pure lecture form. Students are encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions and taking notes. Detailed notes will be provided, but the student is encouraged to make additions in the margins based upon classroom discussions that will expand and elaborate.

The course will include quizzes and exams from the materials studied as well as a class project. The class project will be aimed at taking the classroom learning and transferring it into a useable student tool for practical ministry purposes.

## II. Course Objectives

One objective of this class is to have students become familiar with orthodox Christian theology in the areas of Bibliology, Prolegomena, and Theology Proper. To accomplish this, the professor will expose the students primarily to the orthodox views, but will also expose students to heretical and aberrant views as they have arisen throughout the ages.

A second objective of this class is that this theological learning process would achieve its true end of producing a greater love for God and a greater desire for genuine worship. Jesus said that the Father seeks true worshippers who worship in spirit and truth. The goal of theology is more than acquisition of knowledge, it is to produce true worshippers of God.

A third objective of this course is that students take the knowledge they acquire, and begin applying their growing knowledge in practical ministry. This will be accomplished by having a class project that is designed for some type of ministry application and by requiring that this class project be employed in some type of ministry setting.

### III. Required Course Materials

- A. Professor's syllabus and notes on Theology I.
- B. *Christian Theology* by Millard Erickson, Baker Books (required reading for all students).
- C. Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1973.
- D. Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.
- E. "Divine Revelation and the Close of the Prophetic Age," by Tim Dane
- F. Your own computer or at least access to a computer
  - i. Class presentations should be on Microsoft Word, although the hard copies of your project do not necessarily have to be done on this program. Using the same program may be helpful when it comes to questions about style and formatting.
  - ii. It is recommended (though not required) that you see if you could employ Power Point in your teaching.
  - iii. You do not need to have a laptop in class, but you may use one for note-taking if you prefer.
- G. Logos Libronix Bible Software Program (highly **recommended** as a personal study tool, but not required for the class. Group discount may be possible through FBI).

### IV. Course Requirements

- A. Attend all classes (if a student must miss a class, he/she must obtain a DVD copy and watch the lecture).
- B. All students: Read Millard Erickson's *Christian Theology* up through the discussions that cover Prolegomena, Bibliology and Theology Proper, up through page 432 (or depending upon your edition, up through the page that covers all the material on Bibliology and Theology Proper).
- C. All students: Read J. I. Packer's *Knowing God*.
- D. All students: Read *No One Like Him*.
- E. All students: Read "Divine Revelation and the Close of the Prophetic Age," by Tim Dane.
- F. Take notes as appropriate
- G. Take exams
- H. Memorize key Scripture passages related to course topics.
- I. Complete semester project with its ministry requirements.
- J. Respond to the weekly discussion Threaded Discussion questions and to other students' responses in weeks 2-11 as explained below.

## V. Threaded Discussions

- A. In each of weeks 2-11, students are to participate with the professor and with each other in an online threaded discussion involving various topics.
- B. Questions for threaded discussion are given in weeks 2-11. Each week the student must do the following:
  - i. (1) First, the student must first make a direct reply to the question as posed by the professor. This answer should be roughly 100-200 words.
  - ii. (2) Second, the student must reply to at least one of the other students based on the answer that was given by that student (one make reply to more than one student and should feel free to do so, but he must interact with at least one). This answer should be roughly 50-100 words.
- C. The **response to each of the professor's questions** must be made by Thursday of that week in which the question is posted. Answering by Thursday will allow time for the other students to interact with you by the end of the week.
- D. The **response to at least one of the other student's answers** must be made Sunday of that same week. As noted, each person is required to respond to at least one of the other students, but is encouraged to interact with as many as you can.

## VI. Course Grading Criteria

- A. 20% Completed Reading
- B. 20% Bibliology Quiz
- C. 20% Theology Proper Quiz
- D. 20% Classroom Participation, Threaded Discussions, Scripture Mem.
- E. 20% Class Project

## VII. Class Project

- A. Write a research paper on the subject of God's sovereignty and its relationship to human responsibility.
- B. Teach this paper in some kind of teaching context.
- C. After teaching it, you will turn in a copy of the material along with a note that tells where you taught it, when you taught, who you taught it to, and have this note signed by one person who was present.

- D. The teaching time can vary and could be in any of various settings:
- i. A Sunday School class
  - ii. A home Bible study
  - iii. A time of family devotions
  - iv. A convalescent home (perhaps you could begin a new ministry)
  - v. A hospital that might allow such ministry
  - vi. A visitation to a church “shut-in” who cannot attend church
  - vii. Note: as a requirement, first go to your pastor (by class week 2) and ask him if he can help schedule a way for you to fulfill this requirement. If he cannot, then you can find your own teaching opportunity.
  - viii. Have one of those present fill out a brief evaluation form with constructive criticism, sign it, and return it to you.
  - ix. See, if possible, to have either your professor or pastor be present at the teaching session.

E. The **subject and outline** will be as follows:

- i. An introduction section.
- ii. First main point: What the Bible shows us about the sovereignty of God.
- iii. Second main point: What the Bible shows us about human responsibility.
- iv. Third main point: A discussion about how “Compatibilism” embraces both divine sovereignty and human freedom.
- v. A brief closing section that concisely applies the main ideas taught and gives an exhortation for practical application for the hearers.

F. See the FRBI website for sample papers from Dr. Dane on style issues.

G. The project should roughly be **7-10 pages for Certificate and Bachelor’s** students and roughly **10-15 pages for Master’s students** (precise length of project is not the main point, but content and practice is).

H. Have the project **completed, taught, and turned in by the end of class.**

## VIII. Course Schedule

Class	Date	Class Topic (subject to change based on progress)	Personal Studies (reading should be completed <b>by the end of the class week</b> )	Weekly Questions
				1. The initial answer must address the professor’s question directly with an answer of roughly 100-200 words. 2. You must also interact with at least one other student each

				week with an answer that is roughly 50-100 words. The purpose is to add to what the student said, or graciously seek to correct what you might see as an error, etc. Be tactful and kind in all that you do. Both answers must be made that week on a weekly basis.
1	9-10	Bibliology Definitions	Read Erickson 153-198 Begin making your teaching outline with the goal of completing point “i” as noted in section “F” above	
2	9-17	Bibliology Definitions	Read Erickson 199-240 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing point “ii” above as noted in section “F” Ask pastor about how you can fulfill your teaching requirement for the class project	Scripture Memorization 1: Psalm 19:1-6.  Threaded Question 1: Can a man get saved from General Revelation? Cite some Scripture which tells of the nature of Gen. Rev. and what it can accomplish.
3	9-24	Authority of Scripture/The Spirit	Read Erickson 241-260 Read Bibliology notes pp. 42-91 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing point “iii” above as noted in section “F”	Scripture Memorization 2: Psalm 19:7-14.  Threaded Question 2:  Define what prophecy is?  Is there prophecy today?  Is preaching a form of prophesying?  These are theological questions but give verses that support your answers.
4	10-1	Textual	Read Erickson 17-58	Scripture Memorization 3: Deut.

		Criticism	Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing point “iv” above as noted in section “F”	18:15-22; 1 Sam. 3:19-20; 2 Peter 1:20-21.  Threaded Question 3:  Define verbal plenary inspiration and the implications of this truth for Christians.
5	10-8	Higher Criticism/The Canon	Read Erickson 59-104 Read Bibliology notes 108-124 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing point “v” above as noted in section “F”	Scripture Memorization 4: 2 Tim. 3:16.  Threaded Question 4:  How is it that the early church recognized that which was Scripture?  Does inspiration include the process of transmission?
6	10-15	Translations Bibliology Quiz	Read Erickson 105-152 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing point “vi” above as noted in section “F”	Scripture Memorization 5: Deut. 6:4-9.  Threaded Question 5:  Are we (Christians) justified in saying that men can have a knowledge of God so as to formulate theology? That is, show from the Bible reasons why we should believe that knowledge is even possible, that knowledge of God is possible, that true knowledge of God is possible. Assuming a true knowledge of God is possible, what about the problem of limitations? How do we answer the person who raises this objection?
7	10-22	Prolegomena and Basic Concepts of Theology	Read Erickson 261-282 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing point “vii” above as noted	Scripture Memorization 6: 2 Peter 3:18.  Threaded Question 6: Define a legitimate ground-up process of forming systematic theology.

			in section "F"	
8	10-29	Levels & Methods, Arguments for Existence of God	Read Erickson 283-342 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing point "viii" above as noted in section "F"	Scripture Memorization 7: Isa. 46:8-11.  Briefly define the following: Atheism: Agnosticism: Deism: Theism: Polytheism: Pantheism: Panentheism: Naturalism: Non-Christian Monotheism: Natural Theology: Neo-orthodoxy
9	11-5	Knowledge of God, Names of God, Nature of God in Triunity	Read Erickson 343-386 Read Theology Proper notes 40-48 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing editing and refining the project	Scripture Memorization 8: 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:1-2.  Threaded Question 8: What kinds of general attitudes would characterize those who have been influenced by Postmodernism?
10	11-12	Attributes of God, Acts of God	Read Erickson 387-410 Continue working on your outline with the goal of completing editing and refining the project	Scripture Memorization 9: Dan. 4:34-37; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; Eph. 1:11.  Threaded question 9: Should we believe in the absolute sovereignty of God? Show from Scripture why or why not.  Does absolute sovereignty mean that God has decreed everything that will take place?  Does this "decree" consist of a decree for every act and event or is it simply one general decree?
11	11-19	Decree of God, Open Theism	Read Erickson 411-432 Continue working on your outline with	

		Final Exam Handed Graded	the goal of completing editing and refining the project Schedule and complete your teaching session	
--	--	--------------------------------	---	--

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991).
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, John T. McNeill, ed., Ford Lewis Battles, tr. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960.
- Carson, D. A. and John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Systematic Theology*, 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1976.
- Charnock, Stephen. *The Existence and Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- Enns, Paul. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. Chicago: Moody, 1989.
- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology* by Millard Erickson. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006.
- Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).
- Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Kaiser, Walter C. Jr. *Toward An Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Kistler, Don, ed. *Sola Scriptura*. Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria, 2000.
- Lewis, Donald and Alister McGrath. *Doing Theology for the People of God*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
- MacArthur, John. *The Battle For The Beginning: Creation, Evolution, And The Bible*. Nashville: W Publishing, 2001.
- Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1973.
- Pink, Arthur W. *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.



- Ridderbos, Herman. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- Ryrie, Charles. *Basic Theology*. USA: Victor Books, 1986.
- Sproul, R. C. *After Darkness Light*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2003.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Invisible Hand of God*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2003.
- Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 1948.
- Wolfe, David L. *Epistemology: The Justification of Belief*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1992.
- Woodbridge, John D. and Thomas Edward McComiskey, eds. *Doing Theology in Today's World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Zuck, Roy B., ed. *A Biblical Theology of the New Testament*. Chicago: Moody, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_, ed. *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody, 1991.