

Theology

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Thanatology
Ecclesiology
Israelology
Dispensationalism
Doxology
Hodology
Soteriology
Hamartiology
Natural Law
Anthropology
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December 6, 2017

Opening Prayer.

A. Life with God.

1. Loving God (Matt 22:37-40; Psalm 23).
2. Following Jesus Christ (John 8:12; John 13:34-35).
3. Whole Truth/Total Truth orientation, (Jn 8:31-32; 2 Tim. 3:16-4:8; Psa. 32:2; Psa 73:24-25).

B. Through the Bible, Ephesians 1:15-20.

- The measured immeasurable power of God (7 principles).

C. Bible Doctrine: Wisdom-10, Prov. 1:1-19.

- Wisdom in Proverbs 1:1-19 (11 principles).

D. Philosophical Foundations: Hermeneutics: Natural Law 42, Rom 2:14-15.

- Natural law and government (9 principles).

12-6-17

A. Life with God—by proper knowledge and proper love.

1. Loving God (Matt 22:37-40; Psalm 23).
2. Following Jesus Christ (John 8:12; John 13:34-35).
3. Whole Truth/Total Truth orientation (John 8:31-34; 2 Tim. 3:16-4:8; Psa. 32:2; 73:24-25)

B. Through the Bible, Eph. 1:15-20. The measured immeasurable power of god.

1. To know the hope of His calling is to grasp God and His calling on us unto Himself, a calling that naturally produces eager anticipation of immortal and perfect future life with Him in glory, 1 John 3:2-3; Titus 2:13.
2. To know the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints is to grasp the riches of God's possession of us, 1 Cor 6:20; 7:23.
3. To know the greatness of His exceeding power is to know #1 and #2.
4. This power is measured according to the power of Christ's Resurrection and Ascension.
5. This power is measured according to the power of Christ's future headship over Creation.
6. This power is measured according to the power of Christ's headship over the church.
7. This power is available to all of "us who believe."

C. Bible Doctrine: Wisdom-10, Prov. 1:1-19

1. It is important to make a distinction between natural wisdom and the supernatural wisdom.
2. Proverbs enjoins us to acquire Wisdom for true success in life, 1:1-6.
3. Wisdom enables one to understand mysteries and riddles because it enables us to see the reality behind the appearances.
4. The fundamental principle of biblical wisdom is the fear of the Lord, 7-9.
5. Wisdom provides true beauty and riches by adorning our souls, 8-9.
6. Rejection of wisdom leads to destruction, 1:10-19.
7. Wisdom is the chief of intellectual virtues.
8. Supernatural wisdom is always connected to love for God because wisdom always loves the good.
9. The vice that is opposed to the virtue of wisdom is folly.
10. Evil undermines wisdom because it corrupts both speculative knowledge and practical knowledge.
11. It is extremely difficult to recover from the evil of a twisted intellect and will.

D. Philosophical Foundations: Hermeneutics—Natural law 42 (Rom. 2:14-15)

1. The nature of natural law lies in the ontology and teleology of human nature.
2. That which defines law is reason and intelligence because there is an established order actualized by Esse (Pure Act).
3. Natural law and government. 3 metaphysical options on the relationship between the citizen and government—*e pluribus unum*.
 - a. Individualism. In individualism, the focus is on the individual to the exclusion of the good of the whole. The emphasis is on each part, the goal of govern is each part. This leads to chaos and the strong and influential running the show for themselves. This coupled with materialism will destroy the nation through its own

- utilitarianism. Try that in a marriage or family. Secular conservatives tend to move in this direction.
- b. Collectivism. In collectivism the focus is on the whole to the exclusion of the value of each part. This leads to communism and totalitarianism. Secular liberals tend to move in this direction.
 - c. Personalism. This refers to the inherent value and nature of each human being. Man is a social being and government is designed to recognize and protect the value of inherent rights of man.
4. The conflict between the three orientations is always a matter of values.
 - a. In individualism one sees as a first and foremost the most absolute principle of man being free to do as he wishes.
 - b. In collectivism one sees as first and foremost the most absolute principle the social body.
 - c. In personalism one sees first and foremost spiritual dignity of each person working in concert for the good of each and society. In personalism there is both the right and the duty for the common good.
 5. These 3 groups inevitably will accuse each other of ignoring certain essential rights of the human being and society.
 6. Both individualism and collectivism lead to utilitarianism, destruction of human rights, and eventually totalitarianism.
 7. Utilitarianism and consequentialism destroy both personalism and the common good for each.
 8. Personalism must be the 1st fundamental principle of any government.
 9. Historical look at natural law vs. voluntarism.
 - a. Greeks: Antigone and the Stoics.
 - b. Middle Ages: Thomas Aquinas vs. William of Ockham.
 - c. Industrialism and imperialism (1400-): Feudalism, mercantilism, capitalism, imperialism.
 - d. American Revolution and Founding: mixed bag of natural law and voluntarism.
 - e. French Revolution. Attempt at natural law and rights without God.
 - f. American Civil War. Bible voluntarism with a vengeance.
 - g. The Bolshevik Revolution and the USSR, 1917.
 - h. Contemporary America: Mixed bag of natural law, voluntarism, utilitarianism, and materialism. We have come a long way and all of our major successes has been due to natural law.