

Theology

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Thanatology
Ecclesiology
Israelology
Dispensationalism
Doxology
Hodology
Soteriology
Hamartiology
Natural Law
Anthropology
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December 10, 2017

Opening Prayer.

A. Life with God.

1. Loving God (Matt 22:37-40; Acts 13:22; Psalm 16).
2. Following Jesus Christ (John 10:9-16).
3. Whole Truth/Total Truth orientation, (Acts 20:27; Jn 8:31-36; Psa 32:1-2; 73:24-25).

B. Through the Bible, verse by verse, Ephesians 2:1-8.

- Considering the exceeding riches of God's grace (5 principles).

C. Bible Doctrine: Wisdom-11, Prov. 1:20-33.

- Wisdom's call (18 principles).

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

- Natural law and government (9 principles).

12-10-17

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

1. Loving God (Matt 22:37-40; Psalm 16).
2. Following Jesus Christ (John 10:9-16).
3. Whole Truth/Total Truth orientation (Acts 20:27; John 8:31-36; Psa. 32:1-2; 73:24-25)

B. Through the Bible, Eph. 2:1-7. The exceeding riches of God's grace.

1. Consider the condition of man as the walking dead apart from Jesus Christ.
2. Consider the mercy of God that looks down on the walking dead.
3. Consider the resurrection of dead souls.
4. Consider the exceeding riches of God's grace, 2:7.
5. Consider the goal of God's grace, 1:1-12; 2:7.

C. Bible Doctrine: Wisdom-11, Prov. 1:20-33.

1. Wisdom is portrayed as a queenly woman who stands in the crowds of men, lifting up her voice as she summons men to listen to her and her promises to enrich their lives with natural and spiritual virtue.
2. Moreover, this Wisdom is viewed as plural, co-eternal with God Himself, and yet existing within the realm of man.
3. Lady Wisdom warns the simple.
4. Lady Wisdom warns the scorner.
5. Lady Wisdom warns the fool.
6. Lady Wisdom's warnings are directed to dispositions, not acts.
7. The fool hates knowledge.
8. Lady Wisdom comes with rebukes that provide opportunities for untold blessings.
9. Lady Wisdom brings with her the Divine Spirit who provides the inner disposition to be quick to love, hear, and understand Truth.
10. However, the mass of humanity simply ignores her.
11. Simply by doing nothing when God speaks is enough to bring self-destruction.
12. Note the terrible retribution and hopeless reality of the calamitous consequences of "too late."
13. Wisdom is the chief of intellectual virtues.
14. Wisdom is always connected to love for the good, so true wisdom always loves God, the Ultimate Good.
15. Folly is the vice that is most antithetical to the virtue of wisdom.
16. The great evil of wisdom is evil because evil undermines and destroys both speculative knowledge and practical knowledge.
17. It is extremely difficult to recover from evil of a twisted intellect and will.
18. The only alternative to the suicide of folly is in listening to Lady Wisdom's call and its promise of safe dwelling with no fear of evil, 23

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.