



Syllabus

Theology I (T-01)

Text for this course:
Introducing Christian Doctrine
(3rd Edition)
By Millard Erickson

Course Requirements:

- Class attendance and participation (No more than one absence without make-up.)
- Read pages 3-236 in the text. *Theology II (T-02)* will cover the remainder of the book.
- Write a "position paper" on the following subjects: A. The Bible, B. God, C. Trinity, D. Satan (contained in Part Four: God, Section 16, God's Special Agents: Angels, page 167), E. Humanity and F. Sin. See attached instruction sheet regarding the writing of a "position paper."
- Payment of all fees.
- Complete any other assignments given by the instructor.

Suggested Course Schedule:

- Week One:** *Reading assignment to be completed prior to attending first session.*
Part One - Introduction (section 1-2)
(pages 3-22)
Part Two - Revelation (section 3-7)
(pages 25-75)
- Week Two:** Part Three - God (section 8-11)
(pages 79-119)
- Week Three:** Part Three - God (section 12-16)
(pages 121-174)
- Week Four:** Part Four - Humanity (section 17-19)
(pages 177-201)
- Week Five:** Part Four - Humanity (section 20-22)
(pages 203-233)
- Week Six:** Review

Note: Because of individual and group differences from site to site, the group is encouraged to do at least one lesson each week and more as time permits. The other lessons assigned for the week need to be done sometime during the week - individually or with a group. Most important for class time is the discussion and encouragement, which may reflect the previous week's lessons, as well as the topics listed under Course Requirements and Suggested Course Schedule.

Instruction for Writing a Position Paper for Theology I and II

The writing of your "position paper" is very important. You must be able to state clearly what you believe the Bible teaches about certain subjects. It is not what others believe, but what you believe. It is not a lengthy discussion, but rather precise statements on the most important aspects of the subject. Therefore no two people will have identical papers. Each will approach the subjects from their own understanding of the Bible and the conclusions will be uniquely yours.

Do not copy sentences from the textbook, but formulate your own statements as a result of your personal study of the subject. Here are a few guidelines to follow.

- 1.) Base doctrinal statements on the teaching passages, rather than historical, figurative or poetic passages of the Bible.
- 2.) Base statements on plain statements, rather than on obscure or controversial ones.
- 3.) Be sure each verse used has been interpreted correctly.
- 4.) Be sure you only emphasize what the scripture emphasizes.

Each subject should be covered in 100 words or less, with the supporting scripture verses cited at the end. Because of the extent of the biblical data, only the most important verses should be used for each subject.

Following is a list of statements. Decide which are clear doctrinal statements and which are not.

- _____ 1.) Sin is universal.
- _____ 2.) Everyone should accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior before it is too late.
- _____ 3.) Adam's sin was imputed to the human race.
- _____ 4.) The Arminian and Calvinistic view of the total depravity of mankind differ.
- _____ 5.) The death of Christ was essential for the atonement of sin.
- _____ 6.) Many people believe that God's love never fails.

How do you think you did? All the uneven numbers are clear doctrinal statements. The even ones are, for the most part, true statements, but for some reason are not clear doctrinal statements.

Here is a sample summarized statement from the
New Hampshire Declaration of Faith.

*Nothing can separate true believers from the love of God,
but they are kept by the power of God, through faith and salvation,
the sure proof of this being their patient continuance and progress in righteousness
and true holiness.*

(Romans 8:35-39, John 10:27-29, II Peter 1:3-4 and Matthew 24:13)

The subjects to be covered in your "position paper" include the following:

Theology One course = The Bible, God, The Trinity, Satan, Humanity and Sin
Theology Two course = Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, The Church, The Ordinances
of the Church and Last Things