

INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AND THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Course description:

Introduction to Systematic Theology and the Doctrine of God are presented in simple programmed form to enable lay pastors and other Christian workers to understand what the Bible teaches about the Person and works of God.

Target population:

Lay pastors or other Christian workers.

Prerequisites:

General knowledge of the Bible, some experience in pastoral work or other Christian service; as a minimum, a sixth grade education.

Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define the term theology; show why Systematic Theology is necessary and how God has made it possible for man to arrive at correct theology.
2. Define the terms “God” and “god” and list three false ideas about God.
3. List and explain the Biblical names of God.
4. List and explain five arguments for the existence of God.
5. List and explain six false theories about the existence of God.
6. List and explain the attributes of God.
7. Define the Trinity; give six indications of the Trinity in the Old Testament and five references to the Trinity in the New Testament.
8. Name and explain the two general works of God.
9. Explain the relationship of God the Father to Jesus Christ and to the believer.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the study of Systematic Theology and the Doctrine of God! This course will aid you greatly in your service for the Lord, as it will help you to understand the Person and work of God.

This is a programmed course; the lessons are divided into small steps or “frames” of learning. In each frame, you are to actively participate in the learning process by answering a question, filling in a **blank**, choosing between various possible answers or whatever other activity is required in the frame.

After writing your answer, you will find the correct answer given in the space following the frame. This correct answer, called the “feedback,” is provided so that you can check your response. You are to compare your response with that given in the feedback; if your answer was incorrect, you are to **write** the correct answer as found in the feedback. If you wrote no answer, **write** in the correct response as given in the feedback. This is very important.

You are not to look at the feedback until after you have written your own response. For this reason, use a small sheet of thick paper as a mask or shield to cover the feedback. You will note that there is a dotted line (.) at the end of each frame; position the mask at the level of the dotted line while you read the frame and write your response. To check your answer, drop the mask to the next dotted line. You’ll note that there is a small square (□) in the left margin at the level of the feedback; this will help you know how far down to drop your mask.

Example:

2-15 According to Acts 20:27, what did Paul teach to the Ephesians that should also be taught in our churches? all the counsel of God

.

□ *all the counsel of God*

2-16 Is it possible to teach **all** the counsel of God without Systematic Theology (arrived at either by one’s own study of the Word, or by a study of the Word and of a formal course in theology)?

_____ Why? (ow) _____

.

□

MASK

The following suggestions are given to help you derive the maximum profit from this course:

1. Try to study at least one lesson daily; the lapse of several days between lessons interrupts the logical process and hinders learning;
2. Before beginning your study each day, review the previous lesson.
3. Read each item **carefully** before making your response.
4. **Always** read the feedback, even though you are sure your response is correct.
5. After checking your response, drop the mask immediately to the next dotted line, thus exposing completely the following frame.
6. As to the Bible passages that you are asked to read:
 - a. read the passage, even though you believe you know it by heart;
 - b. keep your Bible open to the passages indicated; sometimes various frames are based on one passage.
7. If you find a word you don't understand, look it up in a dictionary.
8. Don't interrupt the study of each lesson until finishing it.

You'll notice that some of the response blanks include the following sign: (ow). This stands for "own words," and means that your response can be formulated in your own words, but that it should be equivalent to the correct response given in the feedback. Sometimes an alternate correct answer is given in the feedback; this alternate answer will be given in parenthesis.

It's a good idea to begin each lesson with a time of prayer, asking for the help of the Holy Spirit in understanding and utilizing the truths contained in the course. Go ahead now with the study of the first lesson, and may the Lord guide you in the learning process.

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