

Foundations 1: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith
November 12 2023

Topics covered in Foundations 1 (of 2: Foundations 2 January – February)

- The Holy Scriptures
- Knowledge of God
- Attributes of God
- The Holy Trinity
- The Doctrine of Creation
- On Humanity and Human Nature
- The Nature of Sin
- Salvation by Grace

Edward WA Koehler's A Summary of Christian Doctrine as a primary source.

Types of theology

- Biblical theology
- Systematic theology
- Practical theology
- Historical theology

Systematics/Systematic theology: a form of theology in which the aim is to arrange religious truths in a self-consistent whole; (topical/doctrinal)

Systematic theology: doctrine

Opening Discussion Questions

- First memory of God
- First memory of trusting Jesus
- Something you knew to be true of God that you don't believe anymore
- Something you didn't believe that you know now is true
- *How do you know?*

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Natural Knowledge of God

Romans 1:19-20

Conscience

Universal Belief

mythology/religion

Universal Prayer, by Alexander Pope

Father of all! In every age,

In every clime adored,

By saint, by savage, and by sage,

Jehovah, Jove, our Lord!

Thou Great First Cause, least understood,

Who all my sense confined

To know but this, that Thou art good,

And that myself am blind!

Yet gave me, in this dark estate,

To see the good from ill;

And, binding nature fast in fate,

Left free the human will.

What conscience dictates to be done,

Or warns me not to do,

This teach me more than hell to shun,

That, more than heav'n pursue.

What blessings Thy free bounty gives,
Let me not cast away;
For God is paid when man receives,
To enjoy is to obey.

Yet not to earth's contracted span
Thy goodness let me bound,
Or think Thee Lord alone of man,
When thousand worlds are round.

Let not this weak, unknowing hand
Presume thy bolts to throw,
And deal damnation round the land
On each I judge Thy foe.

Let it not stop when entered at the ear,
But sink, and deep rooting in my heart.
As the parched earth drinks rain (but grace afford)
With such a gust will I receive Thy Word.

The Extent of our knowledge of God

The Limit of our knowledge of God

Hebrews 1:1-2

2 Timothy 3:14-17:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

John 20:30-31

Takeaway:

The Limits of our knowledge of God:

through natural knowledge (nature, conscience, universal belief, reason)

there is a God

Extent AND Limit: Through the revelation of God in Trinity through the Son, and through

Scripture: all that is necessary for salvation

Acts 14:8-18

Acts 17:22-34

Closing Prayer/Benediction:

Romans 16:25-27

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation about Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept silent for long ages but now revealed and made known through the prophetic Scriptures, according to the command of all eternal God to advance the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ—to him be the glory forever! Amen.