Theology

The study of the existence, nature, and attributes of God.

Theology

[Greek: theos (God) + logos (word)]

The Cosmic Battle

Key Verses

“...Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Colossians 2:2-3 (NAS)

Ultimate Source of Truth

The ultimate source of all truth is the nature, character, being and attributes of God Himself.

nothing that is true can contradict the Nature of God

Westminster Confession

“There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory.

The Westminster Confession of Faith (1646).
The Westminster Confession of Faith (1646).

...most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal most just and terrible in his judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.”

John 3:16

another simple question...

what is **ETERNAL LIFE?**

**why** did Jesus come?

what is **Truth?**

“ETERNAL LIFE”

John 6:54  John 17:1-3

JOHN 17:1-3

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

**Now this is eternal life...**”

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Now this is eternal life... that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 17:3

But we are not talking about just the discrete knowledge of God and the knowledge of man--

Knowing Only?

we are talking about the relationship, the social order, the personal communion and the objective, real relationship that exists between God & man.

Knowing Only?

"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

John 5:39-40


Spurgeon’s Perspective

"The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can engage the attention of a child of God is the name, the nature, the person, the doings, and the existence of the great God which he calls his Father."
**Paul's Perspective**

“What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law...

Paul’s Perspective

...but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death…”

Philippians 3:8-10

**God’s Perspective**

For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hosea 6:6 (NAS)

**God’s Perspective**

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me…”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

**My Journey**

Jehovah Shalom

Jehovah Jireh

Sovereign

Holy, Holy, Holy

Immanuel

The Vine

El Ganna
**El Qanna**
“Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”
Deuteronomy 4:23-24

**El Qanna**
This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her.”
Zechariah 8:2

**El Qanna**
“Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”
Exodus 34:14

**Names Mean Something**
Jacob (supplanter) changed to Israel (strives with God)
Genesis 32:28

Abram (father of height) changed to Abraham (father of a multitude)
Genesis 17:5

Moses (taken out of the water)

**Names Mean Something**
Simon (hearing) changed to Peter (rock)

Saul (demanded) changed to Paul (little)

You shall name the child John (God is Gracious)
Luke 1:13

You shall name Him Jesus (Savior)
HUNGERING FOR GOD
As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
Psalm 42:1-2

EL QANNA
Gazing on the face of God...
this is what transforms us...and it came through the Word of God
Should we be surprised that it is here we find the focus of the attack?

THE ATTACK
“...The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”
2 Corinthians 10:4-5

THE ATTACK ON GOD
His Nature... twisting, distorting, denying, ignoring
and His Word accusing, demeaning

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ATTACK ON GOD’S WORD

All attempts to...
- extinguish,
- suppress,
- discredit,
- destroy,
- dilute,
- deny,
- ignore

... By all the powers...
- empiries,
- religion,
- philosophy,
- science,
- academia,
- judiciary

--All have failed--

ATTACK ON GOD’S WORD

Voltaire (1776)

“100 years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker.”

“It took 12 men to start Christianity; one will destroy it.”

ATTACK ON GOD’S WORD

Robert Ingersoll:

“In 15 years I will have this book [the Bible] in the morgue.”

Fifteen years later, Ingersoll was in the morgue.

A pastor purchased Ingersoll’s desk and spent his life writing sermons on it.

ATTACK ON GOD’S WORD

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever.

1 Peter 1:24-25

JULIUS WELLHAUSEN

Father of “Higher Criticism”
Documentary Hypothesis: “JEDP”
**The Colored Beads**

- **red:** Jesus undoubtedly said this or something very like it (That’s Jesus!)
- **pink:** Jesus probably said this (Sure sounds like Jesus.)
- **grey:** Jesus did not say this, but the ideas contained in it are close to his own (Well, maybe)
- **black:** Jesus did not say this; it represents the perspective or context of a later or different tradition (There’s been some mistake.)

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**Ezekiel 22:26-28**

Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them...
Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain. Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says’—when the LORD has not spoken.

This is what the Sovereign LORD says—when the LORD has not spoken.

a Personal crisis...

The life of King & King:

Asa (38)

Jehoshaphat

Judah

Asa son of David became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem over Judah twenty-two years.

Joram & Jehoram

2 Kings 8:16

2 Kings 1:17

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For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)