

Here is our outline for our 25-week series, broken into three parts:

## **Foundations: Know What You Believe**

---

### **Part 1: The Character of God and His Authoritative Word & Humanity (Weeks 1-10)**

This section lays the foundational understanding of who God is, His triune nature, His attributes, His role in creation, and the absolute authority of His self-revelation in Scripture. It also introduces humanity's original design and subsequent fall. We'll start by understanding **why doctrine matters practically** for every believer.

#### **Week 1: Why Theology and Doctrine Matter for Your Life**

- **Focus:** An introduction to practical theology; why understanding doctrine is essential for daily living.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Theology isn't just for academics; it's for everyday life.** What you believe about God profoundly shapes how you live, think, feel, and respond to the world.
  - **Doctrine provides a stable foundation.** In a world of shifting opinions, God's unchanging truth offers clarity and security.
  - **Right doctrine leads to right living and deeper worship.** Knowing God accurately helps us love Him truly and obey Him faithfully.
  - **Doctrine equips us.** It helps us discern truth from error and share our faith effectively.
- **Application:** Encouraging a hunger for theological understanding and demonstrating how biblical truth transforms practical decision-making and emotional health.

#### **Week 2: The Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture**

- **Focus:** God's Word is Enough, Clear, Final, Necessary. The Bible as God's inspired, inerrant, and complete Word.
- **Key Points:** What "inspired" means ("God-breathed"); inerrancy and infallibility of the originals; sufficiency for salvation and obedience; why we trust the Bible.
- **Application:** Cultivating a love for and reliance on God's Word in daily life, treating it as our ultimate authority and guide.

#### **Week 3: The Godhead – One God, Three Persons**

- **Focus:** The doctrine of the Trinity.
- **Key Points:** One God in three co-equal, co-eternal persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit); shared nature, attributes, perfections; varying roles, equal unity.
- **Application:** How understanding the Trinity deepens our worship, prayer life, and understanding of relational community.

#### **Week 4: God the Father – His Incommunicable Attributes (Part 1)**

- **Focus:** Attributes that belong to God alone.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Independence (Aseity):** God's self-existence and self-sufficiency; He does not need us or anything in creation.
    - Biblical Criticism book: (Pg. 59-60) God didn't have to make us... we are to have profound gratitude that He created us – out of His delight!
  - **Unchangeableness (Immutability):** God is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises.

- **Eternity:** God has no beginning or end; He exists outside of time, seeing all time vividly.
- **Application:** Finding security and peace in a God who is utterly self-sufficient, never changes, and exists beyond the limitations of time. This provides stability for our lives.

### **Week 5: God the Father – His Incommunicable Attributes (Part 2)**

- **Focus:** Further attributes that belong to God alone.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Omnipresence:** God is present everywhere with His whole being at all times, though He acts differently in different places.
  - **Omniscience:** God knows all things (actual and possible) completely and perfectly, in one eternal act.
  - **Omnipotence:** God is all-powerful and able to do all His holy will; nothing is too hard for Him.
- **Application:** Resting in God's ever-present care, trusting His perfect knowledge in all circumstances, and relying on His infinite power in our weakness. This brings comfort and strength.

### **Week 6: God the Father – His Communicable Attributes (Part 1)**

- **Focus:** Attributes that God shares with humanity in a finite way.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Holiness:** God's absolute purity and distinctness from all creation; He is morally perfect. We are called to be holy as He is holy.
  - **Righteousness/Justice:** God always acts in accordance with what is right and just; He is the standard of all justice. We are called to pursue justice and righteousness.
  - **Truthfulness/Faithfulness:** God is perfectly reliable and consistent with His Word and promises. We are called to be truthful and faithful.
- **Application:** Understanding God's moral perfection calls us to live lives of increasing holiness, pursue justice for others, and be people of truth and integrity, reflecting His character.

### **Week 7: God the Father – His Communicable Attributes (Part 2)**

- **Focus:** Further attributes that God shares with humanity in a finite way.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Love:** God eternally gives of Himself to others. He is love. We are called to love God and one another sacrificially.
  - **Goodness:** God is the ultimate standard and source of all that is good. We are called to be good and do good works.
  - **Mercy/Grace/Patience:** God's goodness shown to those in misery (mercy), to those who deserve punishment (grace), and in withholding punishment (patience). We are called to be merciful, gracious, and patient with others.
- **Application:** Responding to God's immense love by loving Him supremely and extending love, goodness, mercy, grace, and patience to others, transforming our relationships.

### **Week 8: God the Father and Creation**

- **Focus:** God the Father's intimate involvement in creation.
- **Key Points:** He created everything *ex nihilo* (from nothing) in six days; creation is distinct from God but always dependent on Him; creation's purpose is for God's express glory and joy.
- **Application:** Living as stewards of creation, marveling at God's creative power, and recognizing our place within His grand design and responsibility to care for it.

## **Week 9: Humanity – Created in the Image of God**

- **Focus:** The biblical understanding of mankind's original creation and unique dignity.
- **Key Points:** Humanity (male and female) was originally created directly by God, in His image and likeness, intended to reflect His communicable attributes (e.g., rationality, morality, relationality, creativity, dominion); given a unique position and purpose in creation.
- **Application:** Understanding our inherent dignity and worth as image-bearers of God. Recognizing the high calling to reflect His character and exercise responsible stewardship over creation.

## **Week 10: Sin and The Fall – Humanity's Rebellion**

- **Focus:** The nature of sin, its origin, and its devastating consequences for humanity.
- **Key Points:** The first humans fell through willful disobedience (sin), losing spiritual life; consequently, all humanity became dead in trespasses and sins and subject to the power of the devil; spiritual death and total depravity are transmitted to the entire human race (Christ alone excepted). This fall introduced brokenness, suffering, and separation from God into the world.
- **Application:** Understanding our inherent sinfulness and desperate need for a Savior. Deepening our appreciation for God's grace by seeing the extent of our brokenness and inability to save ourselves.

---

## **Part 2: Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, and God's Saving Work (Weeks 11-18)**

This section delves into the person and work of Jesus Christ, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and the comprehensive doctrine of salvation (soteriology). We'll explore **how God's rescue plan** directly impacts our lives.

### **Week 11: The Person of Jesus Christ: Fully God and Fully Man**

- **Focus:** The essential dual nature of Christ – His deity and humanity – as the foundation for His saving work.
- **Key Points:** Eternal Son of God, second Person of the Trinity, pre-existent; His incarnation – taking on full humanity (conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary); He is simultaneously completely divine and completely human, without mingling, lessening, or separating His natures; He voluntarily self-limited, subject to the Father; completely sinless, though tempted in every way.
- **Application:** Worshiping Jesus as our unique God-Man Savior. His full humanity allows Him to sympathize with our weaknesses, and His full deity makes His sacrifice infinitely valuable and sufficient. Trusting in His perfect qualifications to bridge the gap between God and humanity.

### **Week 12: The Work of Jesus Christ: Atonement, Resurrection, Return, and Reign**

- **Focus:** Christ's pivotal redemptive acts, His ongoing authority, and His certain future return and judgment.
- **Key Points:** His willing crucifixion and death on the cross as the perfect, substitutionary sacrifice (propitiation, bearing God's wrath, perfectly fulfilling the demands of justice); His triumphant bodily resurrection on the third day, proving His victory over sin and death; His ascension into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God (a place of ultimate authority); His present intercession and advocacy for us; and His promised **personal, glorious, and bodily return as rightful King, who will sit as final Judge, bringing the**

**bodily resurrection of all (justified and unjustified), and establishing His eternal kingdom.**

- **Application:** Embracing the finished work of Christ on the cross as the sole basis of our forgiveness and righteousness. Finding profound peace in His victory over sin and death, knowing He intercedes for us. Living with confident hope because He is alive, reigning, and will return, which motivates us to holy living and urgent evangelism in light of His coming judgment.

### **Week 13: The Person and Life-Giving Work of the Holy Spirit**

- **Focus:** Understanding the Holy Spirit as God and His essential role in giving spiritual life.
- **Key Points:** He is the Third Person of the Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son, possessing all divine attributes (e.g., omniscience, omnipotence, eternity); He has personal attributes (will, intellect, emotion); actively involved in creation; crucially involved in the giving of spiritual life to humans through **regeneration** ("born of the Spirit").
- **Application:** Recognizing the Holy Spirit as God Himself and our divine Helper. Acknowledging His essential work in granting us spiritual life, making us responsive to God. Inviting His presence and valuing His guidance in our lives.

### **Week 14: The Holy Spirit's Work in Conviction, Indwelling, and Sealing**

- **Focus:** The Spirit's indispensable work in bringing people to salvation and securing believers.
- **Key Points:** He **convicts** mankind of sin, righteousness, and judgment, revealing our desperate need for a Savior; He is the One who enables **repentance and belief** on the Lord Jesus Christ; at the moment of salvation, He permanently **indwells** every believer (making our bodies His temple); believers are **baptized by Him** into the body of Christ (a spiritual union); and He **seals** them for the day of redemption (God's divine guarantee of security and future inheritance).
- **Application:** Relying on the Spirit to prepare hearts and open eyes to the Gospel. Walking in the profound reality of His permanent indwelling presence. Finding deep comfort and confidence in His sealing as God's guarantee of our eternal salvation, which empowers us to live for God.

### **Week 15: The Necessity of Salvation and God's Gracious Initiative**

- **Focus:** The profound depth of human sinfulness and God's sovereign, undeserved initiative in salvation.
- **Key Points:** Owing to universal spiritual death through sin, no one can enter God's kingdom unless born again; mankind is utterly incapable of saving himself by human effort, morality, good works, or religious ordinance; salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and initiative, not human merit. It is a gift that cannot be earned.
- **Application:** Humbly acknowledging our complete dependence on God for salvation, deepening our appreciation for His boundless grace, and recognizing that our faith itself is a gift enabled by Him. This fosters humility and reliance.

### **Week 16: Justification and Adoption: Declared Righteous and Made Children**

- **Focus:** How God formally declares sinners righteous and brings them into His family.
- **Key Points:** Redemption is accomplished **solely by Christ's shed blood** on the cross, through which He made perfect satisfaction for sin and bore its curse; upon saving faith, the believing sinner is instantly and permanently **justified freely by grace**, meaning God declares them righteous based on the imputed righteousness of Christ, not their own works.

Through this, we are **adopted** into God's family as His beloved children, with all the rights and privileges of sonship.

- **Application:** Resting in the absolute certainty of our justified standing before God and our new identity as His beloved children. This brings profound peace, removes guilt and shame, and frees us to serve God out of love, not to earn His favor.

### **Week 17: Union with Christ and Completeness in Him**

- **Focus:** The profound spiritual reality of being united with Christ and its implications for the believer's standing.
- **Key Points:** Through salvation, we are brought into an unbreakable **union with Christ**, meaning we are spiritually united with Him in His death (co-crucified), resurrection (co-resurrected), and ascension (co-seated in heavenly places); because of this union, we are in possession of every spiritual blessing and are absolutely **complete in Christ** from the moment saved; we are accepted before the Father as Christ is accepted and loved as Christ is loved.
- **Application:** Living in the profound reality of our unbreakable union with Christ, drawing on His life and power for daily living. Understanding that our completeness is in Him, not in our performance, empowering us for confidence and joy.

### **Week 18: Perseverance and Assurance of Salvation**

- **Focus:** The eternal security of the believer and the confidence that flows from it.
- **Key Points:** Those once truly saved shall be **kept saved forever** by God's eternal purpose, His grace, the nature of the eternal life He gives, Christ's intercession, God's immutable covenants, and the regenerating, abiding, and sealing presence of the Holy Spirit; no true believer can ever lose their salvation. It is the privilege of all born again believers to be assured of salvation from the day they trust Christ; this **assurance** is founded wholly upon the testimony of God in His written Word, exciting within His children love, gratitude, and obedience.
- **Application:** Finding unshakeable peace and confidence in God's faithfulness to complete the work He began in us. Responding to God's discipline as a sign of His fatherly love, knowing His ultimate purpose for us is holiness and glorification. Living out the joyful fruit of assurance (love, gratitude, obedience) as evidence of genuine faith, freed to serve God without fear.

---

## **Part 3: The Christian Life, The Church, and Eternity (Weeks 19-25)**

This final section explores the practical implications of our beliefs for the daily life of the believer and the corporate life of the church, culminating in our ultimate eternal hope. We'll discover **how our doctrine shapes our purpose and destiny**.

### **Week 19: Sanctification – Positional and Progressive**

- **Focus:** Understanding the two aspects of sanctification and their practical implications.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Positional Sanctification:** Already complete for every saved person; our position toward God is the same as Christ's, declared righteous (justified). This is our perfect standing.
  - **Progressive Sanctification:** The ongoing process wherein the Christian is to "grow in grace" and "be changed" by submitting to the Holy Spirit; we still struggle with vestiges from our former sin nature, which cannot be eradicated in this life; our present state is

no more perfect than our daily experience. Full sanctification will occur when we see our Lord and are "like Him."

- **Application:** Embracing both our perfect standing in Christ and the daily call to actively pursue holiness, understanding this is a lifelong journey empowered by God.

### **Week 20: Walking in the Spirit and Overcoming the Flesh**

- **Focus:** The practical outworking of progressive sanctification in daily life.
- **Key Points:** Called with a holy calling to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit so we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh; the fallen, Adamic nature remains with us until our earthly pilgrimage ends and needs to be kept constantly in subjection to Christ by the Spirit, or it will manifest itself to our Lord's dishonor.
- **Application:** Developing habits of spiritual discipline, actively choosing to follow the Spirit's leading, and relying on His power for victory over the persistent pull of sin, enabling us to live in a way that honors God.

### **Week 21: Human Sexuality and the Sanctity of Life**

- **Focus:** God's design for gender, marriage, and the intrinsic value of human life.
- **Key Points:** God wonderfully and immutably creates each person male or female, reflecting His image; rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of God's image; all human life is sacred and of inestimable worth from conception through natural death. The term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union; God intends sexual intimacy only between married man and woman; any form of sexual immorality is sinful and offensive to God. God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin through Jesus Christ; every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity.
- **Application:** Upholding God's beautiful design for gender and marriage, actively defending the sanctity of all human life, living a life of sexual purity, and extending compassion and grace to all, especially those struggling with sexual brokenness.

### **Week 22: Roles in Home and Church**

- **Focus:** God's ordained distinct spiritual functions for men and women.
- **Key Points:** Men and women are spiritually equal in position before God; God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home (husband is leader) and the church (men are leaders/pastors/elders).
- **Application:** Joyfully embracing God's complementary design for roles in the family and church, fostering mutual respect, love, and unity as we serve together according to His wise plan, seeing how these structures contribute to order and flourishing.

### **Week 23: The Church – Definition, Purposes, and Ordinances**

- **Focus:** The nature, mission, and practices of the local church.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Definition:** The community of all true believers for all time; also applied to local gatherings of believers.
  - **Purposes:** A fourfold ministry to God (worship), to believers (nurture), to the world (evangelism and mercy), and keeping these in balance.
  - **Ordinances:** Water baptism (an outward expression of an inward experience, by immersion, as an act of obedience to Jesus' teachings) and the Lord's Supper (an act of worship, a ceremonial meal symbolizing Christ's body/blood/sacrifice; with past

reference to Christ's death, present reference to corporate feeding by faith, and future reference as we look to Christ's return).

- **Application:** Understanding our vital role as members of the Church, actively participating in its purposes, and faithfully observing the ordinances as acts of worship, testimony, and covenant renewal.

## **Week 24: The Means of Grace, Christian Service, and Missions**

- **Focus:** How God strengthens believers, how we serve Him within the church, and our global mission.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Means of Grace:** Any activities within the fellowship of the church that God uses to give more grace (e.g., preaching of God's Word, baptism, communion, prayer, worship, church discipline, giving, spiritual gifts, fellowship, evangelism, personal ministry). Neglecting church fellowship means cutting oneself off from most ordinary means God uses for blessing.
  - **Christian Service & Spiritual Gifts:** Divine, enabling gifts for service are bestowed by the Spirit upon all saved for building up the Church and fulfilling the Great Commission; diversity of gifts; each believer energized by the same Spirit, called to divinely appointed service; some especially called as evangelists, pastors, and teachers; rewards promised for faithfulness in service at the Judgment Seat of Christ. One baptism of the Holy Spirit at new birth, placing into the body of Christ; "sign gifts" (tongues, healings, miracles) were for the foundational era, not normative today, but God may work miraculously.
  - **The Great Commission and Missions:** It is the explicit message of Christ that saved believers are sent forth by Him into all the world as strangers, pilgrims, ambassadors, and witnesses; our primary purpose in life is to make Christ known to the whole world, proclaiming the gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every group who believe.
- **Application:** Actively engaging in the means of grace for spiritual growth, diligently using our spiritual gifts for the glory of God and the building up of the church, giving cheerfully, and living with a missional mindset, actively participating in sharing the gospel locally and globally.

## **Week 25: Eternity: Heaven and Hell**

- **Focus:** The biblical reality of eternal destinies – heaven for the justified and hell for the unjustified.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Hell (for the Unjustified):** Those who are unjustified will experience judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell. This is a place of intense hatred of all sin, the just wrath of God, where Satan and his demons will also be condemned eternally.
  - **Heaven (for the Justified):** Those who are justified (by Christ's work) will experience eternal joy in the presence of Him who sits on the throne. On that day, in the new heavens and new earth, the redeemed in Christ will be glorified. All of creation will be purged of sin and its wretched effects will be forever banished. God will make all things new and dwell with humanity; He will wipe away every tear. Death, grief, crying, and pain will be no more. We will be His people, and He will be our God—Emmanuel fully enjoyed.
- **Application:** Finding unwavering, joyful hope in Christ's triumph and the promise of eternal life in His glorious presence, which should motivate us to holy living and urgent evangelism for

those facing eternal judgment. This truth offers profound comfort to believers and a stark warning to unbelievers.

---