

# Theology Matters

## FALL SEMESTER 2025

Teaching: Nathan Riley & Steven Hill & Aaron Ledford  
Theology Institute

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Date:	Sess:	Theme:	Teacher	Question:
8/27	1	You are a theologian.	Nathan	What is Theology?
9/10	2	Tracing God's Story	Steven	What is the Story of the bible?
9/17	3	Hermeneutics- Part 1	Nathan	How do I understand the Word?
9/24	4	Knowing God's Truth- Part 1	Steven	How do we know God?
10/8	5	Knowing God's Truth- Part 2	Nathan	How do we know God?
10/15	6	Salvation- Part 1		What is the problem?
10/22	7	Salvation- Part 2	Steven	How are we saved?
10/29	8	Ecclesiology- Part 1	Nathan	What is the Church?
11/5	9	Ecclesiology- Part 2- Ordinances	Steven	What do I do in Church?
11/12	10	Covenant Theology- Part 1	Aaron	What are the promises of God?
11/19	11	Covenant Theology- Part 2	Aaron	What is God's plan for me?
11/3	12	Escatology- Part 1	Nathan	Where are we now?
12/10	13	Escatology- Part 2	Steven	What happens in the future?

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# Session 1: You are a Theologian

**"The question is not whether we are theologians but whether we are good ones or bad ones."— JT English**

**"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us"—A.W. Tozer**

**\*Turn to Ephesians 3:14-21.**

## Introduction & Aim

- **Big Idea:** Every person is a theologian, not just pastors or scholars. The only question is whether our theology is faithful and healthy, or shaped by error or neglect.
- **Aim:** To help Christians embrace theology as a lifelong invitation into discipleship to know and love God, and to see theology as deeply practical for everyday life.

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## 1. You Are Already Doing Theology

- Every Christian is a theologian because everyone holds beliefs about God, life, and salvation. "Theology" means "words about God".  
**Matthew 16:15-16** *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*
  - The church cannot avoid theology. The only question is whether what we believe (and therefore teach and live) is faithful to biblical revelation, or based on personal preference, tradition, or error.
  - Paul exhorts believers to "know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge" (**Ephesians 3:19** *and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*)
  - Like grammar, everyone "does" theology—but we become good theologians as we grow in accuracy, humility, and worship.
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## 2. What is Theology?

- Theology is “thinking rightly about God so that we may worship, love, and obey Him rightly.” (JT English)

**Romans 12:2** *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*).

- Theology is not just an academic discipline, but a matter of discipleship. Right beliefs (“orthodoxy”) lead to right worship (“orthopraxy”)—and vice versa.
- God has revealed Himself through His Word so that we might really know Him through a relationship.

**Jer 9:23-24** *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, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”*

- Theology is for all of Christian life: it shapes every area of our lives because it forms the foundation of trusting God in all things.

## 3. The Heart and Goal of Theology

- Good theology is transformative: it changes how we think (head), act (hands), and love (heart).

**Deuteronomy 6:4-7:** *4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*

- Theology begins and ends in worship and love for God and fosters love for others.

Paul’s own theology leads to doxology: “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!... To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:33-36).

- Our goal is to know God truly, to love Him supremely, and to serve others faithfully.
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## 4. How to Grow as a Good Theologian

- Engage with God's Word consistently; theology is rooted in revelation, not self-invention.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- Theology thrives in community.
- Practical steps: convictions map (homework)
- Theology matures not only through knowledge, but through applying what we learn through the study of his word.

### Homework:

"Convictions Map:"

At least 3 times this next week, write down one situation or decision you will face (could be at home, work, school, or in a relationship). Then answer the question: "What belief about God is shaping how I think, feel, or act in this?"

- Example: If I get anxious, am I believing God is distant or uncaring? If I choose to forgive, am I trusting that Christ has forgiven me?

Aim: This helps participants connect theology to real life—showing that every decision is theological—and helps them see if their beliefs are biblical or just shaped by feelings/habit.

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