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Class Summary: This lesson builds upon the assumption of the progress of revelation and seeks to look at the theology of individual writers and collections of writings by examining these in their historically given contexts/settings.

SESSION 1. – Defining Biblical Theology

Review: Progressive Revelation.

1. Definition

“Biblical Theology is the _____ and _____ of the theology of a particular _____ of Scripture or _____ of Scripture.”

Biblical Theology Part 1.

Biblical Theology part 2.

2. Distinctives

- Biblical Theology is _____, Systematic Theology is _____ (_____) but is often _____.

- Biblical Theology takes each biblical book _____.

- Biblical Theology is _____, not _____.
- Biblical Theology is _____, _____, and therefore difficult.
- Biblical Theology, because it is hard and difficult to summarize, is often neglected.

3. Illustration

Hermeneutics: The Tools of the Trade

Exegesis: Putting the Tools to Work

Biblical Theology: Building toward Themes and Conclusions

Systematic Theology: Ordering and Presenting Themes and Conclusions

SESSION 2. – Building Toward Biblical Theology

1. Begin at the Beginning

“There is a temptation in studying the Bible’s theology too quickly to read one part of it in the light of another and thus to miss the individual contours of the terrain and flatten out the whole.” B.S. Rosner

2. Remember the Principilizing Bridge

3. Get Used to Your Tools

- Background Material
- Genre
- Historical Context

- Literary Context
- Cultural Context
- Figures of Speech
- Description vs. Prescription
- Important Words
- Emphasis
- Dispensational Considerations
- Structural Analysis

4. Begin to Build

1 Samuel 17:1-58

- Background Material
- Genre
- Historical Context
- Literary Context
- Cultural Context
- Figures of Speech
- Description vs. Prescription
- Important Words

- Emphasis
- Dispensational Matters
- Structural Analysis

SESSION 3. – Practicing Biblical Theology Together

Suggested Practices:

First, read through the whole passage.

Second, look for *topics*. Make a list of things that it seems to be addressing.

Third, decide which topics seem to be primary, which seem to be secondary, tertiary, and so on.

Fourth, create a preliminary summary of what *this passage alone* is saying on each topic.

Fifth, make a list of things you don't yet know and need to study further.

Practice Passage Notes:

Resources:

Charles Ryrie *Biblical Theology of the New Testament*

Roy B. Zuck, Ed. *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*

Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*

Michael Lawrence, *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church*