

Christian Beliefs Week 1: Notes

What is Systematic Theology, The Word of God & The Canon of Scripture?

In the first two weeks, we will discuss the Doctrine of the Word of God.

- *What is "Systematic Theology?"*

- *What is "doctrine?"*

- *What are the main reasons Christians should study theology?*

- *What is the difference between major and minor doctrines?*

- *What is the role of human reasoning in the study of Scripture?*

- *What is the distinction between a paradox and a contradiction in Scripture?*

- *What are three steps in studying systematic theology?*
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

- *What two things are referred to as the "Word of God?"*
 - 1.
 - 2.

- *What is the Canon of Scripture?*

- *What is the Apocrypha?*

Four reasons not to see the Apocrypha as Scripture:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- *What office did many of those who wrote the New Testament hold?*

 - *What is the ultimate reason books are considered canonical?*

Discuss:

- *What has been the foundation for your own personal beliefs? Has it been church tradition, teaching, your gut instincts, your family tradition, the Bible, or a combination of those?*
- *Now that you are embarking on a study of theology, what do you see as the primary value of this study in your life?*
- *Does your life and habits reflect a belief that the Bible really is God's Word? How does seeing the Bible as God's Word encourage or exhort you to engage with it?*
- *Pray for God to speak to you through this class and grow in faith and trust with Him.*