

Titus is commanded by Paul in Titus 2:1 to speak those things which are proper (accord, accompany, agree) for sound doctrine. Teaching from the immediate context of Titus chapter 1-3, includes: qualifications of elders, instructions to old and young men and women, and in verse 11-14, teaching of the grace of God that brings salvation and how we should live in this world. Sound doctrine is truth about God found in Scripture called **theology**.

Why should we learn theology? 1) It is how I learn the character of God. 2) Gives me the ability to meditate on God's attributes in redemption history. Examples: His grace, mercy & forgiveness. 3) It gives to us God's requirements for mankind's redemption. 4) It shows us how to better love God as we are sanctified and learn how to live in Christ. 5) It demonstrates how to better serve God. Disciple-makers are first learners of Christ, Eph. 4:12-13.

A Brief Summary of Theology in 12 Topics:

1. **Bibliology:** its source, authorship, what it reveals, its inerrancy and infallibility.
2. **Theology Proper:** God's attributes as defined and revealed in Scripture.
3. **Christology:** the study of Christ the "anointed one" - the 2nd person of the Trinity.
4. **Pneumatology:** study of the Holy Spirit, His deity, work, and person.
5. **Anthropology:** study of mankind, origin, nature, and redemption.
6. **Hamartiology:** study of sin, origin of evil, Satan's role, and good/evil in the world.
7. **Soteriology:** study of salvation through Christ.
8. **Angelology:** study of angels, their roles, and demonology. Angel meaning "messenger."
9. **Ecclesiology:** study of the church in the church age. Study of the gathering/congregation.
10. **Eschatology:** study of end times, the future, rapture, and last things.
11. **Biblical Covenants:** Noahic, Abrahamic, Israelite (Mosaic), Davidic, Priestly, and New.
12. **Israelology:** study of God's chosen people, promises, covenants, and future.

Theology is the blood that must flow through the Church. 6 Aspects of Theology:

1. **Myths:** 1) It is only for professors. 2) Makes you cold toward God and Christ. 3) Not what church should be about, in fact; the church goes heretical without it. 4) Don't want to be a theologian because it makes you arrogant. 5) I am a disciple-maker, I'm not a theologian. In truth, a disciple-maker is first a disciple or learner, or theologian.
2. **Dangers of the Misuse of Theology:** 1) Disagreeing and disagreeableness. How do we respond to those we don't agree with about topics in Scripture? Our conduct is to be honorable among those outside, 1 Pet. 2:12. 2) Loving theology more than God and His people. Relationships in the body are distant, lack of close relationships and friendships, not loving the brothers, 1 Jn. 3. 3) Getting puffed up in knowledge in a prideful spirit. 4) Dislodging theology from Bible. Not following and adhering to proper hermeneutics. 5) Overly trusting certain theologies (books detailing teachings in Scripture).
3. **Sole Sources of Theology:** Liberal Theology seeks to view Scripture as man's perspective on God. That man can think long enough on truth and find it. Instead, Scripture determines truth, is absolute, and determines what is right, 2 Tim. 3:16-17. Isaiah 44:19, says that man makes dinner and worships from the same piece of wood.
 - a. The NT view of knowledge: Used to instruct others, Rom. 15:14. Pray for it, Eph. 1:17. To know God's will, Col. 1:9. To bear spiritual fruit and increase in it, Col. 1:10. The foundation of the Gospel of truth and salvation, 1 Tim. 2:4. Multiplies grace and peace, 2 Pet. 1:2. Part of road to godliness, 2 Pet. 1:5-6. Basis for spiritual growth, 2 Pet. 3:18.

b. The NT view of “the faith:” It gives conviction and strengthens us, Acts 16:5. We stand in the faith, 1 Cor. 16:13. It brings unity in the church, Eph. 4:13. It is the aim of the church in service “striving together,” Phil. 1:27. Shows genuine salvation as we continue in it, Col. 1:23. We are built up in it, Col. 2:7. We contend (struggle) for it, Jude 3.

4. **Benefits of Theology:** 1) Prevents deception: no longer tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, Eph. 4:13-14. 2) Guards Preachers: from introducing false theology. 3) Guards the Church: it provides the body what is taught, believed, and practiced in the church. 4) Eclipses Worldly Thinking: 1 Thess. 5:15-22 is an example of a passage that teaches us proper and godly responses to life’s troubles. 5) Strengthens you in trials: Knowing God establishes you, Rom. 8, Job 38-40. Scripture speaks and reveals God’s character and love for His people and what He has done and will do according to His word.
5. **Actions to Learn Theology:** Theology is the process by which we end at doctrine.
 - a. Systematic theology: it is the process of collecting information from Scripture about a topic. It is summaries of topics in Scripture, showing a topic throughout Scripture.
 - b. Biblical Theology: is observations of truth while reading Scripture as they come along in the text.
 - i. Use the list of theologies above to examine Scripture and pull out what is being described and revealed in the passage. Ask, what is being revealed about Christ, the Father, the Spirit, mankind, the end times, or covenants in this passage?
6. **Concerning the Normal Church Member, What About them?** 1) Shepherds are to teach sound doctrine, not myths and speculations. 2) Listen to sermons with an ear towards theological thinking. 3) Spend 30 minutes a week examining a passage of Scripture and breaking down the theology. 3) Take a theology (book about theology) one page at a time. 4) Get in a habit of reading a book about a topic or theology. 5) Arrange life to participate in bible studies, small groups, Sunday School, BTI, etc.

Further Discussion and Application

Do you feel that as you have learned about Christ and the Scriptures that you have become puffed up or prideful? What has been the result of increased knowledge of the Scriptures? What are the promises of growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ from 2 Pet. 1:5-11? What is the hope of the labor of growing in Christlikeness? What is the glory that is coming for those who contend, labor, serve, give, and stand firm in the faith?

Observing the text begins with asking: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How. Examine 2 Pet. 1:1-4. What has the believer received? Why does Peter refer to himself as a slave? Who is he talking to in verse 1? Make 15-20 observations of the passage. Fit them in as best you can into the 12 theologies above. If they don’t fit into those categories, what other doctrines do they pertain?