

Amazing Grace: Introduction to Reformed Theology

Part 1

“I don’t need Theology.....I just need something practical”

When we think of theology or theologians: the study of deep things, professional academics, thick books, and heady people waxing eloquent about things not accessible for the average Christian

Theology: The study of God

Theologian: One who studies the things of God

Everyone is a theologian! Question is whether you are a good one or a bad one

I want to discuss some foundational ideas and lay the groundwork for this series...

- **INTRODUCTION**
 - This is an “introduction”not an exhaustive study, nor a seminary level class

- **THEOLOGY**
 - Theology vs Religion
 - Theology is a God-centered approach to faith (World-view with God at the center)
 - Religion is a man-centered approach to faith (World-view with man at the center)
 - Historic Christianity has always been a faith centered on God and not man
 - Theology as the “Queen of all Sciences”
 - God is the source of all truth
 - Theology is the overarching science above all other sciences
 - The Bible shaped every student’s foundational understanding of the world
 - Theology doesn’t matter.....I just want to feel good.....who needs doctrine
 - Theology is the study and the knowledge of God
 - No more important knowledge in life than knowing God
 - Actions follow Beliefs (Romans 12:2; 1 Timothy 4:16)

- **REFORMED**
 - Branch of Theology of the Christian Faith
 - Theology that arose out of the 16th Century Protestant Reformation
 - Distinctives

- The Sovereignty of God (not just a truth concerning God's character but the defining truth) (God's Glory Alone)
 - Justification by Faith (Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone)
 - The Authority of Scripture (Scripture Alone)
 - Covenantal (unified storyline of redemption in both the OT & NT)
 - The Lordship of Christ and Cultural Transformation
- **WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? (Application)**
 - **Humility** - God's sovereignty is exalted (Psalm 8:4)
 - **Gratitude** – God's unconditional, sovereign grace for sinners is truly amazing (Romans 5:8)
 - **Confidence in the Scriptures** – The Bible is utterly reliable and sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - **Peace** – God is governing all things for the good of His people (Romans 8:28)
 - **Assurance** – God is in control of our salvation from beginning to end (Hebrews 12:2)
 - **Hope in Prayer** – We pray to a God that not only hears but has the power to act (Romans 8:27)
 - **Motivation for Evangelism and Missions** – God is sovereign over the means and the ends (Matthew 16:18)
- **THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THIS STUDY...WORSHIP**

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Week 1 - Reflection Questions

1. When you think of the word theology, what comes to mind? Many consider theology to be unimportant. Based on Pastor Rob's talk, is this view mistaken? Why or why not?

2. Pastor Rob described man-centered religion vs. God-centered theology. What is the difference between these two approaches and why is it important to get this right?

3. What are some examples of "bad theology" that you have witnessed (or that Pastor Rob discussed)? What are some negative consequences of "bad theology" and how does "good theology" lead to positive consequences?

4. As we begin this class, what have you heard about "Reformed" theology specifically? What assumptions, concerns, or questions do you have about Reformed theology that you hope to have answered during this class?