

Biblical Theology: The Story of Scripture

Class 2: Guardian & Guide for the Church



Goal: Better understand Scripture and be shaped by its story.

Schedule:

What is Biblical Theology?

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| 1. Defining the Topic | Sep. 12 |
| 2. Guardian & Guide for the Church | Sep. 19 |
| 3. Defining the Tools | Sep. 26 |

The Stories to be Told: Biblical Theology Displayed

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| 4. Kingdom Through Covenant | Sep. 3 |
| 5. Eden to New Jerusalem | Oct. 10 |
| 6. People of God | Oct. 17 |
| 7. Sacrifice | Oct. 24 |
| 8. Mission | Oct. 31 |

Based on “Biblical Theology: Jesus at the Center of Scripture’s Story,” a core seminar from Capitol Hill Baptist Church (DC).

Resources for Further Study:

- *God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* by Vaughn Roberts
- *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible* by Graeme Goldsworthy
- *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology (IVP)*
- *CrossTalk: Where Life and Scripture Meet* by Michael R. Emlet

Introduction

Last week: Biblical theology is the discipline of learning how to read the Bible as one story by one divine author that centers on the person and work of Christ, so that every part of Scripture is understood in relation to Christ. It’s a way to read the Bible.

Wrong approaches to Scripture (fragmented bits disconnected with the Storyline) can be avoided if one learns biblical theology.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Biblical theology also guards and guides churches.

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AS CHURCH GUARD

How might people apply these passages *wrongly*?

1) Blessing – **Deut. 28:1-5, Prov. 11:24-25**

2) Asking – **1 Chron. 4:10, Matt. 18:19, Matt. 21:22**

3) Who is Jesus? – **Col. 1:15**

Example after example of false or misguided Christianities: theological liberalism, Roman Catholicism, perfectionist Anabaptists, progressive liberals, culture transformationists, civic religion.

In each case, bad or imbalanced biblical theologies proclaim a bad or imbalanced gospel, and such gospels build bad or imbalanced churches.

“A robust biblical theology tends to safeguard Christians against the most egregious reductionisms,” says D. A. Carson.

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AS CHURCH GUIDE

A Guide to Good Preaching

1) Abraham and circumcision

2) David and Goliath

A Guide to Good Counseling

What is our fundamental problem?

A Guide to Good Outreach and Engagement

Biblical theology rightly balances our expectations between expecting too much (over-realized eschatology, perfectionism) or demanding too little (cheap grace, easy-believism, belonging-before-believing, not preaching the imperative). It will not promise our best life now (whether that means health and wealth, transforming the city, winning the favor of the elite, or retaking America). But nor does it shy away from engaging culture and seeking the good of the city in deed ministry for the sake of love and justice.

Example 1: Missions

Jeremiah 29:5-7, Matt. 5:16

Example 2: Church and State

A Guide to Good Corporate Worship

A Guide to Good Church Structures