An Introduction to Systematic Theology: Prolegomena, Theology Proper, and Bibliology
Part Two
26 April 09
Systematic Theology is the comprehensive study and the coherent organization of what can be known, primarily from Scripture, which is theology’s only final and authoritative source, and secondarily from any and all other relevant sources...
...about God and his relation to the created universe in a manner that is understandable and applicable to contemporary audiences to the end that God’s people are strengthened and satisfied in Him to the praise and glory of His name.
PROLEGOMENA

Why study systematic theology?
PROLEGOMENA

Why study systematic theology?

• To gain a comprehensive scriptural vantage point
Why study systematic theology?

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Why study systematic theology?

• To gain a comprehensive scriptural vantage point

• To acquire boundary markers for biblical interpretation
Why study systematic theology?

• To gain a comprehensive scriptural vantage point

• To acquire boundary markers for biblical interpretation

• To cope with religious pluralism
PROLEGOMENA

DESCRIPTIVE PLURALISM
The presence of religions and philosophies offering competing truth claims; as old as the history of the world
PROLEGOMENA

DESCRIPTIVE PLURALISM
The presence of religions and philosophies offering competing truth claims; as old as the history of the world

PRESCRIPTIVE PLURALISM
The necessary and desirable condition of postmodern life in which all truth claims are dismissed and all religions levelled.
PROLEGOMENA

Why study systematic theology?
Why study systematic theology?

- To affect the world around us for good
Why study systematic theology?

• To affect the world around us for good

√ Head (the intellect)
Why study systematic theology?

• To affect the world around us for good
  √ Head (the intellect)
  √ Heart (the affections)
PROLEGOMENA

Why study systematic theology?

• To affect the world around us for good
  ✓ Head (the intellect)
  ✓ Heart (the affections)
  ✓ Hands (personal behavior)
PROLEGOMENA

Why study systematic theology?

• To affect the world around us for good

√ Head (the intellect)
√ Heart (the affections)
√ Hands (personal behavior)
√ Habitat (redemptive actions)
PROLEGOMENA

OTHER DISCIPLINES

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

EXEGESIS (WHAT TEXTS SAY)

HERMENEUTICS (INTERPRETATION)
PROLEGOMENA

OTHER DISCIPLINES

SYS. THEOLOGY

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

EXEGESIS (WHAT TEXTS SAY)

HERMENEUTICS (INTERPRETATION)
When systematic theology goes public, it emerges as…
When systematic theology goes public, it emerges as...

APOLOGETICS, when it addresses arguments against the truthfulness or validity of its findings...
When systematic theology goes public, it emerges as…
When systematic theology goes public, it emerges as...

ETHICS, when it draws inferences and principles that govern private and public behavior...
When systematic theology goes public, it emerges as...
When systematic theology goes public, it emerges as...

EVANGELISTIC AND MISSIONARY METHODOLOGY, when it defines the methods and principles of redemptive proclamation...
Exegesis:
Exposition; explanation; especially, a critical explanation of a text or portion of Scripture. The results of the study of individual passages of Scripture.
Defining the relationship between exegesis and theology:

• *Exegesis BUILDS and INFORMS* theology
Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

—Acts 5:3,4
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—Acts 5:3,4
FACTS:
Inferences from Acts 5:3,4

1. The Holy Spirit is God.
2. The Holy Spirit is a person.

Formation of PNEUMATOLOGY
Defining the relationship between exegesis and theology:

• Exegesis BUILDS and INFORMS theology
Defining the relationship between exegesis and theology:

• Exegesis BUILDS and INFORMS theology

• Theology CORRELATES, SYSTEMATIZES, and LIMITS exegesis
But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, NOR THE SON, but only the Father.

—Mark 13:32
But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, NOR THE SON, but only the Father.

—Mark 13:32

POSSIBLE INFERENCE:
1. Ignorance is not a property of deity
2. Therefore, Jesus is not God.
But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, NOR THE SON, but only the Father.

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POSSIBLE INCLUSION:
1. Ignorance is not a property of deity
2. Therefore, Jesus is not God.

EXCLUDED BY THE UNIVERSAL THEOLOGY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Mark 13:32

Mark 13:32 Περὶ δὲ τῆς ἡμέρας ἐκείνης ἡ τῆς ὥρας οὐδεὶς οἶδεν, οὐδὲ ὁ ἄγγελος ἐν οὐρανῷ οὐδὲ ὁ υἱός, εἰ μὴ ὁ πατήρ.

Mark 13:32 Περὶ δὲ τῆς ἡμέρας ἐκείνης καὶ ἡ ὥρας οὐδεὶς οἶδεν, οὐδὲ οἱ ἄγγελοι οἱ ἐν οὐρανῷ, οὐδὲ οὗτος, εἰ μὴ ὁ πατήρ.

Markus 13,32

αγγελος B 2427 bopt
οἱ αγγελοὶ οἱ A C W Ψ 0116 f¹ Μ syh

Markus 13,33

(14.38) καὶ ποιήσασθε Ν A C I W Θ Ψ f¹,13 Μ lat sv co
Mark 13:32

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Mark 13:32 Περὶ δὲ τῆς ἡμέρας ἐκείνης καὶ ἡ ὥρας οὐδεὶς οἶδεν, οὐδὲ οἱ ἄγγελοι οἱ ἐν οὐρανῷ, οὐδὲ ὁ υἱὸς, εἰ μὴ ὁ πατὴρ.

Markus 13,32

αγγελος B 2427 bopt |
οἱ αγγελοι οἱ A C W Ψ 0116 f¹ M syh |

Markus 13,33

(14,38) και προσευχησθε Ψ A C I W Θ f¹,13 M lat sy co
Mark 13:32

Peri de tis hemeras ekeinhs 


Mark 13:32

'agelos B 2427 bopt;
oi ageloi oi A C W P 0116 f1 M syh;
txt ND K* L Θ f13 28.565.700.892.1241.1424 all

Mark 13:33

(14.38) kal. prosoegyeshe K A C I W Θ P f1.13 M lat sy co!
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BETTER INFERENCE:
1. Ignorance is a property of humanity, even perfect humanity.
2. Therefore, Jesus exhibits properties of true humanity.