

# Systematic Theology (Summer Sunday Nights CBC - 2024)

## I. Bibliology

Def. The Greek word *biblos* means “book” or “scroll” and refers to all the books of the *Bible*. The Greek word *logos* (“word”) implies the study of these books and the truths and doctrines within their pages. *Bibliology* then is the science of arranging, comparing, and analyzing the historical and linguistic data of the Scriptures.

### A. Review – from last week

- 1) Revelation: two types
- 2) Inspiration = Guarantee that God’s revelation is recorded

### B. The Power of God’s Word

The Word of God is alive and powerful - Heb. **4:12**; 1 Pe **1:23**

- 1) It impacts lives; active = persistent energy- He **4:12**; Je **23:29**; 2 Ti **3:15**; 1 Co **1:18,24**; Ps **1:1-3**; Is **55:6-11**
- 2) It changes hearts; saves souls. Ro **1:16**
- 3) *Purpose* of Animation = Guarantee that God’s accurate and perfect revelation is powerful to change lives.

### C. Canonicity & Preservation

- 1) Definitions

**Canon** = list of books recognized to be the inspired revelation of God. Also known in the early church as the rule of faith

**Preservation** = God directly insuring that His accurate and perfect revelation is not lost or destroyed.

- 2) Canonicity

Purpose of canon => Need to know what is authoritatively the Word of God.

Tests of canonicity:

The books of the Bible were already canonical, by nature, when they were written

It was not a matter of deciding which books were canonical, but rather of **recognizing** which were canonical.

### 3) Preservation

Definition = God sovereignly guarantees the continued existence of Scripture.

**Mt 24:35; Ps 119:89; Is 40:8; 1 Pe 1:25**

## D. Translation

Bible translation: word for word, thought for thought, paraphrase

## E. Illumination and Clarity

1) Definition: - the ministry of the H.S. promised to men:

Enable the unregenerate man to see the truth of the gospel

Enables those believers who meet certain conditions to understand spiritual truth -  
Eph. 1:18-19; Col. 1:9,10.

2) Agent: The Holy Spirit - I John 2:20-27

3) Need for Illumination: Man is unable to understand the things of God because of:

His depraved nature - I Cor. 2:14; Rom. 3:11-12

His fleshly immaturity - I Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:11-14

The Scriptures are clear: 8 points

- clear enough for the simplest person: The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. Psa19:7
- deep enough for those of the highest intellectual ability: Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! Rom 11:33
- clear in essential matters
- obscure in some places to people because of their sinfulness —Have you not read...||  
Matt 12:3,5; 19:4; 21:6; 22:31; Mar 2:25; 12:10, 26; Luke 6:3
- understandable through ordinary means
- understandable by an unsaved person on an external level

- understandable in its significance by a saved person through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised ‘ 1 Cor 2:14
- and available to every believer whose faith must rest on the Scriptures. Each believer is responsible to read and study the Scriptures for themselves and not depend solely on other individuals or an institution (Acts 17:11)

(taken from: THE PERSPICUITY OF SCRIPTURE by Larry D. Pettegrew in The Master’s Seminary Journal TMSJ 15/2 (Fall 2004) 209-225)

## F. Interpretation

- 1) Three different types of Hermeneutical systems:  
Allegorical, Semi-Allegorical/Semi-Literal, and Literal (or Plain or Normal).

## G. Application and the Sufficiency of Scripture

- 1) The sufficiency of Scripture from Psalm 119
  - Blessed (joy and contentment) who keep (Psa 119:1-2)
  - Produces thankfulness (Psa 119:7, 170-171)
  - Keeps from sin (Psa 119:9, 11, 133; 165)
  - Produces joy (Psa 119:14, 111, 162)
  - Counsels the believer (Psa 119:24)
  - Revives (Psa 119:25)
  - Strengthens from grief (Psa 119:28, 143)
  - Produces reverence for God (Psa 119:38, 120)
  - Source of hope (Psa 119:49, 92)
  - Comforts in affliction (Psa 119:50)
  - Affliction causes the learning of Word (Psa 119:71)
  - Makes wise (Psa 119:98-100)
  - Gives understanding (Psa 119:104, 130)
  - Produces peace (Psa 119:165)

- 2) But what about Psychology?

Who is man?

Psychology – Man is an evolved animal born morally neutral (or good); governed by instincts.

Bible – Man is a created being in the image of God for the purpose of glorifying God.

What is wrong with man?

Psychology – Environmental factors (family, religion, trauma victim, etc.) have influenced man to cause psychological problems. Man is not at fault, he is not responsible.

Bible – Man is sinner by nature and choice; he is responsible for his own sin and responses to experiences.

How do you fix man?

Psychology – Man is fixed by medication designed to attack behavior and/or re-education and changing of emotions and thinking by self-actualization, improving self-worth, eliminating selfdefeating outlooks on life, etc.

Bible – Man requires freedom from the penalty and power of sin through salvation in Jesus Christ; then growth (progressive sanctification) through the Holy Spirit and Word of God. ⌘