

June 24, 2018

## Daily Readings Bible Readings for this Week

Sun.	Psalm 87-92	Thurs.	Psalm 114-118
Mon.	Psalm 93-102	Fri.	Psalm 119
Tues.	Psalm 103-106	Sat.	Psalm 120-135
Wed.	Psalm 107-113	Sun.	Psalm 136-144

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This **Wednesday, June 27**, the membership of Twinbrook Hills Baptist Church will be observing the Lord's Supper.
- There will be no midweek service on **Wednesday, July 4**.
- **Friday, July 13**, we will have a Nerf War in the Gymnasium starting at 6:30pm. Plan to come and bring friends with you. Nerf darts, eye protection, and food provided.
- Mark your calendars for the annual Car Show on **August 11**, from 10am-2pm. Donations of cans of soda and water bottles for this event are greatly appreciated.

### Nursery This Week:

AM – Connie Knodel/Lousie Puckett    PM – Patty Baker/Michaela Baker  
WED – Heather Miller

### Cleaning This Week:

Connie Knodel

Happy Birthday! Kathy Baker-18<sup>th</sup> Liam Ferrell-21<sup>st</sup> Boyce Baker-23<sup>rd</sup>

## Every Christian is a Theologian

From time to time, I will hear well-meaning Christians use the phrase, "I'm no theologian." Usually this is used as a qualifier in conversations that center around some question concerning the Bible or theology. I think what most people who this phrase mean is that they're not a *professional* theologian (i.e. paid to do theology) so therefore feel unqualified to speak on theological subjects.

However, the truth of the matter is that *every Christian is a theologian*. You are either doing theology well or doing theology poorly. There is no such thing as not doing theology. Anytime we say something about God, we are saying something doctrinal - something theological. Therefore, it is not just the duty of scholars, theologians, and pastors to study theology. Christian, it is *your* duty to study theology.

## What Is Theology?

The *IVP Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms* defines "theology" in this way:

A religious belief system about God or ultimate reality. Theology commonly refers to the ordered, systematic study or interpretation of the Christian faith and experience of God based on God's divine self-revelation. Theology also seeks to apply these truths to the full breadth of human experience and thought.

There are several key components to this definition. Theology is the study of God. The word itself comes from the two Greek words *theo*, meaning God, and *logos*, meaning word, or knowledge. Theology is simply the knowledge of God. It is an ordered, systematic study of God. It is based on God's self-revelation, i.e. the Bible. To study theology is to study the Bible.

Are you beginning to see why it is so important for *every Christian* to be a theologian? To be a Christian is to know God. Consider John 17:3 – "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

If you're a Christian, you must by definition know God. Christians are disciples of Jesus; they are student-followers of Jesus. The longer we follow Him, the more we learn about Him and, consequently, the more deeply we come to know Him.

### Theological Study Is Commanded

This is reflected in what Jesus called the great commandment. Matthew 22:37 – "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Loving God with all our minds means more than mere theological study, but it certainly does not mean less than that. In order to love God, we must know God as He truly is, which requires the study of theology. Truth be told, loving God with greater fervency is the goal of all true theology.

### Theological Study Is Vital to Salvation

This, of course, does not mean that we are saved by intellectual pursuits. Saving faith is a free gift of God's grace, apart from any human merit or work (including our intellectual efforts). But the faith God gives is not an information-free spiritual vacuum. The exercise of faith is predicated on information – primarily the historical announcement of the good news of what Jesus has done in human history. The subsequent strengthening of our faith is built on understanding and rightly interpreting that information – better understanding God's nature, God's character, God's acts in

history, and God's revelation in Scripture. In short, your development as a blood-washed believer *is* your development as a theologian.

Or, to put it another way, our continued growth in the grace of God, our perseverance as saints, is vitally connected to our pursuit of the knowledge of God's character and God's works as revealed in God's Word. Contrary to the way some idolaters of doubt would have you believe, the Christian faith is founded on facts. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that for the Christian, faith is not some leap into the dark. Instead, it is inextricably connected to assurance and conviction.

### The Goal of Theology: Worship

Theological study goes further than puffing up our minds. It fuels our worship. In fact, theology without worship only serves to puff up (1 Cor. 8:1). True Christians are not those who worship vague notions or subjective feelings about God. True Christians worship the triune God who has revealed Himself in Holy Scripture and has given us a new heart to understanding wondrous things out of His Word.

True Christian theology does not merely inform the mind. It changes our hearts. If gives fervency to worship. Theology (the study of God) and doxology (the worship of God) **must** go hand-in-hand. They can never be divided.

To have theology without doxology is a cold, lifeless orthodoxy. To have doxology without theology is actually *idolatry* – worshipping a “god” who only exists as a figment of your imagination. John Piper expresses this perfectly, “The theological mind exists to throw logs into the furnace of our affections for Christ.”

Would you deepen your love for God? Read, study, meditate, and prayerfully apply the Word of God and you will find yourself more and more in awe of Him. Pick up the Word and pick up a good systematic theology, such as John Gill's *Body of Divinity*, Thomas Watson's *Body of Divinity*, Louis Berkhof's *Systematic Theology*, John Murray's *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, or J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*.

### Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday	10:00AM	Sunday School
	11:00AM	Morning Worship
	6:00PM	Evening Worship
Wednesday	7:00PM	Midweek Bible Study

Sermons from the pulpit of Twinbrook Hills Baptist Church are available at sermonaudio.com or you can request a free CD from the sound booth.

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