

**LEADERSHIP/MISSIONS
STUDY GUIDE**

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DOCTRINE AND THEOLOGICAL TERMS:

PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY: A BRANCH OF *SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY* IN WHICH PHILOSOPHICAL METHODS, SUCH AS REFLECTION AND LANGUAGE, ARE USED TO ARRIVE AT A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF DIVINE TRUTHS. THERE ARE TYPICALLY TWO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY:

1. NATURAL THEOLOGY: ATTEMPTS TO EITHER PROVE GOD'S EXISTENCE, DEFINE GOD'S ATTRIBUTES, OR DERIVE CORRECT DOCTRINE SOLELY FROM HUMAN REASONING AND/OR OBSERVATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD. *THOMAS AQUINAS* IS NOTED TO BE OF THE MOST POPULAR NATURAL THEOLOGIAN.

- THIS THEOLOGY IS NOT ACCEPTED DUE TO IT NOT HAVING FOUNDATIONAL VALIDITY. NATURAL THEOLOGY GOES AGAINST THE DOCTRINE OF ***SOL SCRIPTURA***; WHICH MEANS, "*SCRIPTURE ALONE*". ANOTHER DOCTRINAL TERM REFUTING THIS THEOLOGY IS BIBLICAL ***INERRANCY***; WHICH MEANS, "*WITHOUT ERROR*". BOTH DOCTRINES POINT OUT THAT THE SCRIPTURES ARE THE CHURCH'S **ONLY** INFALLIBLE AND SUFFICIENT RULE GOES TO THE SCRIPTURE. THIS DOES NOT DENY *ECCLESIASTICAL POLITY*, BUT ALL ISSUES OF FAITH, PRACTICES/ORDINANCES, TRADITIONS, AND DOCTRINES MUST BE DECIDED BY SCRIPTURE. THUS ELIMINATING HUMAN REASONING, OBSERVATIONS, OR OPINIONS.
- **SCRIPTURES REFUTING NATURAL THEOLOGY:** *PSALM 119:160; 147:19-20, PROVERBS 3:5, ISAIAH 40:8, MATTHEW 22:29, 24:35 JOHN 17:17, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16)*

2. DIVINE REVELATION (REVELATION OF GOD): THIS THEOLOGY DEALS WITH HOW GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN TO ALL HUMANITY. GOD'S REVELATION IS DISTINGUISHED IN TWO WAYS:

- ***GENERAL REVELATION***. THIS IS GOD BEING REVEALED THROUGH CREATION, PHYSICAL NATURE (*PSALM 19:1, PSALM 97:6, ROMANS 1:19-20*), HUMAN NATURE (*GENESIS 1:27, ROMANS 2:11-16*), AND HISTORY AND/OR CONTROL OF ALL NATIONS (*JOB 12:23, PSALM 47:7-8; 66:7, ISAIAH 10:5-13, DANIEL 2:21, ACTS 17:26*). GENERAL REVELATION DOES NOT IMPART TRUTHS THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR SALVATION. HOWEVER MANY DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD CAN BE SEEN AND COMPREHENDED THROUGH GENERAL REVELATION.

- **SPECIAL REVELATION.** UNLIKE GENERAL REVELATION, WHICH IS REVEALED THROUGH CREATION, SPECIAL REVELATION IS BASED ON DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM GOD. THIS DIRECT SPEECH IS REVEALED THROUGH THE PROPHETS, JESUS, HIS APOSTLES, THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE CHURCH, AND THE WORD OF GOD (**EXODUS 19:9; 31:18, DEUTERONOMY 4:32-35, JOHN 14:26; 16:12-13, ACTS 1:8, ROMANS 10:17, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16, 2 PETER 1:20-21, HEBREWS 1:1-2**).

SOTERIOLOGY: DERIVED FROM THE GREEK WORD “**SOTER(IA)**” (SAVIOR/SALVATION). IT IS A BRANCH OF THEOLOGY THAT DEALS WITH THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. THIS ENCOMPASSES THE TOTAL WORK OF GOD BY WHICH HE SEEKS TO RESCUE MAN FROM THE RUIN, DOOM, AND POWER OF SIN, IN EXCHANGE FOR GRACE, ABUNDANT LIFE, AND ETERNAL GLORY, FOUND ONLY IN JESUS. IT IS THE GREATEST AND GRANDEST THEME OF ALL THE SCRIPTURES. IT IS RELATABLE WITHOUT EXCEPTION TO ALL OF MANKIND, AND COVERS ALL TIME AS WELL AS ETERNITY PAST AND FUTURE (**ISAIAH 59:1-2, ROMANS 3:23, JOHN 14:6; ACTS 4:12, EPHESIANS 1:3-8; 2:4-10, 1 PETER 1:3-5, JOHN 3:16, 36; 10:10**).

- **THE BARRIER:** SOTERIOLOGY BRINGS UNDERSTANDING TO THE FACT THAT THERE IS A BARRIER, OR A DIVIDING WALL, THAT EXISTS BETWEEN GOD AND MAN. AS LONG AS THIS BARRIER EXISTS THERE CANNOT BE FELLOWSHIP, LET ALONE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN THROUGH JESUS (**EPHESIANS 2:14-16**).
- **THE HOLINESS OF GOD:** THE HOLINESS OF GOD EMBODIES HIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HIS PERFECT JUSTICE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO ANY WRONG. BECAUSE OF THIS, IT IS ALSO IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO FELLOWSHIP WITH ANYONE LESS THAN HIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS; NOR TO SHOW PARTIALITY OR UNFAIRNESS IN JUDGMENT. CONCLUDING THAT ALL THAT IS SINFUL AND UNRIGHTEOUS MUST BE SEPARATED FROM HIM AND JUDGED BY HIM. THIS IS *THE BARRIER* (**ISAIAH 57:15, HABAKKUK 1:13, DEUTERONOMY 32:4, 2 TIMOTHY 4:8, 1 JOHN 1:5, PSALM 119:137-138; 145:17, ROMANS 2:5-6, 1 PETER 4:5**).
- **THE SIN OF MAN:** *SIN* IS AN ACT OF OFFENCE AGAINST GOD. IT IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS “*MISSING THE MARK*”. THE “*MARK*”, IN THE CASE OF SIN, IS DESCRIBING THE PERFECT AND HOLY RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. SIN CREATES A BARRIER THAT PREVENTS MANKIND ACCESS TO GOD. THERE IS NONE WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM SIN. THIS BARRIER IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT GOD SENT HIS SON JESUS. IT IS THROUGH HIM ALONE THAT ONE CAN RECEIVE ATONEMENT FOR SIN (**ROMANS 3:26, ISAIAH 59:1-2, JOHN 14:6, ACTS 4:12**).

3 ASPECTS TO THE BARRIER OF SIN:

1. **IMPUTED SIN:** ADAM IS THE REPRESENTATIVE HEAD OF THE HUMAN RACE. HIS ORIGINAL SIN IS NOTED TO BE WHAT ULTIMATELY SEPARATED HIM FROM THE HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD. BECAUSE ALL OF MANKIND IS CONSIDERED TO COME FROM ADAM, A PART OF OUR MAKEUP IS SIN. WE IMPUTE (LAY CHARGE ON; ATTRIBUTE) OUR SIN TO ADAM. AND JUST AS OUR SINS ARE IMPUTED TO ADAM, SO OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IMPUTED TO CHRIST (**ROMANS 5:12-16**).
 2. **INHERITED SIN:** THE BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING THAT EVERYONE BORN INTO SIN INHERITED THE SIN NATURE FROM THEIR PARENTS. THIS TEACHES THE PRINCIPLE THAT MEN DO NOT SIN AND BECOME SINNERS, RATHER MEN SIN BECAUSE THEY ARE SINNERS (**GENESIS 5:3, PSALM 51:5; 58:3, EPHESIANS 2:1-3**).
 3. **INDIVIDUAL/PERSONAL SIN:** THE PRODUCT OF INHERITED SIN IS PERSONAL SIN. THIS VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON, BUT CANNOT BE AVOIDED BY ANYONE (**ROMANS 3:23**).
- **THE PENALTY OF SIN:** THE BARRIER OF SIN KEEPS MANKIND FROM THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS PRESENCE OF GOD. HOWEVER, IT ALSO PUTS US UNDER THE PERFECT JUDGMENT OF GOD.