

The Basics of Christian Doctrine

(A Course for Lakeside Chapel 2023)

Course Outline

I will be following the basic plot line of the main themes of God & Creation, Humanity & Sin and Christ & Salvation. This story is found in Genesis 1-3 in seed form. Interwoven into these themes is the Holy Spirit himself and the People of God. Below we have the main contours of what will be surveyed, with subsidiary matters for application and discussion.

Introduction to Christian Doctrine

- Why Study Christian Doctrine?
- The Fact and Function of Christian Doctrine in the New Testament
- Definitions: 'Theology', 'Doctrine', 'Belief' and 'Worldview'
- The Character of Christian Theology.
- The Different Types and Dispensations in Theology
- The Tree of Theology
- 'Orthodoxy' and 'Heterodoxy'
- How to Study Theology

Sources For Christian Doctrine

- God's Natural Revelation (Creation and Reason)
- God's Supernatural Revelation (Jesus Christ, Prophecy and Scripture)
- The Holy Scriptures and their Inspiration
- Some important Attributes of Scripture
 - The role of Tradition
 - What about God speaking today apart from Scripture?
 - Is Preaching a source of revelation?
 - The Bible and the Illumination of the Spirit.
 - The Old verses the New Testament

The Doctrine of God

- Jesus Christ and the knowledge of God
- The Biblical Names of God
- The Attributes of God (Essential and Relational)
- God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Trinity)
- The Sovereignty and Providence of God
- The Glory of God
 - Does God's knowledge of the future make it fixed?
 - Is Jesus subordinate to God the Father?
 - The Joy of God and Christian Hedonism
 - The worship of God

The Doctrine of Creation

- Genesis 1 and the 7 Days Creation.
- The Invisible Creation
- The Government of God
- God's Relationship to the Matter and Time
 - Wonder and Humility
 - Is Evolution true?
 - Prayer
 - Stewardship of our Bodies and the Creation
 - Biogenetics

The Doctrine of Humanity

- The Creation and Origins Humanity
- The Constitutional Nature of Man
- The Calling and Rule of Mankind
- Male, Female & Marriage
- The Family
- The Moral Law
- Society and Civil Government
 - Work and the Sabbath
 - Gender Issues Today
 - Divorce and Remarriage
 - Singleness and Sexuality
 - Beginning and end of life matters.
 - Civil Disobedience?
 - Money Matters

The Doctrine of Sin

- Satan's Fall and Consequences
- Adam and Eve's Disobedience and Death
- The Nature of Sin
- Original Sin
- The Effects of Sin in Humans
- The World, the Flesh, the Devil
- Evil and Suffering
 - Do humans have 'free-will'?
 - How do we overcome sin?
 - War, Injustice and Society
 - Poverty and Prosperity
 - Racial Prejudice
 - Caring for the dying

The Doctrine of Salvation Part 1: The Person & Work of Christ

- The Old Testament Portrait of Christ
- The Earthly Life of Christ and the Kingdom of God
- The Person of Christ (Human and Divine)
- The 'Offices' of Christ as Mediator
- The Atonement and the Cross
- The Resurrection of Christ
- The Ascension, Session and Lordship Christ
- The Priesthood of Christ
- Christ of the Covenants
 - The human Jesus and the Holy Spirit
 - How dangerous were Jesus' temptations?
 - Was Jesus omniscient when on earth?
 - Did Jesus die for every individual?
 - When did Jesus descend to the realm of the dead?

The Doctrine of Salvation Part 2: The Application of the Work of Christ

- Salvation, Past, Present and Future
- Calling, Faith, Conversion & Regeneration
- Justification by Faith
- Sanctification and Glorification
- Water Baptism and Union with Christ
- The Perseverance of the Saints
- The Law and the Spirit in the Christian Life
- Living a Godly Life
 - Can you lose your salvation?
 - What about the election of individuals for salvation?
 - Are there higher levels of holiness to attain?
 - Universalism & World Religions
 - Evangelism & Missions

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit in the Godhead
- The Personality of the Holy Spirit
- The Work of the Spirit in Creation and Israel
- The Work of the Spirit in Christ, Christians and the Church
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit and Scriptures
- The Old and New Covenants
 - How do we know what our Gifts are?
 - How can I be filled with the Spirit?
 - Charismania?
 - What about prophecy and healing today?

- How to read the Bible for all its worth.

The Doctrine of the People of God

- Abraham and the Israelites
 - The Church and the churches
 - The Lord's Supper
 - Local Church Leadership
 - The Practice of Church Discipline.
 - Church & State Relations
 - The Mission of the Church
- Is formal Church Membership biblical?
 - The State of Israel and Palestine
 - How and how often should we have Communion?
 - Church Decline, Revival and Reformation
 - Church Music and Liturgy
 - Training for the Ministry

The Doctrine of the Future

- The Terminal Generation
 - Jesus' Teaching on the End Times (Mark 13).
 - The Second Coming of Jesus Christ
 - The Final Judgement
 - The Nature and Reality of Hell
 - The Final State
- What is 'the Intermediate State'?
 - What is Heaven like?
 - How should we understand the book of Revelation?
 - Will Christ reign for a 1000 years on this earth?
 - What about those who never heard the Gospel?
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