

Why should we start with theology?

4 Streams of Christian Theology:

Biblical Theology

Historical Theology

Systematic Theology

Applied Theology

“What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is either pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at any given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.” A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (New York, HarperCollins, 1978), 1.

4 Reasons to Study Systematic Theology

Relationship with God:

As a Church:

For Personal Growth:

Truth and Doctrine:

4 Complimentary Ways We Study Systematic Theology

Biblically Grounded:

Historically Informed:

Contextually Aware

Worshipfully Applied

Further Notes:

Homework:

Reflection from this Week:

Read: Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*, "Chapter 1" <http://www.jmucru.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Knowledge-of-the-Holy-Chapter-1.pdf>

Thoughtfully consider/journal on whether you agree more with Lewis or Tozer in the article, "Tozer vs. Lewis: What's the Most Important Thing about Us," *The Gospel Coalition*, Justin Taylor, June 4, 2016.

Read Proverbs 1 paying attention to how God invites us to fear him and be truly wise.

Preparation for Next Week:

<https://ivpbooks.com/blog/how-should-christians-study-systematic-theology.html>

Resources for Going Further:

AW Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

Kelly Kopic, *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology*

Daniel Akin, editor, *A Theology for the Church* (or Grudem)

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (or Akin)