

## Practical Theology – Lesson 1 – “First Things”

### “First Things”

#### The Law of Christ

##### **Matthew 22:35-40**

##### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** (the Shema),

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

**Exodus 3:13-15 (6:2-3), 20:1-3ff** (8 times in first 5 commandments) Y(j)HW(v)H

##### **Leviticus 19:18**

<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

#### The Great Commission

##### **Matthew 28:18-20** (recall Shema 7-9)

Jesus sent the apostles, start of the church in **Acts 1:1-5, 2**

#### Christ and Salvation is declared by the Scriptures

##### **John 5:39**

<sup>39</sup> You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

##### **Luke 24:44**

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

#### The Scriptures also address us on an individual level

##### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God <sup>[b]</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.

##### **Romans 15:4**

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

##### **Hebrews 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

## Interpretation of Scriptures is NOT subjective

### 2 Peter 1:20-21

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Logical Mandates of

- Authority of God
  - Inerrancy
  - Timelessness
- Natural Interpretation – Normal, Single-meaning, In-context
  - Chicago Statement
  - Context and Dispensations

## Theological Heritage/Religious Identity

- **Purpose:** Salvation, Worship/Relationship, Sanctification/Daily Walk, Ministry
  - **James 1:27, Galatians 6:2**
- Puritans, Separatists > Congregational, Baptist, Presbyterian >> Non-denom 'Bible' churches
- Non-Catholic, Non-Orthodox, Non-Episcopal
  - Biblical Authority vs Institutional Church Authority (over Scripture & Salvation)
- Non-Charismatic
  - Biblical Authority vs Individuals (closed canon vs modern apostle)
- Biblical Authority vs Ecumenicalism (non-denom, but...) like faith and practice
  - **2 John 7-11, CF 2 Corinthians 6:14-18** (Lev 19:19, Deu 22:10)

### Fellowship: Sampling of People, Study Bibles, and Schools

- Scofield – Scofield Study Bible, friends for decades with Chafer
- Chafer – founder Dallas Theological Seminary
- Walvoord – successor DTS
- Ryrie – Ryrie Study Bible - DTS
- Couch – founder of Tyndale, taught at Moody and Dallas
- Moody Bible Institute – Chicago, Wheaton College – Illinois
- Wheaton College – Illinois (Couch, Geisler)
- Fruchtenbaum
- Norman Geisler - Systematic Theology, Chicago Statement on Hermeneutics

### NWBC Statement of Faith

#### Plan of Study

- Biblical Period Theology - Theology in context of Biblical History
- Scripture
- The Believer
- God, Heaven, and Hell
- Last Things