One

The Preface

1. Theology is the attempt to understand who God is while benefiting others.
   1. "intellectual and practical wrestling with God" (xiii)
2. Theology is the way people love God with their minds

Book

1. What is theology? (Date: 1/28/19)
   1. Anyone who contemplates what lies beyond the world or wonders what is the meaning of life is a theologian. (4)
   2. Emily Dickinson Poem (4)
      1. "This World is not Conclusion" - there is something beyond the here and now
      2. "Invisible, as Music- But positive, as Sound" - though transcendent in nature, whatever lies beyond us does affect us
      3. "Narcotics cannot still the Tooth - That nibbles at the soul" - the desire to learn about the supernatural is insatiable
   3. The Architecture and method of theology (12) (Date: 2/3/19)
      1. *The sources/norms and branches of theology* (Compiled in Systematic Theology)
         1. Scripture (13) / Biblical Theology (15)
            1. "basic narrative of the triune God, creation, and their relation"
            2. The scriptures are "first-order," which mean they are the original, uninterpreted thoughts of God's prophets and messengers
            3. Literature working to interpret the scripture is called "second-order"
         2. Tradition (13) / Historical Theology (15)
            1. The historical understanding and practices of the scriptures
            2. The creeds
            3. Martin Luther and other martyrs
            4. Protestantism

Tradition comes second to scriptures

* + - * 1. Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy

Tradition and scriptures are coequal

* + - 1. Philosophy (14) / Philosophical Theology (16)
         1. General human wisdom sourced from the secular world, or anything apart from the first two sources

1. The Triune God (3/4/2019)
   1. A typology of models (130-146) (3/4/2019) - How do we describe and define the divine persons in the trinity and the trinity itself?
      1. Possibilities (131) with person defined as consciousness or having will
         1. One person who is father, son and spirit (1) (p. 135)
            1. Karl Barth and Karl Rahner
            2. God is one person who plays roles of father, son, and spirit
            3. Strengths

Understandable, logical

Unity is in person, not God like second option

* + - * 1. Weaknesses

Close to modalism

If person means face or mask as it did in the early church, believers in this option would say that the trinity is one God modern def of person who is three persons or masks.

How can Christ speak to God the father if they are of the same person, same thought?

* + - 1. Three persons who are one person (3=1) (p. 132)
         1. The western paradoxical trinity
         2. Augustine
         3. Relies on simplicity of God being one thing
         4. The persons are not separate, they are merely "Relations" within the main God head
         5. Reasons

Follows monotheistic intuition

Augustine's pyschological analogy for trinity leads people to assume their rational mind reflects one person not a multiperson, causing three to equal one person, not just three persons make one something other than person.

God is simple

* + - 1. Three persons who together are one God (3) (p. 137)
         1. Social Trinity
         2. God is three persons, defined as "discrete centers of thought, will, and consciousness"
         3. Source of Confusion: Unity, how are three persons one thing? How does this fit monotheistic thought?

Essential divine unity

Persons share secondary essence with one another ( they are of same sort just as individuals are of the same species, human)

Quasi-genetic unity

Son is eternally begotten of father; related through familial connection

Spirit is breath of Father

Cannot exist without each other

Perichoretic unity

"united in purpose, fellowship, and love" (140)

* + - * 1. Consistent with monotheism

If monotheism is defined as there being only one creator and all else are creatures, yes.

If monotheism is defined as simply one person and not one divine essence, no.

* + - * 1. Difference between social trinity and arianism

Arianism held Jesus and Spirit as having less divine essence than the Father

Social Trinity holds that all are equally sharing the divine essence

* + - * 1. Jesus in Garden Prayer

Jesus asks God to make disciples one as trinity is one

Word one is hen which allows for individuals in the singular group

* + - * 1. Does this take away from mystery of trinity?

Yes, from "logical mystery"

1. Constraints to Model
   1. Must not follow modalism, where persons are not seen as distinct and are merely forms of one person
   2. Must not fall into arianism, where persons are distinct and unequal.

Simply Christian

1. Echoes of a Voice
   1. Putting the World to Rights
      1. Everyone has dream like hope and vision for a world without injustice, but it seems too ideal and therefore unattainable.
      2. This dream or "call to justice" has three possible explanations
         1. The idea of justice is only a dream that has no bearing on reality.
            1. Leads to a dog eat dog world
            2. (9)
         2. The idea of justice comes from a different universe, giving us the ability to imagine how much better it would be if we lived there and not here.
         3. Justice comes from a personal God and it is His "voice" to us
            1. Hope for redemption
            2. (9)

1. There are two ways to look at the world
   1. Tears
      1. Jesus wept
      2. Jesus mourned the loss of Lazarus

1. Laughter
   1. Jesus gave Peter the name "Rock"
   2. Jesus gave two people the name "thunder boys"
   3. Jesus told parables with funny exaggerated details, like the plank vs the speck

1. Defending Christianity and its injustice
   1. Some did commit injustices in name of Jesus
      1. Crusades
      2. Bombing abortion clinics
   2. Those who committed atrocities did not fully understand or represent Christianity
   3. Christians have promoted justice
      1. Martin Luther King Jr.
      2. William Wilberforce – fought against slavery
2. The Hidden Spring

First Test Study

Outlines

1. The basics of theological thinking
   1. Theology definition
      1. Study of God and world and relationship
      2. "reasoned account of God"
   2. Method
      1. Source/Norms
         1. Scripture
         2. Tradition
         3. Philosophy or general human learning
      2. Systematic Theology
         1. Def: "synthesizes three sources and norms"
         2. Responsibilities
            1. Describe
            2. Criticize
            3. Construct
            4. Apologetics
         3. 3 Criteria of Systematic Theology
            1. Orthodoxy- be faithful to past understanding
            2. Coherence making logical sense, faithful to reason
            3. Relevance to today
2. Revelation and Knowledge of God
   1. General Revelation
      1. Def: God's disclosure of Theo truth through universally accessible means
      2. 4 means
         1. Nature->creator
         2. Morality->univeral justice
         3. Religiosity
      3. Natural Theology
         1. Def: Theology based solely on general Revelation
   2. Special Revelation
      1. Def: "God's disclosure of theological truth through particular means, namely the story of Israel told in OT culminating in work of Jesus.
      2. Karl Barth - Word of God
         1. Person of Jesus
         2. Scriptures when they point to Jesus
         3. Proclamation when they point to Jesus
      3. Three Views on Inspiration
         1. Dictation
         2. Poetic Expressive
         3. Organic

1. Hermeneutical Circle
   1. Canon
   2. Narrative Progressive Revelation
   3. Christ centered of Story
   4. Scripture is work of community
2. Karl Barth
   1. Saw G.R misused in Nazi
   2. Believes GR has no purpose in Theology
   3. HS not general is point of contact.
3. Thomas Aquinas
   1. Some theological truth can be know thru general, but special is required for salvation. Close to Calvin
4. The Triune God
   1. Biblical Background to Christian Doctrine
      1. Old Testament
         1. YHWH - known by his acts of faithfulness and love. ( Abraham promise and Exodus)
         2. Character of God
            1. Mercy and steadfast love

Show love to thousands of generations

* + - * 1. Holiness

Serve justice

* + - * 1. Personal God

YHWH acts

* + 1. New Testament
       1. Character of God
          1. Kingdom of Covenant God
          2. Live and Holiness
          3. Trinitarian identity
  1. Classical Doctrine
     1. Hellenization
        1. Greek language and cultural influence in much of world
           1. NT written in Greek

Second Test Study

1. Biblical Roots
   1. Old Testament
      1. Jewish monotheism
         1. Abraham covenant makes God Israel's only God
         2. Monolatry or worship of one God, first law
         3. Monotheism
      2. Flexibility of Jewish Monotheism
         1. YHWH wisdom personified as woman
         2. Word is personified
         3. Spirit
      3. Messianic hope
   2. New Testament
      1. Jesus proves divinity
         1. Forgive sins
         2. Revises Sabbath law
         3. John's gospel
            1. Before Abraham was, I am
            2. I am repetition points to YHWH in Exodus 3
            3. Jesus ressurection
      2. Distinction between son and father
      3. Holy Spirit
         1. Creating
         2. Judging
         3. Sanctifying
         4. Another advocate
      4. Trinitarian Affirmations
         1. Impkicit narrative Dynamics
            1. Father sends son incarnate through spirit
         2. Explicit Formulas and Episodes
            1. Inclusion of all three persons
            2. Baptism of Jesus Matthew 28
2. Patristic Development of Trinitarian doctrine
   1. Early Trinitarian thinking and heresy of modalism
      1. Trinity name was used for baptism
      2. Worried God's oneness would suffer from belief in Trinity
      3. Modalism
         1. One God, persons are masks
   2. The Arian Controversy
      1. Arius and Arianism
         1. God is one person
         2. Son is begotten and is therefore less divine, since he cannot be eternal
      2. Response of Alexander and Athanasius
         1. Arianism is heresy
         2. Overall, nee Testament points to Jesus being God
         3. No creature could bring salvation
         4. Jesus is uniquely begotten (eternally begotten not created)
         5. "There was not when he was not"
      3. The Council of Nicea (325)
         1. Ecumenical (worldwide) organized by emperor Constantine
         2. Jesus is homo/ousious with God
            1. Confused with hypostasis(same person) and modalism
      4. Council of Constantinople (381)
         1. Revised Nicean Creed to clear confusion with hypostasis
         2. Elaborated Holy Spirit as Lord who should be worshipped and glorified with father and son
         3. Giver of life->creator not creature
   3. Doctrine of Trinity
      1. Persons are distinct but of same essence
3. Models of the Trinity
   1. Neo-Modal model of Trinity
      1. Analogy
         1. One person who is husband, father, and so
         2. One person who acts different roles simulataneously ( different from modalism where one at a time )
      2. Theological analysis
         1. Strengthens monotheism
      3. Evaluation
         1. Cannot exain relationship between heads in Trinity
   2. The Western Paradoxical Model of the Trinity
      1. Analogy
         1. Three students who are same identical student
      2. Theological Analysis
         1. Three persons awho are same essence is usual understanding
            1. Ousia essence

Divine simplicity

One thing in God. Singular

Father => ousia <= son Spirit

Father, son, and holy spirit are identical

Distinct from social Trinity since heads "are" not "made up of" divine simplicity

* + - * 1. Relies on divine mystery

God's ways are not our ways

1. Evaluation
   1. Contradicting
   2. Error on one essay
   3. Leads to modalism

1. The Social Model of the Trinity
   1. Analogy
      1. Primal human family
         1. Adam
         2. Eve
         3. Seth
      2. Three members or persons, one family
   2. Theological Analysis
      1. Heads are three persons who share one essence
      2. Together possess the fullness
      3. Person: center of consciousness, will, and activity

1. Evaluation
   1. Concern
      1. Close to tritheism
   2. Essential Unity
      1. One divine essence
      2. Rejects simplicity, heresy from Greek philosophy
      3. Like human essence is shared by humans
   3. Familial Unity
      1. One family
      2. Relational names of father and son, eternally begotten
      3. Holy Spirit is eternal breath of father
      4. Package deal
   4. Perichoretic Unity
      1. Mutual indwelling of heads
      2. Not remote persons
      3. Share with one another
      4. Divine dance
      5. Musical band harmony

1. Discussion of Gunton Essay
2. Revisiting Classical Theirs and the Classical Divine Attributes