Theology and the Spiritual Life Paper

Assignment 1-2 for ST5534 Systematic Theology 1

Jarret Hutchison

Dear Pastor,

The comments that you have about theology are concerning to me and I wanted to take some of your time to address my concerns with you. I believe that the study of theology is crucial to a Christian’s life if he wants to dive past the basic content of scripture. Scripture itself is perfect so I do not want you misunderstanding me as we know in 2 Timothy 3:16 the Bible states “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”[[1]](#footnote-1) My concern is not with the fact that the Bible is enough but the fact that if we desire to grow and teach others as Christ commanded then we must effectively study them.

I hope you know that everything I stated previously and will continue to say comes from a heart of love. I have spent time in my studies and prayer trying to digest your words about forgoing the study of theology. Forgoing the study of theology would mean forgoing the second part of the great commission as Wayne Grudem states, “The basic reason for studying systematic theology, then, is that it enables us to teach ourselves and others what the whole Bible says, thus fulfilling the second part of the Great Commission.”[[2]](#footnote-2) There are more benefits than just being able to effectively teach the word and they are “over coming our wrong ideas, make better decisions and help us grow as Christians.”[[3]](#footnote-3) The previous benefits I just listed are amazing because they help us as Christians overcome our sinful hearts that have a tendency to not want to accept some of God’s teachings. We as believer also will be better equipped to answer any doctrinal questions or concerns that arise and we will be able to trust/obey God because we know Him more. Not only will it benefit our relationship with God but also it is Biblical. Millard Erickson talks about this same topic when he defines theology by stating “It takes as its primary source of its content the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

The study of theology cannot be foregone and on the contrary is very essential to a believer’s life. The main passage that sums up my feelings and reasons for this letter are found in Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” I pray that you read this and meditate in prayer on some of the things I have said. I encourage you to continue researching this topic for yourself and not only taking my word for it. If you still would like to talk we can always sit and discuss more in person about theologies importance. I appreciate you as a pastor/mentor and look forward to reading your response.

In Christ,

Jarret Hutchison

1. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Christian Theology 3rd Edition, Millard J. Erickson (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)