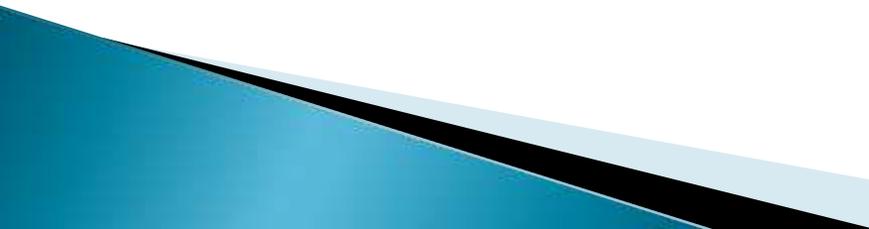


# **Systematic Theology 2 (TH4)**

\*Fridays, 1-3 PM, April 4-May 30, 2014

\*Required Text: Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem  
- \$400 pesos

**Ross Arnold, Spring 2014**  
**Lakeside institute of Theology**



# Policies and Requirements

1. Classes are free, but all students seeking a certificate or degree must purchase books (paper, not electronic), which will be made available by the Institute.
2. Students in certificate or degree tracks may miss no more than one class per course, without arrangements made in advance with the teacher to make up missed work (at the discretion of the teacher).
3. Students in certificate or degree tracks will be required to take a pass/fail final exam in each course, based on study guidelines provided by the teacher.
4. Students in certificate or degree tracks must make a passing grade (based on "pass/fail") in each course in order to receive credit towards a certificate or degree.
5. Candidates for degrees (Master of Theology and Master of Theology & Ministry) must be approved by the Institute Director before final admission into a degree program.

# **Policies and Requirements for making up classes, or taking classes online** (as of April 3, 2014):

- I. All make-up classes must be completed before the beginning of the following term, unless you make special arrangements with the professor.
- II. All classes made up online must be reported via email to [rda@rossarnold.net](mailto:rda@rossarnold.net), as follows:
  - A. Each class must be reported in a separate email as soon after watching as possible.
  - B. Each email must contain the following information:
    1. Course title and/or code (NT4, OT3, TH2, etc.).
    2. The date of the original lecture you missed.
    3. The title of the lecture.
    4. A clear statement that you watched all of the lecture video, reviewed the materials and completed the required readings.
- III. Courses taken entirely online require prior approval, and apply only to audit or Certificate (not degree) requirements.

# Systematic Theology 2 (TH4)

Apr. 4 – Re-Intro to Systematic Theology;  
God's Providence

Apr. 11 – Doctrine of Humanity

Apr. 18 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr. 25 – Doctrines of Sin & Redemption

May 2 – Doctrines of Sanctification &  
Glorification

May 9 – **No Class**

May 16 – Doctrine of the Church

May 23 – Doctrines of the Sacraments & Gifts  
of the Holy Spirit

May 30 – Doctrine of the Future; Final Exam



# What is “Theology?”

- **Theology:** the study of God (from Greek words *theo-* “God,” and *logos-* “study”). *Christian* theology is the study and effort to understand God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture.
- **Biblical Theology:** more specifically, the study of doctrines found in the Bible, arranged according to their chronological and/or historical background. (i.e., theology of the Pentateuch, or the theology of John’s writings, etc.)
- **Dogmatic Theology:** a form of systematic theology, used to articulate and defend the theological doctrines of a particular organized church body. (i.e., Roman Catholic dogma; Presbyterian dogma; dispensational theology, etc.)
- **Systematic Theology:** the division of theological doctrines by systematic categories or groupings, in order to better understand their final meaning and relevance for today. (i.e., theology of angels, of salvation, etc.)

# What is “Systematic Theology?”

*“The division of theological doctrines into systematic categories or groupings, and the subsequent study of those systematic categories, in order to better understand their final meaning and relevance for today, as revealed in Scripture.”*



Theology is the “Queen of Sciences” – the overarching standard that should tie all other pursuits of human advancement together.

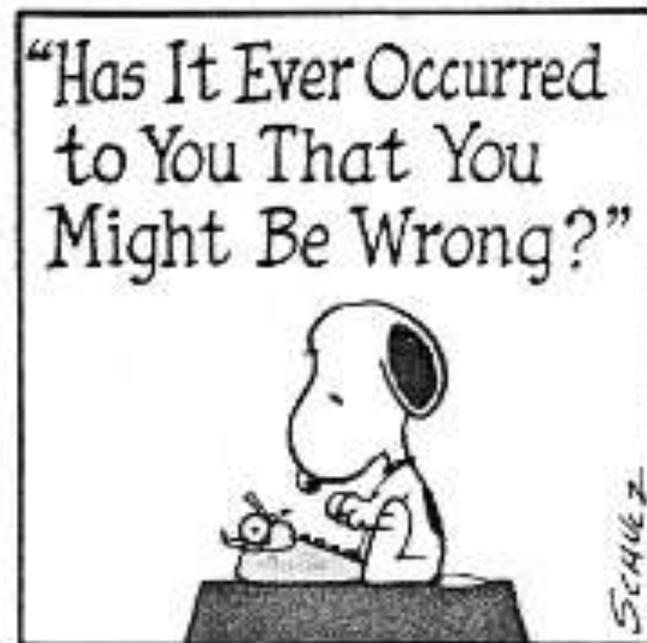
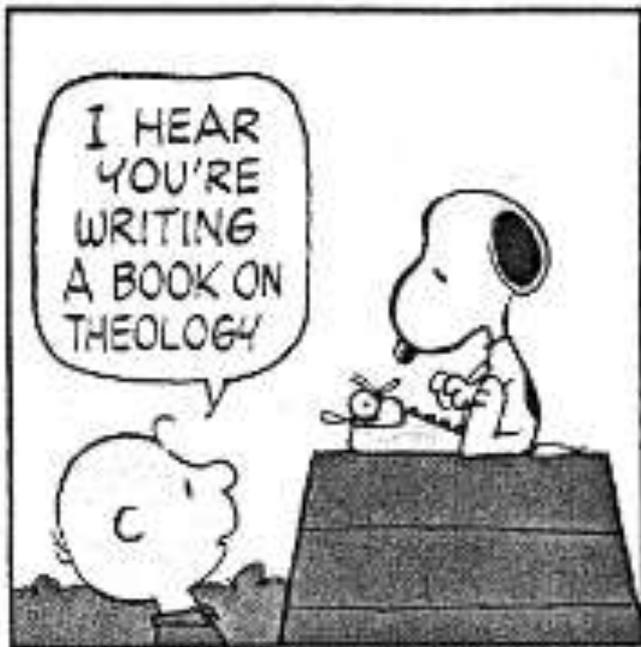
Science: “a distinct, systematized field of knowledge and an object of study.” (*Webster’s*)

- Science and philosophy seek the “I-It” truth that leads to knowledge. (*by reason & senses*)
- Theology seeks the “I-Thou” truth that leads to faith. (*by revelation... and reason and senses*)

But if theology is to have the needed impact in the world, it still must affirm reason and sense observation, just as science & philosophy do.

# Brief History of Modern Theology

- Pre-Reformation (before 1517 AD) – Dogmatic Theology was almost all that existed.
- Reformation emphasis on *sola Scriptura*, with explosion in scholarship/commentaries.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Scholasticism & development of Systematic Theologies.
- 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Cent. Enlightenment, Rationalism & denial of the supernatural, incl. in Scripture.
- 1787 – Johann Philipp Gabler; separation of Biblical and Systematic Theology disciplines.
  - Biblical Theology: historical; what Scriptures *meant*.
  - Systematic Theology: doctrinal; what Scriptures *mean now*.



# The Providence of God – Defined

- The Providence of God refers to ***the means by and through which God maintains and governs all things in the universe.*** ...or ...
- ***That continued exercise of divine energy whereby the Creator preserves His creatures, is operative in all that comes to pass in the world, and directs all things to their appointed end.***  
(Berkouwer)
- This includes the universe as a whole ([Psalm 103:19](#)), the physical world ([Matthew 5:45](#)), the affairs of nations ([Psalm 66:7](#)), human birth and destiny ([Galatians 1:15](#)), human successes and failures ([Luke 1:52](#)), and the protection of His people ([Psalm 4:8](#)). This doctrine stands in direct opposition to the idea that the universe is governed by chance (*Epicurianism*), or fate (*Stoicism*) or that God simply started the process and then departed (*Deism*).

# History of the Doctrine of the Providence of God

- *“There is perhaps no point at which Christian doctrine comes more into conflict with contemporary worldviews than in the matter of God’s Providence.”* James Montgomery Boyce
- Yet from the very earliest days, Christian theologians have taken the position that God **does** preserve and govern the world.
- Augustine (5<sup>th</sup> century) led the way in stressing that all things are preserved and governed by the sovereign, wise and beneficent will of God – including control over good and evil alike.

# History of the Doctrine of the Providence of God

- Throughout ancient times and the Middle Ages there was virtually no controversy regarding God's Providence – not even one Church Council expressed itself on this issue.
  - Thomas Aquinas' doctrine of Providence followed Augustine, holding that the will of God, as determined by His perfections, preserves and governs all things.
  - The Protestant Reformers on the whole subscribed to the Augustinian doctrine of Providence as well.
- 

# History of the Doctrine of the Providence of God

- There was no dissension to this doctrine of Providence until 16<sup>th</sup> century Socinians (*Polish unitarian heretics*) and Arminians claimed God's providence was limited by the independent power of man to control his own life, taking the control out of the hands of God.
- In 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries Deism presented God as withdrawing from the world after the Creation – a view that had developed into modern ideas about a world controlled only by natural law. (*Evolution and scientism – natural science explanations for everything, devoid of any religious belief.*)

# Aspects of the Providence of God

- Christian theism stresses a **two-fold distinction** regarding Creation and Providence:
  1. Creation is the calling into existence that which had not existed before, while Providence continues or causes to continue what has already been called into existence.
  2. There can be no cooperation by the creature with God in the act of Creation; but there *is* an aspect of cooperation and participation of the creature with the Creator in the continuation of God's Providence. (*Cooperation of second causes with the First Cause.*)

# Errors Related to the Providence of God

1. Mistaking the continued providential activity of God in the world with mere foreknowledge or foreordination. (*God knows what will happen but does not make it happen.*)
2. The Deistic belief that God's concern for the world is not universal, special or ongoing, but rather is only of a general nature, providing only general direction. This suggests that at the Creation God imparted certain properties and laws, and then left Creation to work out its destiny within those parameters, but with at most only general oversight. (*The world is simply a machine that God put into motion and then left.*)

# Errors Related to the Providence of God

3. The pantheistic loss of distinction between God and the world, which therefore dispenses with Creation and so also with any sense of God's providential activity within Creation. (*Modern liberal theology's emphasis on immanence, to the exclusion of any sense of God's transcendence.*)
4. The limiting of Providence only to "General Providence" – the administration of the world in only the most general ways thru natural laws; while denying "Special Providence" – God's concern with the details of history, the affairs of human life, and particular experiences – especially of the righteous. (*General Providence alone would, for example, allow for no prayers to be answered.*)

# Three Aspects of the Providence of God

- **Preservation** – the principle of providence by which God maintains the ***existence*** or ***being*** of all of His Creation. (*i.e., the Principle of Conservation of Matter and Energy*)
- **Concurrence, or Cooperation** – the principle of Providence by which God maintains the ***necessary actions*** of His Creation. (*i.e., the Principle of Cause and Effect*)
- **Government** – the principle of Providence by which God directs all of Creation to the ***ultimate fulfillment of his perfect will.***

# Scriptural Support for the Providence of God

- He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5:45b
- He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him. Psalm 66:7
- But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles...  
Galatians 1:15-16
- He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."  
Luke 1:52-55
- In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

# Scriptural Support for the Providence of God

- “Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long... Deuteronomy 33:12
- He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. 1 Samuel 2:9
- Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. <sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. <sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, <sup>9</sup> for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. Psalm 107:6-9
- Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. <sup>2</sup> In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves. Psalm 127:1-2
- The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. <sup>16</sup> You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Psalm 145:14-16

# Scriptural Support for the Providence of God

- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup>  
And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.  
Matthew 10:29-30
- 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'  
Acts 17:28
- He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
Colossians 1:17-18
- The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.  
Hebrews 1:3
- For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:12

# Scriptural Support for the Providence of God

- ▶ **Psalm 135:6** - *“Whatever the LORD pleases, He does....”*
- ▶ **Psalm 139:16** - *“...in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.”*
- ▶ **Proverbs 16:33** - *“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”*
- ▶ **Isaiah 46:10** - *“...My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure.”*
- ▶ **Acts 17:26** - *“...[God] determined their [all nations] appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.”*
- ▶ **Romans 8:28** - *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God....”*
- ▶ **Ephesians 1:11** - *“...[God] works all things after the counsel of His will.”*

# Does the Providence of God Ordain Evil?

- ▶ **Genesis 50:20** - *“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result....”*
- ▶ **Exodus 7:3** - *“But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may multiply my signs and wonders against Egypt.”* (Also Exodus 4:21; 14:4, 8, 17)
- ▶ **Deuteronomy 2:30** - *“But Sihon king of Heshbon was not willing for us to pass through his land; for the LORD your God hardened his spirit & made his heart obstinate... to deliver him into your hand...”*
- ▶ **Joshua 11:20** - *“For it was of the LORD to harden their [peoples of the promised land’s] hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy.”*
- ▶ **Judges 9:23** - *“Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimilech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimilech.”*
- ▶ **Judges 14:4** - *“However, his father and mother did not know that it [Samson’s sinful intent to marry a Philistine woman, contrary to the Law] was of the LORD, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines.”*
- ▶ **1 Samuel 2:25** - *“...But they [Eli’s sons] would not listen to the voice of their father, for the LORD desired to put them to death.”*

# Does the Providence of God Ordain Evil?

- ▶ **1 Samuel 16:14** - *“Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.”*
- ▶ **2 Samuel 12:11** - *“Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household....’”*
- ▶ **2 Samuel 16:11** - *“...Let him [Shimei] alone and let him curse (David), for the LORD has told him.”*
- ▶ **1 Kings 22:23** - *“Now therefore, behold, the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets....”*
- ▶ **2 Kings 24:19-20** - *“He [Zedekiah] did evil in the sight of the LORD.... For through the anger of the LORD this came about....”*  
(See also Jeremiah 52:2-3.)
- ▶ **2 Chronicles 25:20** - *“But Amaziah would not listen, for it was from God, that He might deliver them into the hand of Joash because they had sought the gods of Edom.”*
- ▶ **Job 2:3** - *“...you [Satan] incited Me [God] against him [Job] to ruin him without cause.”*

# Does the Providence of God Ordain Evil?

- ▶ **Job 42:11** - *“...they consoled and comforted him for all the adversities that the LORD had brought on him....”*
- ▶ **Psalms 105:25** - *“He [God] turned their [the Egyptians’] heart to hate His people, to deal craftily with His servants.”*
- ▶ **Proverbs 16:4** - *“The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.”*
- ▶ **Isaiah 6:10** - *“Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.”*
- ▶ **Isaiah 63:17** - *“Why, O LORD, do you cause us to stray away from Your ways and harden our heart from fearing You?”*
- ▶ **Jeremiah 6:21** - *“Therefore, thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I am laying stumbling blocks before this people....’”*
- ▶ **Lamentations 3:37-38** - *“Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and ill go forth?”*
- ▶ **Ezekiel 38:10,16** - *“Thus says the LORD God, ‘It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan...’”*
- ▶ **Amos 3:6** - *“...If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?”*

# Does the Providence of God Ordain Evil?

- ▶ **Acts 2:23** - *“This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”*
- ▶ **Acts 4:27-28** - *“For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.”*
- ▶ **Romans 9:18** - *“So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.”*
- ▶ **Romans 11:8** - *“...God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day.”*
- ▶ **Romans 11:32** - *“For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.”*
- ▶ **2 Thessalonians 2:11** - *“For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false.”*
- ▶ **1 Peter 2:8** - *“...they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.”*

# Does the Providence of God Ordain Evil?

- ▶ Scripture is quite consistent & shows beyond all doubt that there are at least occasions on which God in some real sense ordains the evil choices of His creatures.
- ▶ These evil actions do not happen outside of His sovereign control, but in fact occur exactly as He has planned.
- ▶ Furthermore, the pervasiveness of this pattern argues against these being mere isolated incidents. It is more reasonable to take them as examples of the way His sovereignty always works, as implied by the more general Scriptures referring to the unfolding of His sovereign plan.
- ▶ Therefore, God ordains *everything* that comes to pass, including the evil as well as the good.

## Predestination as one Aspect of the Providence of God

- ▶ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30

- ▶ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:3-6

# And yet...

- ▶ **Ezekiel 33:11** - *“‘...As I live!’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked should turn from his way and live....’”*
- ▶ **1 Timothy 2:4** - *“[God our Savior,] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
- ▶ **2 Peter 3:9** - *“The Lord is...not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*

▶ *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ... <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* *Romans 10:9-13*

▶ Calvin acknowledged the Bible teaches some are "elected" or "predestined," but he insisted we could only be sure of our own salvation and so could never judge whether another person was saved.

▶ The point of predestination is to remind us that God is free and gracious. Nothing we can do will earn God's favor; salvation comes from God alone.

▶ Properly understood the doctrine of predestination is to be held in harmony with the doctrine of God's love for all humankind and His desire that all should be saved. It then frees us from the speculation of who is saved and who is not, leaving us relying wholly on God's divine wisdom and grace.

▶ As the **2<sup>nd</sup> Helvetic Confession** puts it:

***"For the preaching of Christ is to be heard, and it is to be believed; and it is to be held as beyond doubt that if you believe and are in Christ, you are elected."***

# Final Thoughts on the Providence of God

- ▶ First, we must be careful not to charge God Himself with sin or evil in any form. Just because God sovereignly ordains that evil comes to pass does not mean that He Himself is evil.
  - ▶ Second, we must be careful not to deny man's moral responsibility for his own choices. Just because God ultimately ordains what choices man ends up making does not mean that man is absolved of moral responsibility for those choices.
  - ▶ Finally, we must be careful not to represent God as being equally pleased with all that He sovereignly ordains in exactly the same way.
- 