

Biblical Systematic Theology

Systematic Biblical Theology is a philosophical study of the major themes of the bible systematically presented and solely developed from the bible. The themes that are covered in this class are Bibliology (the study of scripture), Theology (the study of God) and includes Paterology (the study of the Father), Christology (the study of the Son), Pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit), as well as Angelology, Demonology / Satanology which are all pretty self explanatory. It also includes Anthropology (the study of Man), Hamartiology (the study of Sin and Evil), and Soterology (the study of Salvation). To finish out the subjects that I am presenting, I think it's equally important to include Ecclesiology (the study of the Church), Fidelity (the study of Christian Living), and of course Eschatology (the study of Last Things). I am also writing this class to set the stage for another class that I will teach next fall in March called "Inductive Bible Study". That class will help to give them the tools to take apart books of the bible chapter by chapter and verse by verse and will teach about the various forms of literature contained in the bible. If all goes well, these will be permanent courses at the School of the Bible as we begin to develop a local curriculum for training our leaders 'in house' so to speak.

They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Psalm 145:11-12

If it is the Lord's Will

I always want to be reflective and clever in these articles. It is such a small space to communicate the myriad of things going on in our lives and ministry. It is also very important for me to be honest and to present the bad as well as the good things going on. So on that note, I have to say that I began last year with much reflection, planning and prayer. I felt really positive about all the good things I was sure were coming my way in 2010. This year....not so much. I am not unhappy, quite the opposite. I have many new friendships and I am really, really enjoying the collaboration of other women in my life. Rob says that I even laugh in my sleep. But I find myself starting 2011 without any reflection or new plans or big ambitious prayers. I feel like my plans must not be God's plans because they haven't worked out. I think I'm going to try just going with the flow and see what happens. I listen to Luciano talk about his dreams for 2011 and I wish I had some too. I'm in a funny place in my life where I find I've never been before now. I have a treasured friend who is deciding to leave her husband and I can clearly see the lies she is buying in to in her life and yet, I can't talk her out of this colossal mistake. My youngest daughter is choosing a dangerous, sinful lifestyle generally littered with unhappy, unfulfilled people and I can't talk her out of this colossal mistake either. We have long-time "brothers" in our ministry who insist on lying, gossiping and slandering us

to everyone they know...and, you guessed it, we can't talk them out of this behavior no matter how many times we've tried to do so. We've hit brick wall after brick wall as we've tried again and again to rent different places in Bugio. There's nothing I can do to change that situation. I try to not even think of the cliff that Obama is driving our country over, but there's really nothing I can do about all of our money he is throwing around.

I guess I'm trying to communicate the sense of helplessness that I'm feeling. Our ministry feels in many ways to be in the same place it was this time last year. I know that is not true, but it FEELS true. Man, Satan deceives us with feelings, doesn't he? My friend is leaving her marriage of over 20 years because she "feels" this or doesn't "feel" that. It's a tragedy that has saddened me more than I can express. She is spouting so many lies that Hollywood has peddled for many years now even here in Brazil.

On the bright side, I am living and thriving in Brazil. In 2010 we have poured ourselves into writing and translating several tools that will help our ministry greatly. I have many friends that I hope to teach the gospel. I have never been happier in my marriage, after 24 years it just gets sweeter every single day. Robert and I are unified in our purpose and ministry here in Brazil. I feel that my ability to speak Portuguese is stronger each week. AND....we finally re-vamped the girl's old bedroom and made a study/craft/ sewing room for me. It was the last thing we did in 2010 finishing it up just before midnight on the 31st. This will make this room so much more useful to me.

God is blessing me. I feel that I'm in the middle of learning another big life lesson. Why do these lessons have to be so hard anyway? I am thinking of each of you and I am praying that God blesses you individually and in the congregations where you gather as His body here on this earth. That's an awesome thought, isn't it? May God receive all the glory for everything that we do!!

I love you all! Marie

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. ... Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."
James 4:13-15