

THEOLOGY

THE STUDY OF THE NATURE OF GOD.



A RIDE NATURE MINISTRY RESOURCE

"THEOLOGY"

THE STUDY OF THE NATURE OF GOD

PUBLISHED AND PRODUCED BY
THE RIDE NATURE ORGANIZATION
AS A RESOURCE AND TOOL
FOR ACTION SPORTS FOCUSED DISCIPLESHIP.

AS AN ORGANIZATION AND STAFF WE MOST REGULARLY UTILIZE
THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV) BIBLE.
WE ADVOCATE THE USE OF THIS TRANSLATION
AND WOULD RECOMMEND THE ESV
WHEN LOOKING UP THE SCRIPTURE VERSES LISTED.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ENCOURAGE THE DUPLICATION
OF THIS RESOURCE AND ONLY ASK THAT YOU
PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU DO SO.

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WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

THE·OL·O·GY

THEOS: GOD
LOGIA: STUDY

The Literal meaning of theology is the study of the nature of God. As believers, we are all called to take our own part in studying the nature of the amazing God that we serve. How can you teach someone else about the God that you believe in if you have not studied him? I am not saying that you must commit your life to theology but I do believe that you should take the time to study who God is and His characteristics.



"No one believes more strongly than I do that every Christian should be a theologian. In that sense, we all need to work it out. I want all Christians who can read, to read their Bibles and to read beyond the Bible - to read the history and theology."

~ D. A. Carson

THE WORD OF GOD

Before we dive in to our theology and study of the nature of God, we must know where we can find the information that we need in order to study. As Christians, we believe that the Bible is the infallible word of God. This means that the Bible is absolute truth, it does not contradict itself, and it is the perfect guide that God has given us to know Him. We also believe that the Bible is the only written word of God. If we believe that the Bible is our only source, then we can not look to other spiritual books in order to form our theology, we must base our beliefs on what the Bible says. This doesn't mean that we should not read other books by other theologians, but we should cross reference what other theologians write to confirm that it aligns with what the Bible says.



"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

How to study Theology

This is one of the best advices that I can give to anyone who wants to start studying theology, and that is to ASK QUESTIONS! Questions lead to answers. Yes, often times questions lead to more questions, but sooner or later they lead to answers. When we ask a question like, "what are God's attributes?", we have just opened a door to the incredible attributes of God. In order to find the answer, we always look to scripture. Then you ask a question like "what is God's character?", and we find answers as to why he does what he does. It is a simple thing to pose a question but the answer is usually deep and complex. I want to encourage you to ask questions and seek the answers using the word of God.



“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

~Romans 11:33-35

Books and commentaries

Lucky for us, there have been many great theologians in the past who have paved the way for us in the study of God. I encourage you to seek the word of God first when studying, but it is also good to get the perspective of some of the great theologians of the past. They have spent a lifetime in studying the bible and they have written books on their findings. I would advise you to read their books and commentaries on theology, glean from it, and of course fact check their findings using the bible as the ultimate authority of truth. Don't just take what you read from any of these theologians as truth before comparing it to the word of God.



Solid Theologians

- Martin Luther
- John Piper
- Charles Spurgeon
- John Calvin
- John Wesley
- J.I. Packer
- A.W. Tozer
- C.S. Lewis

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