BUILDING SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
STUDY GUIDE 3.1
Lesson 3: Propositions in Systematics
Section 1: Orientation

OUTLINE FOR TAKING NOTES

Introduction

I. Orientation

A. Definition

  1. Indicative

  2. Factual

  3. Theological

  4. Direct

B. Legitimacy

C. Place

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Write the definition of a "theological proposition" given in the lesson.

2. Explain the difference between universal and particular statements. Give examples.

3. Explain the difference between affirmative and negative statements. Give examples.

4. Explain the difference between "theology proper" and "general theology."

5. Explain what is meant in the lesson by "direct" statements.

6. Explain the challenges to theological propositions today.

7. What is the "via negativa"?

8. Make sure you are familiar with the content of the following Bible passages: Isaiah 55:8-9, Deuteronomy 29.29, and Matthew 15:7.

9. How did Jesus verify theological claims? What was His standard for testing them?

10. How does Dr. Pratt explain the four aspects of the theological process in this lesson? Describe the parts of the illustration he uses.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways did this lesson help you understand the unique language of systematic theology?

2. Do you think theological propositions are legitimate? Why?

3. Can you think of any other way to do systematic theology without the use of theological propositions, as explained in the lesson? Explain your answer.