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Th601 - Systematic Theology I: God and Humanity

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### 5-3-1 What is Theology

#### Questions

1. What is theology?
2. How is theology different from other disciplines.
3. What is meant by beginning with the gospel?
4. What is a hazard of modernity?
5. What is the golden age of the prolegomena?

#### Answers

1. In my opinion, the best definition of theology is offered by Augustine, a rational (not emotional, super spiritual or mystical) discussion respecting the deity.
2. Theology is not the study of ideas about God, but rather the study of a God who is alive and interacts with his creation.
3. Begin with the simplicity of the good news of God's love demonstrated through the Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and exaltation.
4. One of the dangers of modernity is that Christianity can be diminished to living an ethical life and not considering the living God is present and interacting in our day-to-day activities.

5. Some theologians attempted to tackle the modernity disputes in their introduction such as Hodge in his comparison of theology to history or chemistry. They all contain facts, ideas and principles.

#### Terms

1. **Prolegomena** – introduction or foundation before beginning in systematic study of God and His interaction with the world he created.
2. **Modernity** – 1789 (fall of French Bastille) – (1989 Fall of the Berlin wall)
  - a. Post-medieval, feudal, Industrialization, secularization, naturalistic reasoning,
3. **Empiricism** - all knowledge is derived from sense-experience

#### Summary

Theology is the approach used to approach the study and communicate the living and active God. It is not complicated, exclusive and hidden but can be approached from any starting point and build upon. I have come to understand theology is not “el cuko” or “if you ponder on theology, you will lose your mind” as I had but taught as a child. But I have found the focus of theology profound in its simplicity.