

Everything You Need to Know

A Systematic Study of God

An Introduction to Rational Faith

The study of God is called _____.

THE TERM theology, according to its etymological features, is a compound of two Greek words—θεός (Theos, 'God'), and λόγος (logos, 'speech' or 'expression').¹

The word "theology" ... means the rational interpretation of religious faith. Christian theology thus means the rational interpretation of the Christian faith.²

Why study theology?

1. So that the _____ may come to believe in Jesus Christ. (John 6:68)
2. So that the _____ may become more like Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:29)
3. So that _____ may know the truth and avoid error. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

How do we study theology?

1. Recognize that we all operate with _____.
 - a. God _____. (Genesis 1:1)
 - b. God is _____. (Romans 1:19-21)
 - c. God has revealed Himself to mankind through _____. (Romans 10:17)
 - d. God's Word is true and reliable. (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. Commit to a consistent philosophy of _____.
 - a. Follow normal, plain, and literal rules of grammar.
 - b. Remember there is _____ in revelation, giving priority to the New Testament scriptures.
 - c. Compare scripture with _____.
3. Rely on the _____ provided by the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26)

¹ Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 1–3.

² Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), 12–13.