

something about America. Evidence of the roundness of the earth and also of its approximate size was available, though not widely known. On the basis of this information he might well have guessed the existence of a large continent on the opposite side of the world, but any attempt to determine the features of this continent would be purely guesswork. No matter how acute one's brain might be, or how advanced he were in philosophy, he could not tell the shape of such a continent, the nature of its physical contours, the character of its people, what language they spoke, what their manners and customs were, etc. He could tell nothing about the animals or plants of this continent. Philosophers might ask valid questions about it, but the answers were available to them only if someone who had visited the continent were to give a communication (revelation) presenting facts about it. Such in general is the relation of mankind to eternal things. No mere human being has experienced these matters. Philosophy and reason can only speculate. Facts need to be revealed by One who knows. Thus the only solid basis for systematic theology is a revelation from God.

Such a revelation presents a solid and dependable basis for theology. Since God is holy and just, anything He reveals can be absolutely depended upon. The Christian believes in the validity of a systematic theology that is founded solely on Biblical data, and recognizes that systematic theology founded on any other source runs grave danger of serious error, and may be purely imaginary.

Sometimes it is alleged that the Bible presents only matters of faith or experience and does not give us propositional knowledge. Such a statement is no more true of systematic theology than it would be of physics or biology. While all propositions are limited in the scope that they cover, propositions reasonably deduced from Biblical data are just as solid and dependable as propositions deduced from data obtained by observation of physical phenomena.