

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: ITS VALIDITY AND ITS LIMITATIONS

Introduction

I. The validity of systematic theology

- A. The basis for a valid systematic theology
- B. Consideration of objections
 - 1. Alleged nonexistence of supernatural world
 - 2. The wide variety of religions
 - 3. The variety of views strongly held by various Christian groups
 - 4. The alleged difficulty of knowing which books are authoritative
 - 5. The lack of original manuscripts
 - 6. The alleged difficulty of expressing supernatural truths in human words
 - 7. The alleged temporary nature of Scriptural teaching

II. The limitations of systematic theology

- A. Limited to propositions reasonably deduced from Biblical data
- B. Limitations caused by recognition of purpose of Bible
 - 1. Practical nature of Biblical writings
 - 2. Relation to temporary situations
- C. Limitations produced by incompleteness of human reasoning
- D. Limitation from the nature of language