

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A	page 5
B, C	page 7
D	page 10
E	page 12
F	page 14
G	page 15
H, I	page 16
J, L	page 19
M	page 20
N, O	page 21
P	page 22
R	page 25
S	page 27
T	page 29
U	page 31
V, W, Y	page 32
Recommended resources	page 33

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT. An unconditional covenant (binding on God alone) in which God promised to give the physical descendants of Abraham a land, a posterity, and a worldwide blessing (Gen. 12:1–3). See COVENANT.

ADONAI. A Hebrew name for God meaning “Lord” or “Master” and stressing the lordship or authority of God. It should be understood as “Lord of all” or “Lord par excellence.”

ADOPTION. God’s act of making the believer a part of His spiritual family. The word adoption (Gk. *huiothesia*) means “placing as a son” and describes the rights, privileges, and position of the believer in Christ.

ADVENT. The coming or “arrival” of Christ to earth. The first advent refers to His initial coming in the incarnation to provide salvation. The second advent is the future second coming to judge the world in righteousness.

AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY. The term used to indicate a point in a person’s life when they become morally accountable to God for their sins.

AGNOSTIC. A person who says that we cannot know if God exists.

ALLEGORY, ALLEGORICAL METHOD. An allegory is a story that contains a deeper or “hidden” meaning behind its details. The allegorical method is an incorrect way to interpret the Bible, in which the reader seeks to find a “higher” or “spiritual” meaning behind the plain reading of the text.

AMILLENNIALISM. The teaching that there will be no literal millennial (one-thousand-year) reign following Christ’s return to earth.

ANALOGY OF SCRIPTURE. From the Latin "analogia scriptura," this is the principle that Scripture must be its own interpreter, since it cannot contradict itself.

ANGEL. A heavenly spirit being that is commissioned to do God's will. As a messenger on earth, an angel is sent from God with a specific commission to instruct or protect God's human creation.

ANGELOLOGY. This is the study of angels (including holy angels, Satan, and demons); their origin and destiny; their activity and power.

ANNIHILATIONISM. The incorrect view that when all the wicked are thrown in the Lake of Fire they will cease to exist and not experience eternal punishment.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARGUMENT. Comes from the Greek word "anthropos," meaning "man." Because man is a moral being possessing conscience, intellect, emotion, and will, God must have created man with His moral nature.

ANTHROPOLOGY. The study of man's nature, origin, and destiny from a Biblical standpoint.

ANTHROPOMORPHISM. A figure of speech sometimes used by Biblical writers to describe God in human terms (e.g. "eyes," "face," "arm," "hand," etc.). It is used to help finite, physical human beings understand an abstract truth about God, Who is Spirit.

ANTINOMIANISM. An opposition to law; specifically, a rejection of the idea that the Christian's life need be governed by laws or rules. This is the opposite of legalism.

ANTINOMY. An apparent paradox where two seemingly contradictory truths exist at the same time (e.g., God's sovereignty and man's responsibility).

ANTICHRIST. Literally meaning "against Christ," this term refers to past, present, and future individuals or ideologies that oppose Christ and deny that He came in the flesh (1 John 2:18; 4:3). The term also refers to the "man of lawlessness" (2 Thess. 2:3) who will one day deceive the nations, rule the world, and violently persecute the saints during the Tribulation period (Rev. 13:3-8).

ANTI-SEMITISM. The hatred of the Jewish people. A 'Semite' is a descendant of Noah's son Shem.

APOCRYPHA. A Greek word meaning "things that are hidden." More specifically, it refers to a group of fourteen books that were written after Malachi. Though not part of the Hebrew canon of Scripture, the Roman Catholic Church included them in their Bible.

APOLOGETICS. The discipline that seeks to provide a defense of the Christian faith by offering arguments supporting its truthfulness to unbelievers. The term comes from the Greek word "apologia," meaning "defense," as found in 1 Peter 3:15.

APOSTASY. The Biblical term for a "falling away" from the Christian faith (Heb. 6:4-8). This is not a reference to the loss of salvation, but rather the rejection of previously held intellectual beliefs (1 John 2:19).

APOSTLE. The word may be used in two senses: (1) as an office, it denotes one who followed Christ throughout His ministry; hence, it is limited to the Twelve and, in a special way, to Paul; (2) as a gift, it may be used in a general sense as "one who is sent with authority."

ARIANISM. The belief founded by Arius, and influenced by Tertullian and Origen, that denied the eternity of Christ. Arius stated that Christ had been created by the Father; this teaching was condemned by the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325.

ARCHANGEL. The highest chief angel named Michael, who is also called “the great prince.”

ARMINIANISM. A doctrinal system formed by Jacobus Arminius (1560–1609) as a reaction to Calvinism in the Netherlands, which stresses the free will of man in salvation.

ASCENSION. The return of the resurrected Christ back up into Heaven to the presence of the Father (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9).

ASEITY. The attribute of God’s self-existence.

ATHEIST. Derived from the Greek components “theos,” meaning “God,” with the “a-” prefix negating the statement; hence, “one who does not believe in God.”

ATONEMENT. God’s act through Jesus Christ in dealing with humanity’s problem of sin. He died in place of sinners that He might purchase their freedom, reconcile them to God, and thereby satisfy the righteous demands of an all-holy God.

ATONEMENT, LIMITED. Also called “definite” or “particular” atonement, this view emphasizes that Christ died only for the elect.

ATONEMENT, UNLIMITED. The view that Christ died for everyone, but that His death is effective only in those who believe the Gospel.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD. The distinguishing characteristics of God that set Him apart and through which He reveals Himself to mankind.

ATTRIBUTES, INCOMMUNICABLE and COMMUNICABLE. Incommunicable attributes are those found only with God (e.g., eternity, omnipresence, immutability). Communicable attributes are those which, at least in some degree, are also found in man (e.g., wisdom, justice, truth).

AUTOGRAPHS. The original manuscripts of written Scripture.

BAPTISM. From the Greek "baptizo," meaning "to immerse," this term refers to the Church ordinance where a believer is submerged in water to symbolize his/her identification with Christ in His death and resurrection.

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT. The work of the Holy Spirit in placing the believer into union with Christ as the Head and with other believers as the body of Christ. This is a non-experiential reality that takes place at the moment of salvation.

BIBLIOLOGY. The study of the origin, nature, and reliability of the Bible as the Word of God.

CALVINISM. A doctrinal system formed by Swiss Reformer, John Calvin (1509–64), stressing the sovereignty of God in salvation.

CANON. The term comes from the Greek "kanon," meaning "reed" or "rod." Since reeds were commonly used as measuring sticks, the word began to convey the idea of a "standard." The canon of Scripture refers to the books of the Bible that the Church recognized as being truly the Word of God.

CANONICITY. A term used relative to the sixty-six books of the Bible, indicating they have passed the tests used to determine their inspiration and inclusion in the body of sacred Scripture.

CESSATIONISM. The belief that the “sign gifts” were operative only in the Apostolic era, and that those gifts gradually ceased before the end of the first century when the totality of Scripture was completed.

CHARISMATIC THEOLOGY. This is a study of what the Bible has to say about the Holy Spirit imparting spiritual gifts to believers, particularly the “sign gifts” such as healing, miracles, and speaking in tongues.

CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT. Originally beginning with the Pentecostal movement, the charismatic movement broadened its boundaries to impact many Protestant and Catholic denominations. Believing the sign gifts of speaking in tongues and healing are not restricted to the apostolic age, charismatics affirm these sign gifts as valid throughout the centuries and into the present.

CHERUBIM. A class of angels, each having four unique faces (man, lion, ox, and eagle), four wings, and feet like a calf that shine like burnished bronze. They are protectors of God’s presence, sovereignty, and holiness.

CHRIST. A title meaning “Anointed One,” referring to God the Son. The Greek word translated in English as “Christ” is the equivalent of the Hebrew term Messiah.

CHRISTOLOGY. The study of the second Person of the Trinity, God the Son.

CHURCH. Means “a called-out group” (Greek “ekklesia”). A local Church is a congregation of believers. The universal Church is the whole spiritual body of true Christian believers, regardless of location in the world or time in history.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE. The process of disciplining sinning believers according to Biblical guidelines (*e.g.*, Matthew 18: 15–17). The final step of church discipline involves removing the sinning believer from the church, thus considering them an unbeliever who needs to be evangelized.

COMMON GRACE. God's unmerited favor to all mankind in providing sunshine, rainfall, food, and clothing. It may also denote God's withholding judgment and restraining sin.

COMMUNION (see LORD'S SUPPER)

COMPLEMENTARIAN. The Biblical view that men and women are absolutely equal in value, but they've been given—by God—completely different roles in the Church and family contexts.

CONFESSION. The term has three different uses: 1) To acknowledge sin before God (1 John 1:9); 2) To make a declaration of allegiance and worship to God (Rom 10:9); 3) A doctrinal summary of essential Christian beliefs in written form (such as The Westminster Confession of Faith).

CONGREGATIONAL. A form of Church government in which the authority is vested in the congregation. All the members of the congregation make the decisions that guide and govern the Church.

CONSCIENCE. The inner sense of being obligated to do the right and avoid the wrong.

CONSUBSTANTIATION. The Lutheran view of the Lord's Supper, where Jesus' body and blood are present in the elements, but they do not change into literal body and blood. This view fails to recognize Jesus' statement "This is My body" as a figure of speech.

CONSUMMATION. Meaning "completion," in eschatology this refers to Christ making all things new in the eternal state, thereby completing the history of the fallen universe.

CONVERSION. Turning to God in repentance and faith, resulting in the salvation of the soul.

CONVICTION. The ministry of the Holy Spirit that gives proof of the truth of the Christian message, particularly in regards to exposing sin in a person's life.

COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT. This argument for the existence of God is based on the fact that a cosmos (the Greek word for "world") exists. Because something cannot come from nothing, there must be an original cause that is the reason for the world's existence.

COVENANT. A covenant is an agreement between two parties, often with a binding oath or promise.

COVENANT THEOLOGY. A system of theology teaching that God entered into a covenant of works with Adam, who failed, whereupon God entered into a covenant of grace, promising eternal life to those who believe. Covenant theology affirms there is one people of God called true Israel, the Church (in contrast to dispensationalism, which teaches there are two peoples of God, called Israel and the Church).

DAVIDIC COVENANT. An unconditional covenant in which God promised David he would have: (1) a house –a continuing dynasty; (2) a kingdom –Messiah would one day rule; (3) a throne; (4) an eternal rule.

DAY OF THE LORD. This phrase is sometimes used in the Old Testament to refer to historical judgments that have already happened, while other times it is used to refer to events that will happen at the end of the age.

DEACON. A New Testament Church office denoting someone who has spiritual maturity (1 Tim. 3:8-13) and who cares for the material/practical needs of the congregation (Acts 6:1-6).

DEATH. Meaning “separation from.” In the Bible death refers to the destructive consequences of the entrance of sin into humankind. Death has three manifestations: 1) Spiritual death—separation from God; 2) Physical death—the soul’s separation from the body; 3) Eternal death—eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire (also called “the second death”).

DECREE(S) OF GOD. God’s eternal purpose of planning and appointing everything that happens according to His sovereign will and for His glory.

DEISM. The belief that although God exists, He is an impersonal God, uninterested and uninvolved in the world.

DEMONS. Angels who fell with Lucifer when he rebelled against God. They follow Satan in committing evil, afflicting and deceiving people.

DEMON POSSESSION. When a demon inhabits a person, and thus directly controls and influences them causing them to be deranged.

DEPRAVITY. A term used to refer to the corruption of sin extending to all people and affecting the entire person—his intellect, emotions, and will—so that nothing in the person can commend him to God.

DEVIL. The highest ranking angel Lucifer, who fell from prominence and is now the “slanderer” who accuses believers before God. See also SATAN.

DICHOTOMY. The view of man’s nature that says he consists of two parts: body and soul/spirit.

DISPENSATION. The plan of God by which He administers His rule within a given era in His eternal program.

DISPENSATIONALISM. A system of theology recognizing different stewardships of man under God. Dispensationalism was popularized by C. I. Scofield, with later refinements. Dispensationalism is distinguished by: (1) consistent literal interpretation; (2) clear distinction between Israel and the Church; and (3) the glory of God as God's ultimate purpose in the world.

DOCTRINE. A theological stance that summarizes the teaching of Scripture on a particular topic (i.e. the deity of Christ, salvation through faith, etc.). "Sound" doctrine is what the Bible affirms is accurate and truthful.

DOGMATIC THEOLOGY. The official theology recognized by an organized Church body (e.g. the Dutch Reformed Church).

DOMINION THEOLOGY. This view states that Christianity will rule all of society.

EASY-BELIEVISM. Also known as "non-Lordship salvation." This view holds that salvation does not require repentance or evidence of spiritual fruit in one's life. In this view, saving faith is a solely human act.

ECCLESIOLOGY. This is the study of the Church as the body of Christ as distinguished from Old Testament Israel; its beginning and end; its character and structure; its mission; its place in God's plan for the ages.

EFFICACIOUS GRACE. Meaning "effective," this special grace is the work of the Holy Spirit which effectively moves men to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.

EGALITARIAN. The feminist view that because men and women are of equal value, therefore they should have equal access to all roles in the Church and family.

EISEGESIS. An incorrect method of interpreting Scripture where meaning is “read into” the text instead of “drawn out” of the text (see EXEGESIS.)

ELDER. A New Testament Church office, denoting someone who is spiritually mature (1 Tim. 3:1-7) and who provides spiritual leadership in the local assembly.

ELDER LED. A congregation that is shepherded by elders and is accountable only to their own elders/pastors. The elders carry the responsibility for making decisions regarding the Church's doctrines, philosophies, and ministries.

ELECTION. God's sovereign act of choosing some individuals for salvation.

ELOHIM. A Hebrew plural name for God that emphasizes His strength, power, and superiority over all other so-called gods.

EPISCOPAL. A form of church government in which the authority is vested in bishops who oversee a group of churches and exercise authority over the local pastors.

ESCHATOLOGY. This is the study of Bible prophecy as it relates to Christ, Israel, the Church, the Kingdom, and the nations; future judgments and resurrections; the cluster of end-time events and persons; intermediate and eternal states; and the new heavens and earth.

ETERNITY, ETERNALITY. An attribute of God that means He is not limited by time. His eternity extends backwards and forwards to infinity.

ETERNAL SECURITY. The Biblical principle that a believer's salvation and eternal life in Christ is secure, never to be removed or lost.

EVANGELISM. The act of proclaiming the Good News of salvation and entreating unbelievers to put their faith in Christ.

EVOLUTION. An anti-supernatural approach to biological life origins, teaching that all life has evolved from a single cell through natural processes and chance over billions of years into the highly developed forms we see today.

EXEGESIS. A word derived from the Greek term “exegesis” meaning “to draw out” or “to explain”; hence, the explaining of a passage of Scripture.

EXHORTATION. The word literally means “called alongside to help,” and is often used in Scripture as a synonym for “urge” or “command.” It is also a spiritual gift.

EXPIATION. The cancellation of sin by being covered over by Christ’s death.

EXPOSITION. The “exposing” of the truths of a Biblical passage through interpretation, explanation, and clarification. Expository preaching follows this pattern.

FALL OF MAN. The historic event described in Genesis 3 in which Adam and Eve disobeyed God with the result that sin and death entered humanity and the world (Rom. 5:12).

FAITH. “The assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). Saving faith involves intellectual belief and relational trust or commitment to Christ; it is a work of God in the heart of a believing sinner.

FELLOWSHIP. The word “fellowship” (Gk. “koinonia”) means “sharing” and emphasizes the unity of the Church through mutual encouragement and ministering to one another.

FILLING OF THE SPIRIT. The experience of being controlled by the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. A believer who is “filled with the Spirit” will be a mature and effective servant of Christ.

FLESH. Mankind's tendency toward sinful selfishness—which remains with the believer, but which is continually being conquered in daily life by the indwelling presence of the Spirit, and which will be gone forever at the believer's ultimate glorification.

FORGIVENESS. Forgiveness is the act of cancelling a debt, pardoning, wiping the slate clean. Forgiveness is a decision to not hold an offense against someone.

G**LORIFICATION.** The last stage in the process of salvation, that involves the completion of sanctification and the removal of all spiritual defects, when the believer is given a new "glorified" body.

GLORY. The majestic beauty of the unapproachable presence of God.

GOODNESS. God's perfect kindness, benevolence, and love toward His creatures.

GOSPEL. From the Greek "euangelion," meaning "good news," the Gospel is the message about the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

GRACE. The undeserved favor of God toward those who are under God's righteous condemnation.

GRACE, EFFICACIOUS (IRRESISTIBLE, SPECIAL). God's sovereign work in effectively calling some to salvation. None of those whom God calls will reject His call; hence, it is also termed "irresistible grace."

HAMARTIOLOGY. Meaning “the study of sin.” Hamartiology deals with the origin and nature of sin, and its consequences for the world of men, angels, and the created order.

HERESY. Teaching that claims to be Christian and Scriptural but is rejected by the Christian community as contrary to Scripture and hence to orthodox doctrine. Most often these are teachings that distort the nature of God, the person of Jesus Christ, and/or salvation.

HERMENEUTICS. The art and science of interpreting Scripture.

HIERARCHICAL VIEW. The view that men should hold positions superior to women in every aspect of society.

HOLINESS. An attribute of God that means He is “set apart” from His creation and totally devoid of all evil. Holiness is purity; separation from sin.

HOLY. Means to be “set apart” for a special purpose, whether referring to objects or to people. It also means to be pure and free from sin.

HYPOSTATIC UNION. A theological expression that refers to the dual nature of Christ. God the Son took to Himself a human nature, and He remains forever true God and true Man—two natures in one Person forever. The two natures remain distinct without any intermingling; but they nevertheless compose one Person, Christ the God-Man.

IDOLATRY. Worshipping any false god or idol, which includes anything or anyone that takes the place of God in the hearts, minds, and affections of man.

ILLUMINATION. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in enlightening the believer, enabling the believer to understand divine truth in the Bible.

IMAGE OF GOD. We are told in Genesis 1:26–27 that God created man in the image of God. That means that man is in certain ways like God and represents God (*i.e.* in mind, will, emotions, etc.).

IMMANENCE. The contrast to transcendence. God is involved in His creation; He ministers to His people and has dealings also with unbelievers.

IMMENSITY OF GOD. God's quality of transcendent greatness and supremacy in relation to the smaller size of angelic and human individuals. He is beyond spatial limitations, but is simultaneously everywhere present. (See OMNIPRESENCE)

IMMINENT. Means "ready to take place" or "impending." Generally used in theology for the view that the Rapture can occur at any time.

IMMORTALITY. Meaning "unable to die," this term refers to the nature of God as well as the nature of man's soul—it will never cease to exist, but will live forever.

IMMUTABILITY. The attribute of God that He cannot and does not change in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises.

IMPECCABILITY. The sinlessness of Christ.

IMPUTATION. Means "to place on one's account" as a charge or a credit. The three Biblical concepts of imputation are: the sin of Adam is charged to all humanity; the sin of all humanity is charged to Christ; Christ's righteousness is credited to all who believe on Him.

INCARNATION. Meaning “in flesh,” the incarnation defines the act wherein the eternal God the Son took to Himself an additional nature, humanity, through the virgin birth. By that act Christ did not cease to be God but remains forever fully God and fully Man—two natures in one person.

INERRANCY. Literally “without error,” it means the Bible is free from error in the original manuscripts.

INFALLIBILITY. The Bible is “unable to fail” in its ability to accomplish its divinely intended purpose.

INSPIRATION. The act of the Holy Spirit in which He superintended the writers of Scripture so that, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, they produced God’s Word written, authoritative, trustworthy, and free from error in the original writings. The English word inspiration or inspired is the translation of the Greek term theopneustos, meaning “God breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16).

INSPIRATION, VERBAL. The concept that God inspired every individual word of Scripture.

INSPIRATION, PLENARY. The concept that all parts of Scripture are equally inspired by God.

INTERCESSION. A petition, especially on behalf of someone else. The term is used in Scripture in these ways: 1) Jesus making petitions on behalf of His people as the Mediator between them and God the Father, 2) The Holy Spirit aiding the prayers of believers, and 3) People praying for others.

ISRAELOLOGY. As its name proclaims, this is the study of the Nation of Israel; its choice by God; its place in the program of God for the ages; and its relationship to the Kingdom of God.

JUDGMENT. The act of determining reward or punishment for each individual according to their deeds.

JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. The place or occasion for the divine evaluation of the faithfulness of Christians' lives, resulting in the giving or withholding of rewards (2 Cor. 5:10). The Judgment Seat occurs in the heavenlies while the Tribulation is taking place on earth.

JUSTICE. Justice is the practice of giving punishment or reward to the appropriate person or group. God's justice is His perfect action in dealing with humanity according to His Law.

JUSTIFICATION. Meaning "to declare righteous," this is a legal act wherein God pronounces the believing sinner "righteous" on the basis of the death of Christ alone.

LAND-USE COVENANT. A conditional covenant given to Israel in which Moses emphasized that although God had given the children of Israel an everlasting deed to the Land, their enjoyment of it would depend on their obedience to the Mosaic Covenant. Disobedience would result in exile from the Land.

LAW. Usually a designation of the law that God gave to Moses. The law can be divided into: (1) civil law, which legislated the social responsibilities with their neighbors; (2) ceremonial law, which legislated Israel's worship life; and (3) moral law, found principally in the Ten Commandments, which identified God's timeless standards of right and wrong.

LEGALISM. The teaching that people can earn favor with God by keeping certain rules. It is the opposite of antinomianism.

LORDSHIP SALVATION. The belief that the Gospel call to faith presupposes that sinners must repent and yield to Christ's authority.

LORD'S SUPPER. The Church ordinance of taking the elements (bread and juice) in remembrance of Christ's death. Also known as "Communion," the Lord's Supper is symbolic of the New Covenant that Jesus enacted in His blood for the forgiveness of sins.

LOVE. Self-sacrifice that is willingly given, that is accompanied by emotion, and that gives to someone else regardless of their worth or reciprocation. God's attribute of love is shown in His giving of His own Son that He might die for our sins (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:8-10).

MARRIAGE OF CHRIST. An event involving the wedding of the Church to Christ that takes place in Heaven prior to Christ's return to earth.

MEDIATOR. An agent who makes peace between two parties. Christ mediated salvation between God and humankind (1 Tim. 2:5).

MERCY. Showing pity or love toward those in misery or distress, even when they don't deserve it.

MERIT. The quality of being good enough to be rewarded by God for works done on God's behalf. Only God could have fulfilled the merit He requires to be made righteous.

MESSIAH. Taken from the Hebrew word "meshiach," meaning "anointed," and equivalent to the Greek word "christos" (also meaning "anointed"). It is a title of Jesus, designating Him as the Anointed One of God.

MILLENNIUM. The word millennium is derived from the Latin words “mille” meaning “a thousand” and “annus” meaning “year”; hence, a period of “one thousand years.” Revelation 20:4–6 specifically mentions that Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years following His return to earth.

MIRACLE. A supernatural event which has no human explanation and which suspends natural law.

MODALISM. The anti-trinitarian view that states there is only one Person in the Godhead that manifests Himself in different forms or modes as Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. Also called Sabellianism and Modalistic Monarchianism.

MORAL ARGUMENT. The argument for the existence of God that since man has an innate sense of morality, an awareness of right and wrong in the conscience, therefore he must have been given this by a God with a moral standard.

MOSAIC COVENANT. God’s covenant with Israel at Mt. Sinai, as given through Moses. It encompassed God’s moral law as well as civil and ceremonial laws and instructions for building the tabernacle.

NEW COVENANT. An unconditional covenant in which God promised to provide for forgiveness of sin (Jer. 31:31–34). The death of Christ is the foundation of that forgiveness, and the ultimate fulfillment of the New Covenant will be in the future millennial kingdom.

OMNIPOTENCE. That quality of deity that means God is all-powerful and can do anything that is consistent with His nature and Person.

OMNIPRESENCE. That attribute of deity that means God is everywhere present in His totality at the same time.

OMNISCIENCE. That characteristic of God that means He knows all things actual and possible, whether past, present, or future.

ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT. The argument for the existence of God that since man can conceive of the idea of God, therefore God must exist.

ORDINANCE. An outward rite prescribed by Christ to be performed by His Church. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only two ordinances given to the Church.

ORTHODOXY. The core beliefs that define the Christian faith.

ORTHOPRAXY. A Biblical way of life (practice) that flows from orthodoxy.

PANTHEISM. The belief that everything is God, and God is in everything.

PECCABILITY. The false belief that Christ could have sinned, even though He never did.

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS. The Calvinistic doctrine of the believer's security. Those whom Christ chose and died for are eternally secure in their salvation; they can never fall away or be lost once they are saved, for the indwelling Holy Spirit will effectually work their perseverance to the end.

PERSONALITY, PERSONHOOD. The intellect, emotions, and will, which are characteristic of a personal being.

PNEUMATOLOGY. Its name is taken from the Greek word for "Spirit" ("pneuma"). This is the study of the third Person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit.

POLYTHEISM. The belief in many gods.

POSTMILLENNIALISM. Popular in the nineteenth century, this view holds that the Church Age will gradually evolve into a "golden age" when the Church will rule over all the world through Christianizing the nations, and Christ will come after this.

POSTTRIBULATIONISM. The belief that the Church will be on earth during the Tribulation; it will not be raptured away.

PREDESTINE, PREDESTINATION. Means "to mark out beforehand" and refers to God's determining in eternity past whatever comes to pass in history, including whom He would sovereignly choose for salvation (Eph. 1:5, 11).

PREMILLENNIALISM, MODERN. A form of premillennialism which teaches that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation, when God will again focus on Israel in His plan for the world. Christ will return at the end of the Tribulation to rescue Israel and establish the Millennium. Identified by: (1) a consistently literal interpretation and (2) a distinction between Israel and the Church. This viewpoint revived the historic premillennial view, except that the Second Coming consists of two stages: first an appearing of Jesus in the clouds for His Church, and second, a return to the earth with His Church.

PREMILLENNIALISM, HISTORIC. This was the viewpoint of the Early Church until the year 400 A.D. The Church Age will be followed by seven years of Tribulation when God pours out His wrath upon the earth. Then Jesus will appear in the heavens at the end of the Tribulation. The saints, living and dead, will meet Him in the sky and immediately return with Him to earth to reign with Him from Jerusalem. At the end of His reign, the earth will be consumed by fire, producing a new and perfected earth. The saints will then live with God eternally on the new earth.

PRESBYTERIAN. From the Greek word “presbuteros,” meaning “elder,” this is a type of Church government run by elders who are appointed or elected by the people, and who in turn are ruled by a hierarchy of other elders.

PRESERVATION. The doctrine that refers to the acts of God whereby He has kept through the centuries the written record of His special revelation for His people – the Scriptures.

PRESUPPOSITIONAL. A description of beliefs that are assumed to be true, and therefore must be accepted. The Bible itself “pre-supposes” from the very first verse that it is God’s true Word to man.

PRETERISM. Coming from the Latin “praeter,” meaning “past,” this is the view that Biblical prophecies regarding end times have already been fulfilled at some point in the past.

PRETRIBULATIONISM. The belief that Christ will rapture the Church before the Tribulation.

PRIEST. A representative of sinful mankind to God that offered sacrifices on behalf of the sinner.

PRIMOGENITURE. The idea that the firstborn in any generation in a human family has leadership in the family for that generation.

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION. The gradual building of God’s unveiling of truth throughout the Scriptures from beginning to end. God did not reveal truth about Himself all at once, but revealed it in “many portions and in many ways” over time (Heb. 1:1).

PROLEGOMENA. This is a “foreword” in the world of theology. It lays the foundation, both spiritual and academic, for the serious study of the rest of the fields of theology.

PROPHECY. A direct revelation from God that is given to a prophet. The prophecy may involve “forth-telling” God’s Word, or it may be “foretelling” the future. Prophecy was a gift that some had before the canon of Scripture was completed (Eph 2:20; 4:11). The term “Prophecy” is also used to describe portions of the Bible that are either 1) Written by a prophet, or 2) Speak about future events (i.e. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Revelation, etc.)

PROPHET. A spokesman between God and men who received direct revelation from God, revealing God’s will to man.

PROPITIATION. Meaning “to appease or to atone,” this doctrine stresses that the holiness of God was fully satisfied, His wrath was appeased, and His righteous demands were met through the atoning death of Christ.

PROTOEVANGELIUM. The first announcement of the Gospel in the Scriptures (Gen. 3:15), declaring that God would send a Redeemer Who would defeat Satan.

PROVIDENCE. God’s care for the creation, involving His preserving its existence and meticulously guiding it to His intended ends.

RANSOM. A price paid to redeem a prisoner. Christ’s death was a ransom paid to God to satisfy His righteousness and just wrath against sin.

RAPTURE. Means “caught up,” as in 1 Thess. 4:17, referring to Christ’s return in the air (not to earth) and the sudden catching up of the Church to be with Him.

RECONCILIATION. The act of making peace with God. God removed the barrier of sin through Christ's atoning blood sacrifice, producing peace and enabling man to be saved.

REDEMPTION. The word "redemption" comes from the Greek word "agorazo" and means "to purchase in the marketplace," often used of the sale of slaves. This word describes the believer being purchased out of the slave market of sin and set free from sin's bondage. The purchase price for the believer's release was the death of Jesus Christ.

REGENERATION. Another word for "regeneration" is "rebirth," related to the Biblical phrase "born again." The first birth of every human was when they were conceived physically and inherited the sin nature. In contrast, regeneration, or the "New Birth" is a spiritual, holy, and heavenly birth that results in a person being made alive spiritually. Man in his natural state is "dead in trespasses and sins" until he is "made alive" (regenerated) by Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3; Eph. 2:1-5). This happens when a person places their faith in Christ. Through regeneration, a person becomes a brand new creation in Christ with a new heart and new desires (2 Cor. 5:17).

REPENTANCE. A change of heart involving turning from sin to embrace Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are distinguishable elements that blend in one composite work by God's gracious moving in genuine conversion. Daily repentance involves a change of mind that results in a change of heart which results in a change of action or behavior.

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY. This is new terminology for covenant theology, which teaches that the Church has replaced Israel in God's program. It views the covenantal promises to Israel as conditional, with Israel failing to meet the conditions. The promised blessings to Israel have been relegated to the Church.

REVELATION. Means “unveiling” and describes the unveiling or disclosure of truth from God to mankind that man could not otherwise know.

REVELATION, GENERAL. The truths God has revealed about Himself to all mankind through creation and the human conscience (Rom. 1 & 2).

REVELATION, SPECIAL. The truths God has revealed about Himself in greater detail than through General Revelation. Special Revelation has occurred in the past through direct conversations with God, dreams, and visions, as well as signs and miracles. In these last days, God has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ and the Bible (Heb 1:1-3).

RIGHTEOUSNESS. God’s perfection; His right and just character, actions, and judgment. Believers possess this righteousness in Christ, and therefore can do what is right and just through Him.

SACRAMENTS. The term sacrament usually refers to a formal religious act commanded by Christ that is sacred as a sign or symbol of spiritual reality. Protestants generally prefer the designation “ordinances.”

SAINTS. From the Greek word “hagios” meaning “consecrated to God,” this term is used in Scripture to denote believers, Christians, the Church.

SALVATION. An eternal, spiritual deliverance of the human soul from the righteous wrath of God against sin. Salvation comes only by means of repentance and faith in the atoning work of Christ.

SANCTIFICATION. Comes from a Greek verb meaning "to set apart." It is used in three ways: (1) Positional sanctification: The believer legally stands as a saint before God because of Christ's death on their behalf; (2) Progressive sanctification: The believer grows in their likeness to Christ through daily spiritual experience; (3) Ultimate sanctification: The future presentation of all believers to the Lord without any blemish.

SATAN. Meaning "adversary," Satan is a literal creature who once was a high-ranking angel called "Lucifer," but he fell from prominence as a result of his rebellion against God. He now is the leader of an innumerable host of fallen angels (demons) in his opposition to God and God's people. (See also DEVIL.)

SCRIPTURE. Comes from the Greek word "graphe," meaning "writing." It is a Biblical term for the fixed written testimony of God to humankind, often referring to the Old Testament. In the present day, the word "Scripture" includes the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments.

SEALING OF THE SPIRIT. The act of God in giving the Holy Spirit to the believer at the time of salvation as a sign of God's ownership.

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. Distinguished from the Rapture, the Second Coming refers to Christ's return to earth following the Tribulation, to establish the Millennial Kingdom.

SERAPHIM. Meaning "burning ones," these are angels that surround the throne of God. They each have six wings, and they praise and proclaim the perfect holiness of God.

SIN. Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in nature, attitude, word, or act; it is missing the mark of God's standard of perfect righteousness. Sin also refers to the inner essence of hostility and rebellion against God. Biblical synonyms for sin include "transgression" and "iniquity."

SPEAKING IN TONGUES. The act of speaking a known human language that is unfamiliar to the speaker, but familiar to the hearer. In the Book of Acts, this was often a sign that the Holy Spirit had indwelt new believers in the Early Church. Today, this gift is no longer in use.

SOTERIOLOGY. The study of the doctrine of salvation, namely of the suffering and death of Christ and its effects, especially in the lives of believers.

SOUL, SPIRIT. Interchangeable terms that describe the spiritual nature or essence of a person that survives after death.

SOVEREIGN. With reference to God, it means that God is the supreme Ruler and Authority, that He ordains whatever comes to pass, and that His divine purpose is always accomplished.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS. A divine endowment of a special ability for service upon a member of the Body of Christ.

SUBSTITUTION. The act of God the Son sacrificing Himself in the place of condemned sinners to satisfy God's holy and righteous judgments against sinners.

SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE. The idea that the Bible is all we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). The believer needs no additional revelation.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY. The gathering and systematizing of truth about God, man, creation, etc. from the Bible.

T**ELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT.** Comes from the Greek "telos," meaning "end." The argument is that since order and harmony exists in the universe, an intelligent designer must have created such a universe; therefore, God is the Master Designer.

TEXTUAL CRITICISM. The science of evaluating the variant readings of ancient manuscripts to determine which reading represents that of the original text. This is different than “higher criticism,” which seeks to determine the human author’s intended meaning in the Biblical text.

THEOLOGY. Comes from the Greek words “theos,” meaning “God,” and “logos,” meaning “word”; hence, a word or discussion about God. Theology is normally taken in a broad sense to signify the entire scope of Christian doctrines.

THEOLOGY PROPER. The study of the nature and existence of God, specifically God the Father.

THEOPHANY. A physical or auditory manifestation of God. Sometimes referred to as a “Christophany,” a theophany always refers to an appearance of Christ in visible (usually human) form in the Old Testament (*e.g.*, Gen. 18; Judg. 6).

TONGUES. From the Greek “glossa,” this term refers to known human languages. (See SPEAKING IN TONGUES.)

TOTAL DEPRAVITY. A term used to refer to the corruption of sin extending to all people and affecting the entire person—his intellect, emotions, and will—so that nothing in the person can commend him to God. (See DEPRAVITY).

TRANSCENDENCE. A term describing the fact that God is distinct from man and above man. God is transcendent in that He is holy, and man is sinful; He is transcendent because He is infinite, and man is finite. God is “wholly other” than man.

TRANSLATION. The process of translating the Biblical text from one language to another. The term is also used as a synonym for a version of the Bible that is unique in its particular language (*e.g.* NASB, ESV, NIV, NLT, etc.).

TRANSMISSION. The preservation of the Biblical text from one generation to the next.

TRANSUBSTANTIATION. The Roman Catholic view of the Lord's Supper, which holds that a miracle at the Mass actually changes the bread and the wine into the literal body and blood of Christ. There is absolutely NO Scriptural support for this view.

TRIBULATION. The future seven-year period described in Revelation 6–19. During this period God judges an unbelieving world and His disobedient people, Israel.

TRICHOTOMY. A description of the composition of man as three parts: body, soul, and spirit.

TRINITY. While there is one God, there are three eternally distinct and co-equal Persons in the Godhead, existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is distinct from the other, yet the three are united as one God. The term Tri-unity may best express the idea.

TRI-THEISM. A misinterpretation of the Trinity, that proposes that the Three Persons of the Godhead are only loosely associated. This heresy abandons the unity of the Trinity, thereby teaching there are three Gods instead of one.

TRUTH. The facts that conform to reality. God is Truth in the sense that He is the only God, His Word is reliable, He knows all the truth of reality, and He is the Source of all truth.

U**NITY.** A characteristic of God that means He is one in essence and cannot be divided into parts.

UNIVERSALISM. The belief that everyone will be saved and eventually end up in Heaven.

The UNPARDONABLE (UNFORGIVEABLE) SIN. The willful rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit and speaking evil about Him, or willful rejection of the truth of Christ and holding Christ up to “contempt” (Heb 6:6). It is accompanied by a hardness of heart that denies clear knowledge about Christ, thus making saving faith impossible for that individual (the Pharisees are the foremost example in Matt. 12:31–32).

V**ERACITY.** Truthfulness, trustworthiness, or accuracy. In this study, it is a reference to the Bible being 100% accurate.

VICARIOUS. Meaning “one in place of another,” this term describes the death of Christ as substitutionary—in the place of sinners.

W**ORLD.** Translates the Greek word “kosmos,” which means “an orderly arrangement,” but is frequently used to denote the human race in hostile rebellion against God.

WORSHIP. The individual or corporate expression of service, honor, and praise to God, motivated by reverence for Him and submission to Him because He is totally worthy.

WRATH, OF GOD. A divine response—always holy and justified—to human sin and disobedience.

Y**AHWEH.** The four Hebrew letters, YHWH, sometimes called the tetragrammaton, which constituted the name of God that is often pronounced Yahweh. In some Bible versions, YHWH is translated as “LORD” in all caps.

GLOSSARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Below is a list of the sources used to develop the Glossary of definitions in this booklet:

Cowan, Steven B., and Terry L. Wilder. *In Defense of the Bible: A Comprehensive Apologetic for the Authority of Scripture*. B & H Academic, 2013.

Enns, Paul. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. (Foreword by John MacArthur). Moody Publishers, 2014.

GotQuestions.org.

Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. IVP Academic, 1999.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Zondervan, 2000.

MacArthur, John F. Jr. *Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles*. 1993.

MacArthur, John, and Richard Mayhue. *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*. Crossway, 2017.

Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. Moody Publishers, 1999.

LESSON 1 — PROLEGOMENA

- *The Moody Handbook of Theology* by Paul Enns. (Get the version with the foreword from John MacArthur).
- *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem.
- *Biblical Doctrine* by John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue.
- *Bitesize Theology* by Peter Jeffrey.
- *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief* by Bruce Milne.
- *Basic Theology* by Charles Ryrie.
- *The Essential Scriptures: A Handbook of the Biblical Texts for Key Doctrines* by Kevin Zuber.
- *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine* by H. Wayne House.

LESSON 2 — HAMARTIOLOGY

- *Safe in the Arms of God* by John MacArthur.
- *Hacking Agag to Pieces* by John MacArthur.
- *Freedom From Sin: Romans 6–7* by John MacArthur.
- *Repentance* by Richard Owen Roberts.
- *Killing Sin Habits* by Stuart Scott.
- *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges.
- *Holiness* by J. C. Ryle.

LESSON 3 — BIBLIOLOGY

- *Sufficiency of Scripture* by Noel Weeks.
- *The Heart of the Bible: Explore the Power of Key Bible Passages* by John MacArthur.
- *Why Believe the Bible?* by John MacArthur.
- *How to Get the Most From God's Word* by John MacArthur.
- *How to Study the Bible* by John MacArthur.
- *How to Interpret the Bible for Yourself* by Richard Mayhue.
- *How to Enjoy Your Bible* by John Blanchard.
- *Talk Thru' the Bible* by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa.

- *The MacArthur Bible Handbook* by John MacArthur.
- *Reasons We Believe* by Nathan Busenitz.
- *How We Got the Bible* by Rose Publishing (pamphlet) or the book by Timothy Paul Jones.
- *Why Trust the Bible?* by Rose Publishing.
- *Can I Really Trust the Bible?* by Barry Cooper.

LESSON 4 — THEOLOGY PROPER

- *The Attributes of God* by A. W. Pink.
- *The Attributes of God* by A. W. Tozer.
- *The Love of God* by John MacArthur.
- *The Names of God* by Rose Publishing.
- *No One Like Him* by John S. Feinberg.
- *God the Father, God the Son* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones.
- *The Attributes of God* (DVD) by Steven J. Lawson.
- *The Existence and Attributes of God* by Stephen Charnock.
- *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer.
- *The Knowledge of the Holy* by A. W. Tozer.
- *God: Coming Face to Face with His Majesty* by John MacArthur.

LESSON 5 — CHRISTOLOGY

- *Understanding Jesus* by Alister E. McGrath.
- *The Jesus You Can't Ignore* by John MacArthur.
- *The Murder of Jesus* by John MacArthur.
- *The Jesus Answer Book* by John MacArthur.
- *Who Moved the Stone?* by Frank Morison.
- *Resurrected!: The Historical Truth of the Most Important Event in Human History - And Why It Matters* by Dr. John Morris.
- *Meet the Real Jesus* by John Blanchard.
- *Jesus Unleashed* by John MacArthur.
- *More Than A Carpenter* by Josh McDowell.

LESSON 6 — PNEUMATOLOGY

- *The Silent Shepherd: The Care, Comfort, and Correction of the Holy Spirit* by John MacArthur.
- *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit* by R. C. Sproul.
- *God the Holy Spirit* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

LESSON 7 — CHARISMATIC THEOLOGY

- *Charismatic Chaos* by John MacArthur.
- *Strange Fire* by John MacArthur.
- *The Healing Promise: Is It Always God's Will to Heal?* by Richard Mayhue.
- Strange Fire Conference – 2013.

LESSON 8 — ANGELOLOGY, DEMONOLOGY, AND SATANOLOGY

- *Unmasking Satan* by Richard Mayhue.
- *Demons: A Biblically Based Perspective* by Alex Konya.
- *God, Satan, and Angels* by John MacArthur.
- *How to Meet the Enemy* by John MacArthur.
- *Angels: Elect and Evil* by C. Fred Dickason.
- *The Mighty Angels of Revelation* by Nathan Jones.

LESSON 9 — ANTHROPOLOGY

- *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* by John Piper and Wayne Grudem
- *The Exemplary Husband* by Stuart Scott
- *The Excellent Wife* by Martha Peace
- *Theology of Biblical Counseling* by Heath Lambert
- *A Theology of Christian Counseling* by Jay Adams
- *The Battle for the Beginning* by John MacArthur

- *The Lie* by Ken Ham
- *The Genesis Flood* by Henry Morris and John Whitcomb

LESSON 10 — SOTERIOLOGY

- *The Gospel According to Jesus* by John MacArthur
- *The Gospel According to the Apostles* - John MacArthur
- *Absolutely Sure* by Steve Lawson
- *The Great Exchange* by Jerry Bridges
- *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross* by Leon Morris
- *The Cross* by Martyn Lloyd Jones
- *Faith Alone* by R.C. Sproul
- *The Gospel Call and True Conversion* by Paul Washer
- *Repentance* by Richard Owen Roberts
- *Hard to Believe* by John MacArthur
- *The Transforming Power of the Gospel* by Jerry Bridges
- *Root and Fruit* by Joel Beeke and Steven Lawson
- *Sanctification* by Michael Riccardi
- *The Atonement* by Leon Morris
- *Ultimate Questions* by John Blanchard

LESSON 11 — ISRAELOLOGY

- *Israel and the Church* by Amir Tsarfati (Book and Study Guide)
- *Survey of Israel's History* by Leon Wood
- *Bibi* by Benjamin Netanyahu
- *Future Israel* by Barry Horner
- *Israelology* by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum
- *Survey of the Old Testament* by Paul Benware

LESSON 12 — ECCLESIOLOGY

- *Shepherding God's Flock* by Jay Adams
- *Shepherdology* by John MacArthur

- *Biblical Eldership* by Alexander Strauch
- *Pastoral Ministry* by John MacArthur Jr.
- *The Master's Plan for the Church* by John MacArthur
- *To Be or Not To Be a Church Member, That is the Question* by Wayne Mack
- *Life in the Father's House* by Wayne Mack and Dave Swavely
- *What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?* by Richard Mayhue
- *Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church* by Donald Whitney
- *2000 Years of Christ's Power - Pt. 1* by Nick Needham
- *2000 Years of Christ's Power - Pt. 2* by Nick Needham

LESSON 13 — ESCHATOLOGY

- *Christ's Prophetic Plans* by John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue
- *The Master's Perspective on Biblical Prophecy* by Richard Mayhue and Robert Thomas
- *Bible Prophecy Answer Book* by Ron Rhodes
- *The Footsteps of the Messiah* by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum
- *Living on Borrowed Time* by Dr. David R. Reagan
- *Because the Time is Near* by John MacArthur
- *The Second Coming* by John MacArthur
- *Bible Prophecy: The Essentials* by Amir Tsarfati and Barry Stagner
- *The Chronological Guide To Bible Prophecy* by Todd Hampson
- *Understanding End Times Prophecy* by Paul Benware
- *The Non-Prophets Guide to the Book of Revelation* by Todd Hampson
- *The Non-Prophets Guide to the End Times* by Todd Hampson