

*“All true Christians are  
God’s theologians,  
as the saving light of the gospel has  
been bestowed upon them all.”*

So the question should arise what is  
theology. The Holy Spirit (in Scripture)  
uses a variety of terms to describe  
theology:

“wisdom,”  
“prudence,”  
“doctrine,”  
“light,”  
“understanding,”  
“recognition of the truth,”  
and “fear of God.”

Theology can also be defined in terms of  
contrast with what it is opposed to, as the  
antithesis of

“ignorance,”  
“blindness,”  
“stupidity,”  
“vanity,”  
“mental darkness,”  
“depravity of the heart,”  
“love of sin,”  
“conformity to the world,” and so on...

### **Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my  
whole heart, in the company of the  
upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup>Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>He has caused his wondrous works to be  
remembered; the LORD is gracious and  
merciful.

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his  
works, in giving them the inheritance of  
the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and  
just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

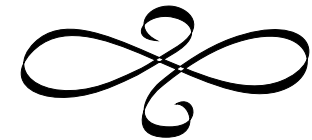
<sup>8</sup>they are established forever and ever, to  
be performed with faithfulness and  
uprightness.

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning  
of wisdom; all those who practice it have  
a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!

# Study of Truth

John Owen  
Biblical Theology



“All true Christians are God’s theologians,  
as the saving light of the gospel has been  
bestowed upon them all”

## **7 things that ought to accompany a study of TRUTH:**

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(The following are excerpts from John Owen's **Biblical Theology**, primarily pages 699-703)

As "Scriptures are the one and only rule for measuring all truth" when we devote ourselves to the study of holy literature we must keep it firmly before our minds, that in all our ready meditation, the ALL Holy God is close - He is present in a special manner. God is speaking to us no less directly than if He were to employ a voice resounding from the heavens. So we will be overcome with due humility of proper reverence. God's pleasure is only to dwell in hearts which tremble at His word.

### **1. Fear God** (Heb 12:28-29)

Light or frivolous perusal of the Scriptures is a sickness of soul which leads on to the death of atheism. Truly, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," If this fear is not experienced in the study of the Word, it will not display itself in any other facet of life.

### **2. Evaluate Progress**

What truth have you been learning? (2 Tim 3:15; 1 Tim 4:15-16) Have you been worshiping God acceptably? Let this be the first and main purpose of all your studies and meditation in the Holy Scriptures. The study should always be conducted in order to learn from them our duty and, understanding that, let us proceed to practice holy communion with God as we experience to the depths of our soul the power of the Spirit mightily manifesting in us His grace and light. Our studies are useless if they do not teach us about our own standing before God and our Lord Jesus Christ as it is revealed in the light of the spirit and the Scriptures.

### **3. Meditate** (Psalm 1:2-3)

If this is neglected, you will look in vain for progress in your labor, or of being any value to the Church, or for your own assurance of your salvation. The word is for the nourishment of our souls. Both the light of our salvation and the spiritual gifts which follow salvation are nourished by it. The first is for our own unutterable comfort, the latter for our ministry to others. If you have never experienced the former through all of your study of the Word, you will not bring forth any harvest of the latter. And if by sovereign grace there is a harvest, this will be of no profit to you if you have not meditated on Scripture to apply it (see also Josh 1:8; Matt 7:24).

### **4. Study Hebrew and Greek**

A great help for the investigation of truth is the diligent study of the Holy Scriptures in those languages in which they were written by the Holy Spirit. The languages in which the Holy Spirit encapsulated theological truth are Hebrew and Greek, and therefore, a knowledge of those languages is useful for all, and in God's purpose, is vital for some students. Not only is this the only well from which we can draw the original force and meaning of the words and phrases of divine utterance, but also those languages (especially the Hebrew) possess a weight of their own - a vividness which brings home to the understanding fine shades of meaning with a power which cannot survive the passage into another tongue. Would that those who undertake the study of divine things would otherwise arrange their studies, learn to spurn those empty trifles, and give themselves instead to the original languages and the sacred text itself.

### **5. Pray, Pray, Pray** (James 1:5)

All activities are always to be proceeded, accompanied, and closed by continuous and heart-felt prayer.

### **6. Fellowship/Accountability** (Heb 10:24-25)

Keep up regular and godly connection with those who practice holiness and true religion as demonstrated by gospel standards. (1 Cor 11:1)

### **7. Be transformed** (Rom 12:2)

We must demonstrate by our lives the absolute authority of the Scriptures, and show ourselves devoutly submitting our will and judgment to the authority of the Bible in all matters. The Word of God speaks to us directly, and performs its duty among us in the name of God Himself. Therefore, it must have supreme sovereignty over us, and our response must be to willingly submit our minds and intellects to it.

This is what has been ordained by the gracious will and decree of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

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"Evangelical theology is a spiritual gift bestowed by the Holy Spirit on the minds of believers, and believers are, by definition, those born again by the grace of God. Believers are thus made wise, prudent, and capable of understanding the mystery of holiness, of God, and His will as revealed in Christ through the gospel. Having their soul renewed to everlasting life, they are taught how to offer acceptable worship to God in Christ in line with God's revealed Word, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, and so at last they shall enjoy God forever."