

his thinking. Yet this universal recognition of the existence of moral law gives no indication as to its details. Acute human reason may establish one set of moral principles: equally acute human reasoning may establish an entirely different set. Apart from revelation from God no valid foundation can be found for the details of any moral standard.

I. The Validity of Systematic Theology

A. The Basis for a Valid Systematic Theology

By definition a Christian is one who has come to a realization of his sin and of his lost condition and has received Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit he knows that God is real and that Christ is God. Through his experience of repentance and forgiveness he knows the reality of the moral law and he realizes that the answer to all moral problems is to be found in Christ.

Since the Christian recognizes Christ as Saviour and Lord he must necessarily accept whatever Christ teaches as binding and authoritative. Even if he were simply to take the Gospels as valid historical documents, apart altogether from questions of verbal inspiration, he would find in them inescapable evidence that Jesus Christ recognized the Old Testament as a revelation from God, presenting truths that otherwise could not be known but that are absolutely certain because taught in God's Word. He would also find that Jesus laid the foundation for a second Testament that would add to the total of divinely inspired and entirely trustworthy material.

Like any field of knowledge, theology must be based on data. One who tries to learn facts about God from human reason or philosophy is in a position similar to that of a man, living in Europe in the Middle Ages, who might desire to know