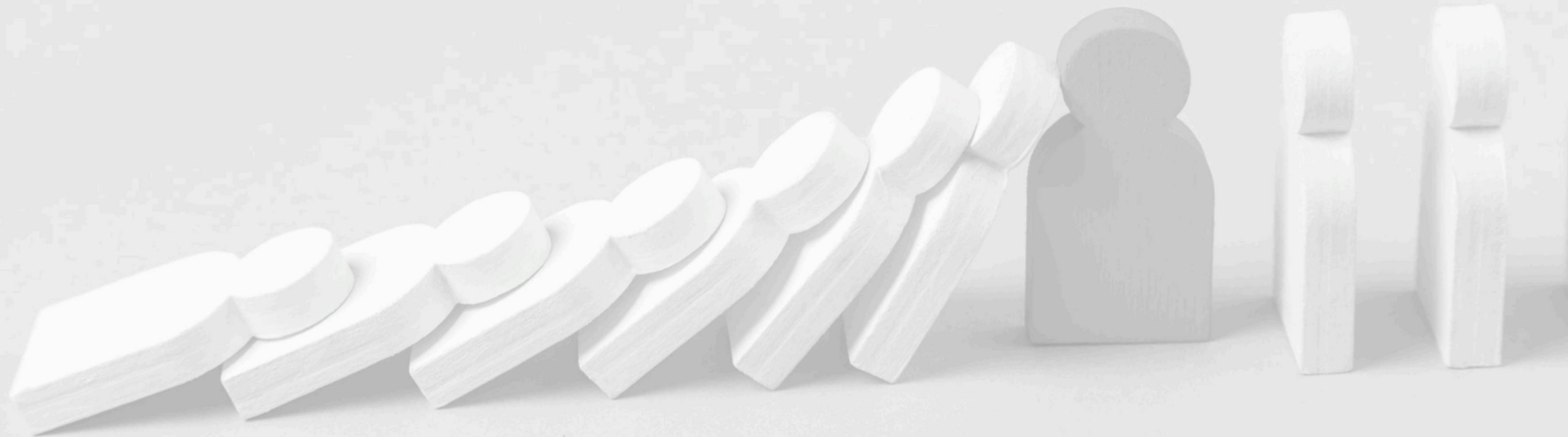


A THEOLOGICALLY SOUND LEADER

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE WORD



Presented by Clifton A. Campbell

Aims and objectives

- Reflect on God's word
- Reengage with the word
- Restore our relationship with the word
- Reshape our mindset about God and his word





What is Theology?

The definition of theology is simply “the study of God.”

Coming from two Greek words, “**Theos**” which means God and “**logos**” which means word.

Combined, these words create the word “**Theology**”.

,



Theology: Study of God

Anthropology: Study of Mankind

Christology: Study of Christ

Soteriology: Study of Salvation

Pneumatology: Study of Holy Spirit

Ecclesiology: Study of the Church

Eschatology: Study of End Times

Bibliology: Study of the Bible

Why Is Theology Important?

Theology provides us with the answers to questions about the meaning of life and the God who gave us meaning and purpose.

Who am I? 1 Peter 2:9, John 1:12,

What am I doing here? Ecclesiastes 12:13

How should I live? Live holy, Hebrews 12:14

Where am I going? In my father's house there is a place for me John 14:1-4.



Theology helps us to discern what is authentic and also to detect erroneous viewpoints such as...

Polytheism which is the belief in or the worship of more than one god, this notion said that. “ the universe is governed by multiple forces, hence there is the god of water, god of fire, god of mountains, god of cows and many others.

According to the polytheist there is a god for everything.

But we believe in **one God and one faith.**

Exodus 20:1-3

Matthew 4:10

Agnosticism comes from the Greek word for not knowing . Agnostics deny the human ability to know God.

Whilst this is partially true, they fail to understand that there is a difference between knowing God fully and knowing Him in parts.”

What God reveals to us about Himself is enough for us to know about him and His existence.



The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.



1 Corinthians 2. ESV


[How Big Is God](#) Song by [Ray Price](#)

Deism claims that there is a personal God who created the world but insisted that after creation, He left it to be governed by natural law.

What they are saying here is that God wound up the world like an analogue clock and then left it to run without further interference. Judges 21:25 would counteract this statement .

This belief is what you would term rationalism where reason becomes the supreme guide.

In doing so, it opposes the revelation of God, the inspiration of the Bible and the evidence of God working in history.



God reveals Himself to us in various ways which helps us to understand and associate with Him.

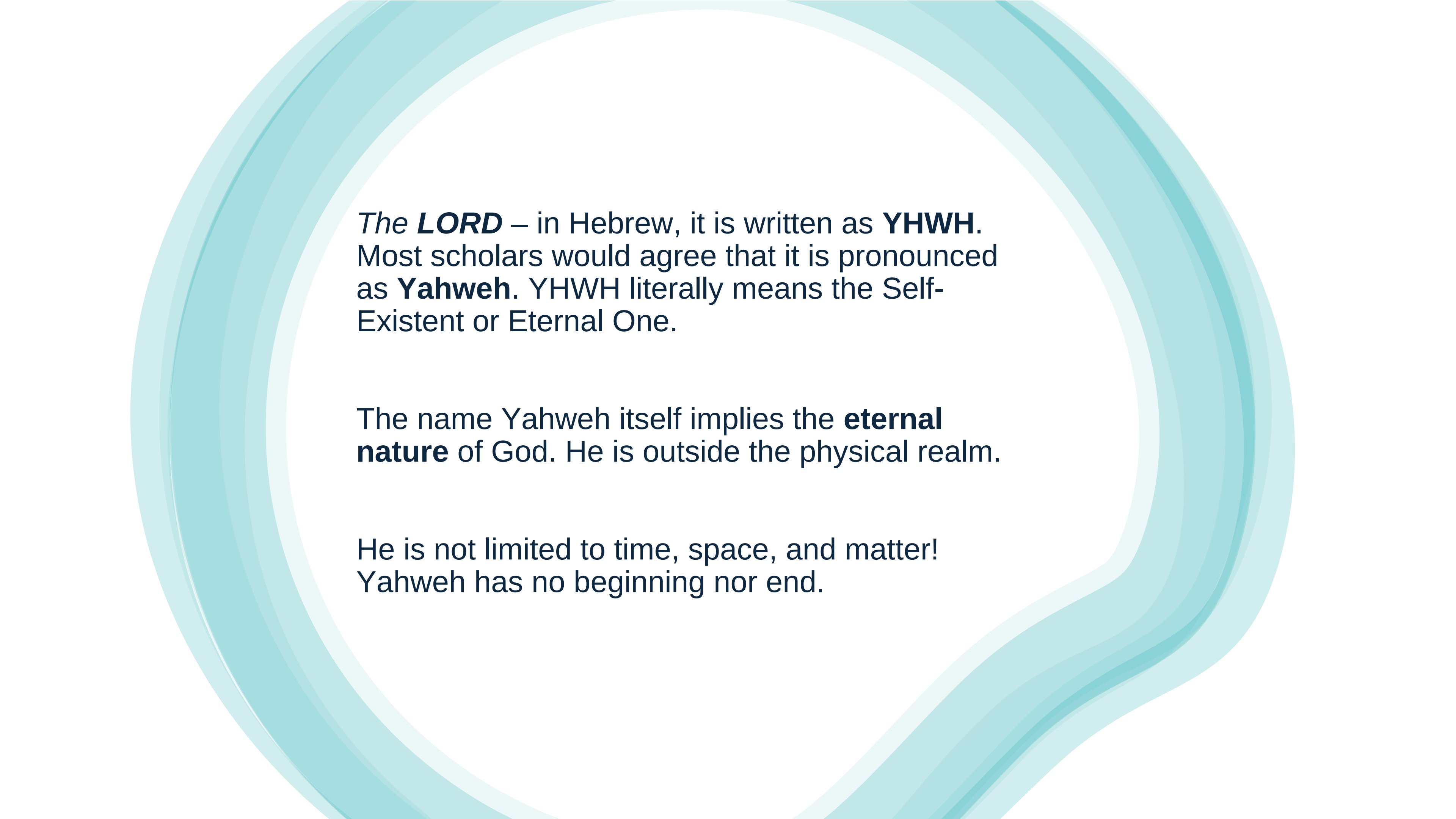
Psalms 91:1-2 depicted some of His nature and character

Most High

In Hebrew, it is ***Elyon***. It means lofty, elevation, and supreme. *Most High* denotes God's supreme authority over all other authorities.

The Almighty

In Hebrew, it is ***El-Shaddai***. It means most powerful, denoting that there is no power greater than God in the vast universe.



*The **LORD*** – in Hebrew, it is written as **YHWH**. Most scholars would agree that it is pronounced as **Yahweh**. YHWH literally means the Self-Existent or Eternal One.

The name Yahweh itself implies the **eternal nature** of God. He is outside the physical realm.

He is not limited to time, space, and matter!
Yahweh has no beginning nor end.

My God – came from the Hebrew word, **Elohim**, which basically means God.

Knowing the authoritative power in only the names of God should give us a full assurance that **Yahweh**, the Most High, Almighty, and God of the universe is on our side. He is the one who is protecting us!

Even if you combine all the forces in the world, including Satan's evil devices, **NOTHING** can overcome God's ability to protect us from danger.



Theology links likeminded people through their beliefs, in a united fellowship creating a community of believers.

Theology is also crucial in providing a practical understanding of our relationship to God, human nature, and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Theology helps us to

- Deepen our Knowledge of God
- Defend our Faith





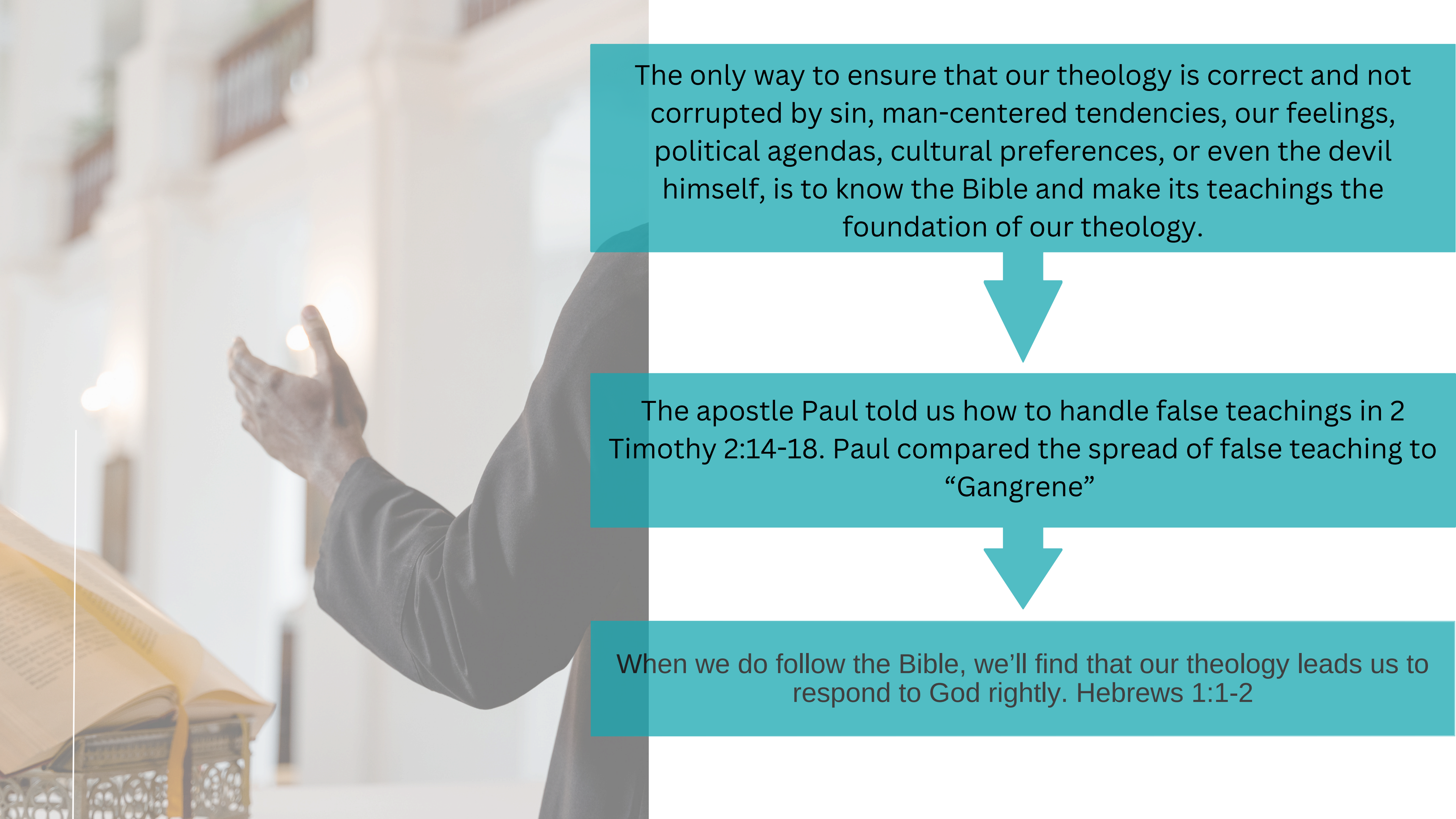
As A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”



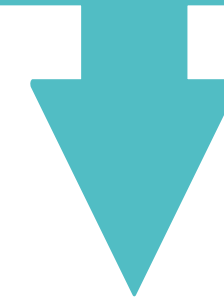
A.W Tozer’s statement supported the idea that theology affects every aspect of our lives”. Psm 139:13-19



Which means, that we need to take our view of God seriously. Thinking wrongly about God is spiritually dangerous.



The only way to ensure that our theology is correct and not corrupted by sin, man-centered tendencies, our feelings, political agendas, cultural preferences, or even the devil himself, is to know the Bible and make its teachings the foundation of our theology.




The apostle Paul told us how to handle false teachings in 2 Timothy 2:14-18. Paul compared the spread of false teaching to “Gangrene”




When we do follow the Bible, we’ll find that our theology leads us to respond to God rightly. Hebrews 1:1-2

Theology will never be able to fully explain God and His ways because God is infinite and omnipresent. Thus, any attempt to define Him will be lacking (Romans 11:33-36).



However, God wants us to know Him as much as we can, and theology, is the art and science of knowing what we can about God in an organised and coherent way.



Some people try to avoid theology because they believe it is divisive. However, if properly understood, theology is one of the connecting methods in knowing our maker.



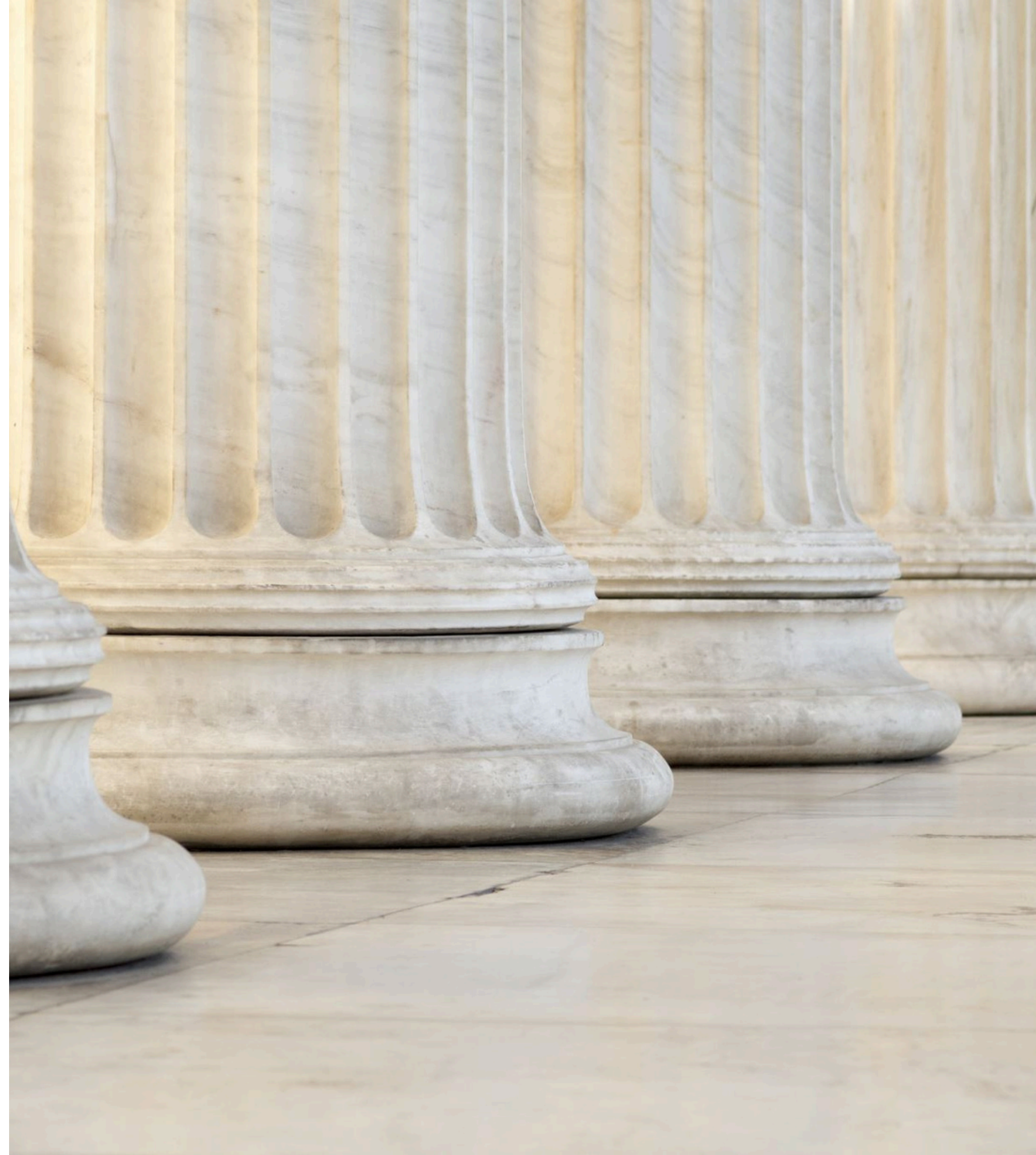
When we study theology, you may choose to focus on one of these pillars. But each one can provide a deeper understanding of our faith and religious beliefs.

So, what are the four types of theology?

- Biblical
- Historical
- Systematic
- Practical

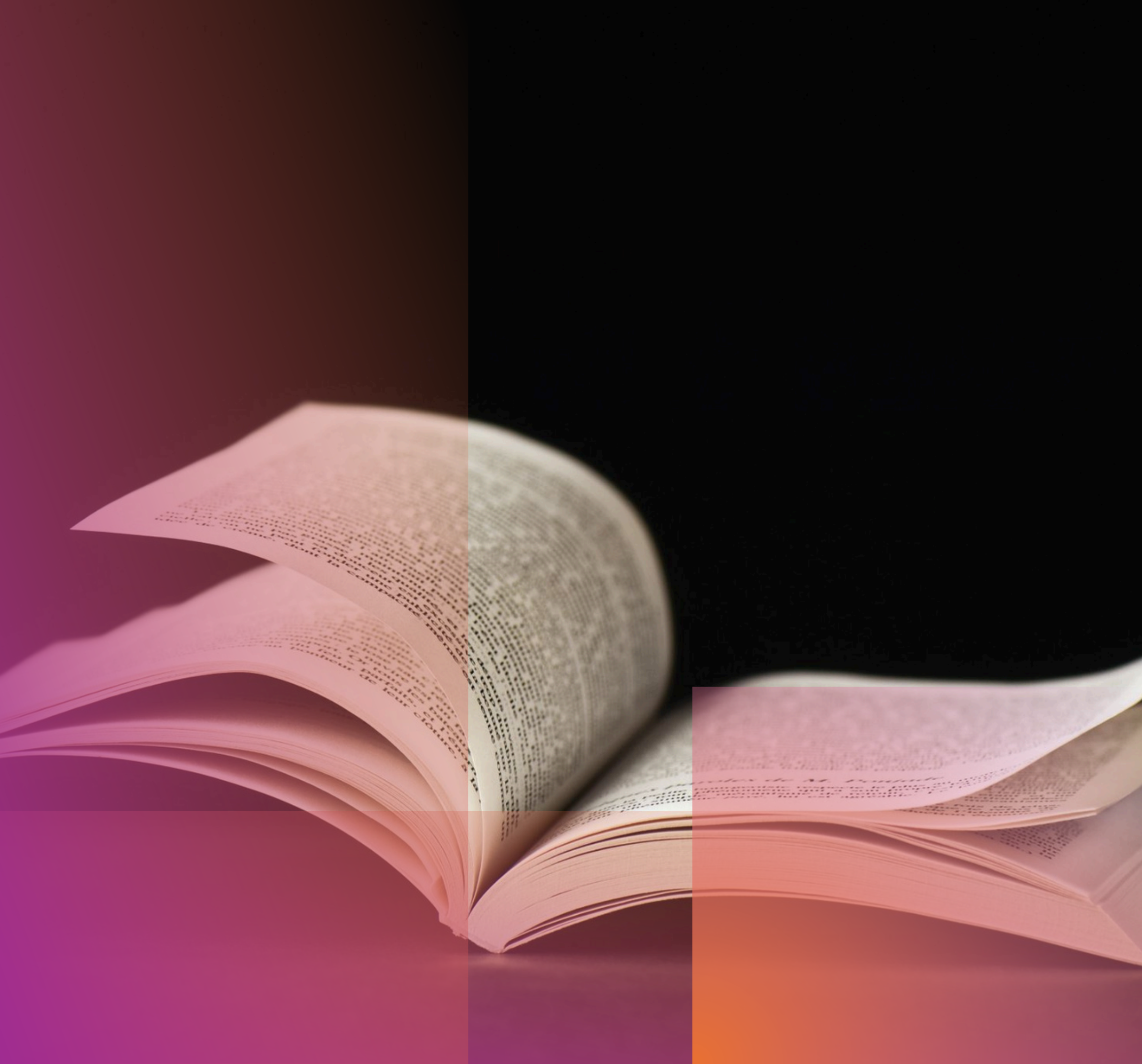
The first pillar is **Biblical Theology**:

Biblical theology is built on these four main pillars, and these four pillars are foundational in terms of providing specific areas of reflection on who God is.





This is undertaken within the practices of faith, with a detective eye paying keen attention to all the movements of human history from the perspective of biblically informed views of space and time, accounting for the dynamic movements of dogmatic theology and the practices of the Church.



a. The World of the text:

We focus on the literal content of the text itself before us, analysing the language, literary devices, and narrative structure used by the author.



b. The world in front of the text:

This is how the reader interprets the text in their own time and context, considering their personal experiences, cultural background, and current societal issues.



Exercise - Observation

Look at **Luke 15:8-10** and list some of the things you extract from this passage, considering the:

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?



The third pillar is **Practical Theology**

How is theology put into action?
How does it engage with culture and society?

In many ways, practical theology is where various strands of theological thinking come together.

Research, religious leaders, faith groups, theologians and seminaries may all contribute to our theological knowledge. They may also help to build an active, living faith in God. But how do we then deal with:

- The intersection of faith and culture
- The impact of theology in our public life
- The living out of our Christian ethics.

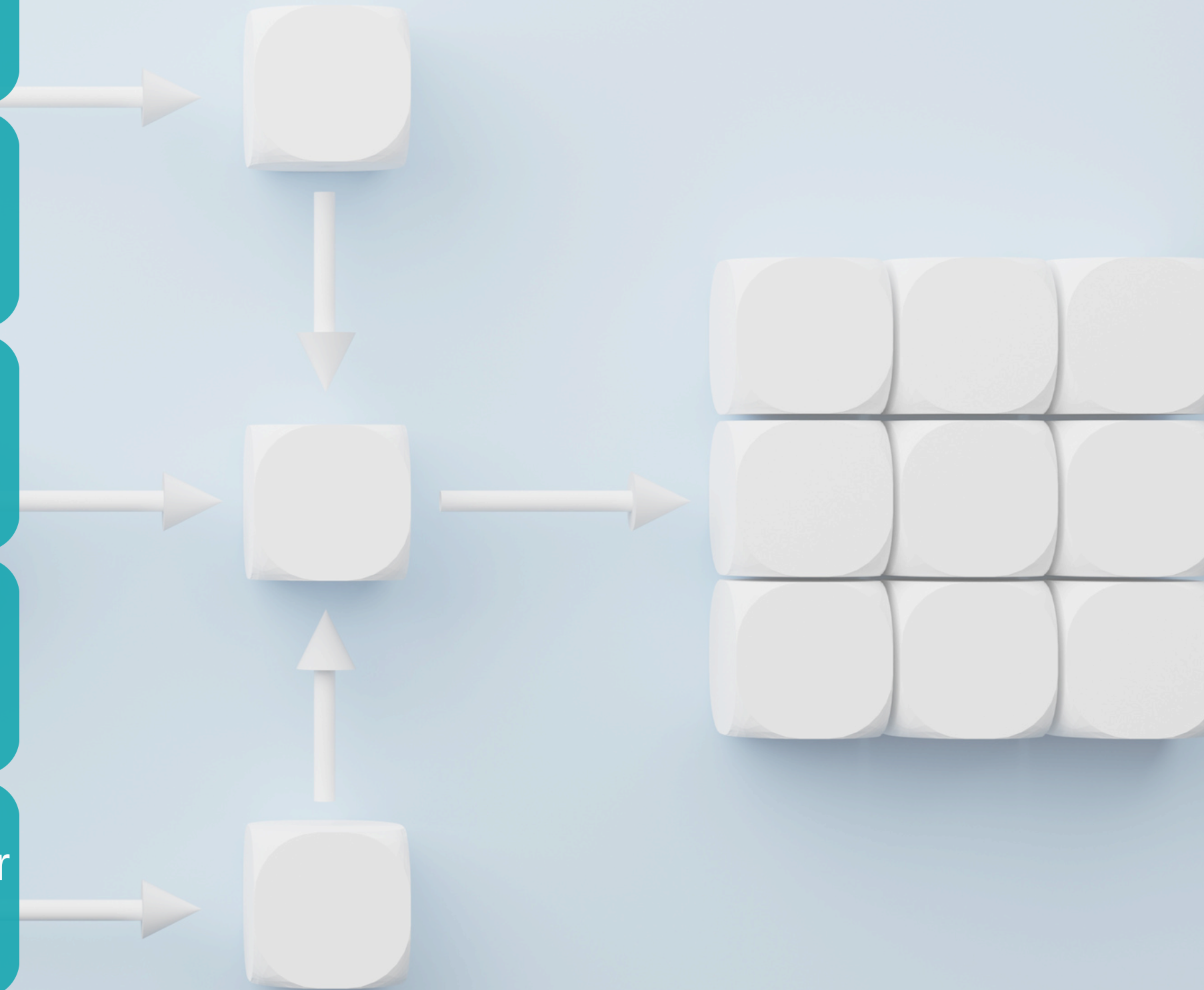
The fourth pillar is **Systematic Theology**

This type of theology looks at how to formulate a coherent system from the doctrines of Christian theology.

This is what one commentary said about the study of theology.

“Christian theology is rooted in doctrine, the core set of beliefs that make up theological belief. Systematic theology allows us to organise our beliefs into a coherent system.

As a result, systematic theology helps us to consider how our beliefs about God relate to one another.





Application

Application is why we study the Bible. We want our lives to change; we want to be obedient to God and to grow more like **Jesus Christ**.

After we have observed a passage and interpreted or understood it to the best of our ability, we must then apply its truth to our own life.

James 1:22-27

1 Corinthians 13:12

Application in this context is putting the truth of God's word you have discovered through observation, and interpretation, to use in your life. With the ultimate goal of transformation or experiencing a life changing process.



This meant not merely to inform but to transform and renew our mind. Rom: 12:1-2

You'll want to ask the following questions of every passage of Scripture you study:

How does the truth revealed, affect my relationship with God?
Love Him with all your heart.

How does this truth affect my relationship with others?
Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

How does this truth affect me? In all your ways acknowledge him...

How does this truth affect my response to the enemy, Satan?
Resist the enemy and he will flee.

A Theologically sound leader hides the word in their heart: **Psalm 119:11-16**

A Theologically sound leader studies to show themselves approved:
2 Timothy 2:15

A Theologically sound leader is apt to teach. **2 Timothy 2:24**

A Theologically sound leader grows in the stature. **2 Peter 3:17-18**

A Theologically sound Leader is not one who is constantly feeding on milk:
Hebrews 5:11-14



Let's look at five hallmarks of a theologically sound leader found in **1 King's 18: 27-38:**

They are **COURAGEOUS** vs 22

They are: **COMMITTED** vs 23- 24

They have desirable **CHARACTER** vs 25-29

They are: **CONNECTED** to God and His people vs 30-35

They have trusted **CREDIBILITY** vs 36-39

“Men of genius are admired, men of wealth are envied, men of power are feared, but only men of character are trusted.”

Zig Ziglar.



I want my people not to only be admired, feared and envied but to be people with good and Godly character.



If we are aspiring to be Theologically sound people, we must embrace The word of God.

1. Look for the purpose for which God has plan for you and His salvation.

The Bible tells us of the origin of sin and how sin separates us from God.

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into His truth.

There may be no smooth path to learning and ascertain the knowledge of the Bible. But certainly, the Spirit of God will lead us into all truth.

3. Read attentively.

Give the Bible keen attention with intention, and intention will necessitate attention.