

Name: _____ Date: _____ Grade: _____



Religion 314 Quiz 1a Topic Range: 1.1 - 1.1.3



Answer the following questions from these definitions of biblical theology:

J.L. Houlden, "Biblical Theology," The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology, edited by Alan Richardson and John Bowden (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1983), 69:


"The expression [Biblical Theology] is used in a number of senses, ranging from the very general to the specific. It may describe any theology which seeks to base itself largely or wholly on scripture, whether out of simplicity or because of elaborated doctrinal principles. But in particular, it refers to a movement which was in its heyday in the 1940s and 1950s, though its roots lay further back, and which, while possessing certain common features, was not wholly homogeneous. The reaction to liberal theology, led by Karl Barth in the years immediately following the First World War, was the major impulse behind it."

Rosner, B.S. "Biblical Theology." In the New Dictionary of Biblical Theology: Exploring the Unity & Diversity of Scripture. Edited by T. Desmond Alexander, Brians Rosner, D.A. Carson, and Graeme Goldsworthy, 10:

"theological interpretation of Scripture in and for the church. It proceeds with historical and literary sensitivity and seeks to analyze and synthesize the Bible's teaching about God and his relations to the world on its own terms, maintaining sight of the Bible's overarching narrative and Christocentric focus."

Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology online. S.v. "Biblical Theology."

"Study of the Bible that seeks to discover what the biblical writers, under divine guidance, believed, described, and taught in the context of their own times."

- ____ 1. (1.1)  The idea of biblical theology as essentially the study of the scripture texts for theological understanding is universally held in modern scholarship.

a) True b) False

- ____ 2. (1.1) Biblical theology as a distinct scholarly discipline and the Biblical Theology Movement developed simultaneously during the twentieth century.

a) True b) False

- ____ 3. (1.1) Which of the above descriptions/definitions of biblical theology emphasizes the contemporary application of theological understanding?

a) Houlden b) Rosner c) Baker's

- ____ 4. (1.1) Which of the above descriptions/definitions of biblical theology emphasizes the study of scripture in its historical setting as the central focus?

a) Houlden b) Rosner c) Baker's

5. Write out your working definition of biblical theology in light of the above definitions, and provide a justification for your definition (4 answer value):

- _____ 6. (1.1.1) Which of the following definitions of 'theology' from the *American Heritage Dictionary* most closely relates to the scholarly discipline of biblical theology?
- a) The study of the nature of God and religious truth; rational inquiry into religious questions.
 - b) A system or school of opinions concerning God and religious questions. Protestant theology; Jewish theology.
 - c) A course of specialized religious study usually at a college or seminary.
- _____ 7. (1.1.1) In the view of ancient Greek philosophy, 'theology' (θεολογία) was a sub-discipline of
- a) politics
 - b) ethics
 - c) philosophy
- _____ 8. (1.1.1) Theology (θεολογία) came into Christian thought and expression
- a) during the life and teaching of Jesus
 - b) through the writings of the apostle Paul
 - c) in the post-apostolic era with the reinterpretation of Christianity by the church fathers.
- _____ 9. (1.1.1) For the Stoic philosophers in the ancient world, theology (θεολογία) was the effort to rationally understand how God worked in eternity.
- a) True
 - b) False
10. (1.1.2) Prof. Via defines the approaches to doing biblical theology as reflecting either (a) an historical understanding or (b) a hermeneutical understanding. Identify which of these emphases are reflected in the second and third definitions of biblical theology on page one:
- _____ Rosner
- _____ Baker
- _____ 11. (1.1.2) Which level of theological understanding in Prof. Via's perspective is merely a descriptive enterprise with no prescriptive implications?
- a) Historical Level
 - b) Hermeneutical Level
- _____ 12. (1.1.2) Which level of theological understanding in Prof. Via's perspective approaches the biblical texts with the intent of finding normative theological views for contemporary Christian belief?
- a) Historical Level
 - b) Hermeneutical Level
- _____ 13. (1.1.2) Which of the following possible approaches represents the best approach to

doing biblical theology?

- a) Historical Emphasis b) Hermeneutical Emphasis c) a blending of these

_____ 14. (1.1.3) Which of Via's two perspectives on biblical theology is going to include non-canonical ancient Christian documents in its research as essential sources?

- a) Historical Level b) Hermeneutical Level

_____ 15. (1.1.3) In order to develop a serious New Testament theology, one need only read English translations of the scripture texts without concerning himself/herself with interpretative methodology.

- a) True b) False

_____ 16. (1.1.3) In the Protestant free church tradition including groups such as Baptists, the motivation for developing a biblical theology is to serve as a stepping stone to the ultimate objective of a standardized, uniform dogmatics determining acceptable beliefs for the entire religious group.

- a) True b) False

_____ 17. (1.1.3) In Roman Catholic tradition, the ultimate goal of the study of scripture is the development of

- a) a biblical theology b) systematic theology c) dogmatics



*******GRADE CALCULATION*******

Number of Errors	_____.	Total Pts.	100.00
Times	5.00	Pts Missed	_____.
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Total Pts. Missed	_____.	Grade	_____.

(Please record grade at top of page 1)