

# Week 1 Definition and Purpose of Historical Theology

## 1. Lecture Overview

- 1) Historical Theology is the study of how God's truth and revelation have been understood and developed throughout the history of the Church.
  - 2) This lecture aims to define Historical Theology and explore its purpose and importance in theological development.
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## 2. Learning Objectives

1. By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:
    - 1) Define Historical Theology
    - 2) Understand its scope of study
    - 3) Distinguish between Church History and Historical Theology
    - 4) Explain its purpose and importance
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## 3. Key Contents

### 1) Definition of Historical Theology

- (1) Historical Theology is the study of the development of doctrines, beliefs, and theology throughout Church history.
  - (2) It focuses not only on events but on the development of truth.
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### 2) Historical Theology vs Church History

- (1) Church History: Focus on events, people, and timeline
  - (2) Historical Theology: Focus on doctrines and theological development
  - (3) In summary: Church History asks "What happened?"
  - (4) Historical Theology asks "What was believed and how did it develop?"
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### 3) Scope of Historical Theology

- (1) Early Church doctrinal formation
  - (2) Councils and creeds
  - (3) Reformation theology
  - (4) Modern theological developments
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### 4) Purpose of Historical Theology

- (1) Preservation of Truth

To guard against heresy

(2) Understanding Theology

To understand how theology developed

(3) Establishing Church Identity

To know the roots and traditions of the Church

(4) Contemporary Application

To apply past lessons to present faith

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4. Discussion Questions

- 1) Why is Historical Theology important today?
  - 2) What is the difference between Church History and Historical Theology?
  - 3) How does past theology influence present faith?
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5. Application

- 1) Recognize that theology develops in history
- 2) Reevaluate traditions based on Scripture
- 3) Learn from history to preserve the true Gospel