

Theology Proper — The Eternity of God

I. SCRIPTURAL — *Examining a relevant passage of Scripture.*

“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” (Dt. 33:27a)

II. DOCTRINAL — *Summarizing the teaching of Scripture as a whole.*

GOD’S ESSENCE IS ABSOLUTELY ETERNAL, TRANSCENDING ALL DISTINCTIONS OF TIME & SEQUENCE.

A. TIME IS A FINITE CREATED REALITY WHICH HAD A BEGINNING.

B. THE TRIUNE GOD IS ETERNAL.

1. GOD THE FATHER

2. GOD THE SON

3. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

C. THE TRIUNE GOD IS ABSOLUTELY ETERNAL.

1. SEQUENTIAL ETERNITY (“Everlasting”)

2. ABSOLUTE ETERNITY (“Eternal”)

III. POLEMICAL — *Addressing relevant questions and controversies.*

A. IS THE MIND OF GOD “EQUIDISTANT” IN RELATION TO EVERY MOMENT OF TIME, FROM CREATION INTO THE NEVER-ENDING FUTURE. (We Affirm.)

B. IS THE NOTION OF GOD’S ABSOLUTE ETERNITY (BEYOND TIME/SEQUENCE) A GREEK PHILOSOPHICAL NOTION IMPOSED UPON SCRIPTURE? (We Deny.)

C. DOES GOD’S ABSOLUTE ETERNITY LIMIT HIS KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING TEMPORAL REALITIES AND DISTINCTIONS? (We Deny.)

D. DOES GOD’S ABSOLUTE ETERNITY IMPLY THAT ALL DISTINCTIONS OF TIME ARE MERE ILLUSIONS, AND/OR THAT ALL THINGS HAPPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY? (We Deny.)

E. DOES THE FACT OF GOD’S ETERNAL DECREE NECESSITATE HIS ABSOLUTE ETERNITY, AS OPPOSED TO SEQUENTIAL ETERNITY? (We Affirm.)

F. DOES THE FACT OF CHRIST’S ATONEMENT NECESSITATE THE ABSOLUTE ETERNITY AND INFINITY OF HIS DIVINE NATURE?

G. WILL BELIEVERS BE ABSOLUTELY ETERNAL IN HEAVEN? (We Deny.)

H. WILL THE BELIEVER’S TEMPORAL EXPERIENCE BE DIFFERENT IN THE WORLD TO COME? (We Affirm.)

IV. PRACTICAL — *Applying the teaching of Scripture to our lives.*

A. SINS AGAINST AN ETERNAL GOD DESERVE ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!

B. BY NATURE, YOUR PAST SINS ARE EVER BEFORE THE LORD’S FACE!

C. BY GRACE, THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS EVER BEFORE THE LORD’S FACE!

D. BY GRACE, YOUR GLORIFIED HUMANITY IS EVER BEFORE THE LORD’S FACE!