



## READING SCHEDULE – MODULE TWO

Required Reading	Supplemental Reading
<input type="checkbox"/> Kopic, pp. 41-121	<input type="checkbox"/> Sproul, pp. 14-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Sproul, pp. 40-51

### Study Guide

#### For Kopic pp. 41-121

##### Chapter 4 – *The Inseparability of Life and Theology*

- What does Kopic mean by calling theology both an art and a science? How did the reformers use the word science when referring to theology? Why does this insight matter?
- In what ways does Christianity agree with and in what ways does it disagree with postmodernity with regard to the way we know things? What does Paul’s quote from First Corinthians contribute to your understanding of this issue? What does Gregory of Nazianzus contribute to your understanding?
- What warning does Charles Hodge give about doing theology? Do you think he was right? Why or why not? How should this insight be applied in your own life?
- What warning does J.I. Packer give? Do you think he was right? How does Kopic elaborate on this warning? How does this apply to your life?
- What does Kopic mean by “anthroposensitive theology”? Why does he use this term? Do you agree? How should you apply this insight to the way that you do theology?
- How does each quote in a blurb box summarize or contribute to the teaching of this chapter? Which stood out to you most? Why? What difference does it make for your life?

##### Chapter 5 – *Faithful Reason*

- What does Kopic mean by “the relationship between faith and reason”? How does this influence the way we do theology? Why is this important?
- What does Kopic mean by “concerns about authority and knowledge”? How does this influence the way we do theology? Why is this important?
- How does Kopic think reason should work in theological activity? What are the dangers he warns of? Do you agree? Why or why not? How should this insight impact your own theological activity?
- Describe in your own words Augustine’s teaching on this topic. What impact does sin have on our understanding? What role does faith have in our understanding? What role does reason play in our understanding?

- Describe what Kaptic means by “faithful reason.” Do you think this is a good approach to theology? Why or why not? How should you apply these insights into your own life and ministry?
- How does Kaptic describe faith in the Bible? How does this description agree or disagree with your prior understanding of faith? How does this describe or disagree with the exercise of faith in your own life?
- According to Kaptic, how does faithful reason work in our relationship with God? How can you apply this insight in your own life?
- According to Kaptic, how does God’s Spirit work to help us understand? What should we expect, and what should we not expect God to do for us in this matter? How is this demonstrated in the life of Paul? How have you seen it demonstrated in your own life?
- What is the point of the quote from Gregory of Nazianzus? What difference does this make?
- Why does Kaptic claim “there are no true unbelievers”? Do you agree? What does this imply for our theological activity? What does this suggest for our discussions with non-Christians?
- Describe John Calvin’s understanding of “knowledge.” What point does Kaptic make by describing this? What difference does this make for your own life and ministry?
- What does Kierkegaard’s quote contribute to Kaptic’s argument? What does this tell us about “untruth” and our relation to it? How should we apply this insight?
- What point does Kaptic make about “mastery” and “being under the microscope”? How is this reflected in your own approach to theology? How should you change to do theology better in this regard? How is Job an example in this regard?
- How does Kaptic summarize theology in the last paragraph? How is this like or unlike your previous conception of the nature and purpose of theology? How can you apply this insight?
- How does each quote in a blurb box summarize or contribute to the teaching of this chapter? Which stood out to you most? Why? What difference does it make for your life?

### **Chapter 6 – *Prayer and Study***

- What is “one of the great dangers in theology” according to Kaptic? Do you agree with the way the Thieliicke describes this danger? Do you see any evidence of this dynamic in your own life? How can you protect yourself from this danger?
- What is “illegitimate identification with another”? Why is this a danger in theological work? How can you guard against it?
- What is the means which Kaptic suggests to guard against these two dangers? Describe the kind of prayer that Kaptic suggests in your own words.
- What does *Coram Deo* mean? How does this apply to theological studies?
- How does B. B. Warfield relate learning and godliness? Do you agree? Why or why not? How can you grow in this area?
- What point does Kaptic make about Anselm’s writing style? What does this tell about his approach to theology? Do you think this is a good approach?

- How would Kopic respond if asked to decide between prayer and study? How would you respond after reading this chapter? Why? What difference does it make?
- How does each quote in a blurb box summarize or contribute to the teaching of this chapter? Which stood out to you most? Why? What difference does it make for your life?

### **Chapter 7 – Humility and Repentance**

- According to Kopic, what is wrong with pride, and what is good about humility? What are the results of each of these attitudes in theological work? In what ways have you seen evidence of this in your own life?
- Describe Augustine’s attitude as demonstrated by the quote and his actions related in this section. Do you think this is a good attitude to have? Why or why not? How does this apply to your own theological work?
- According to Kopic, what does humility remind us? Why is it necessary to keep these things in mind in theological work? How can you safeguard that you do not forget or forsake these realities?
- When and how does repentance occur, according to Kopic? What is the cause of “problems of obedience”? What is God’s solution to this?
- Why is humility necessary in receiving revelation? How does humility help in this? Describe how this makes a theologian better at their task.
- How is theology related to honesty? What does Kopic most encourage us to be honest about? Why is humility necessary for this? How should you respond to this in your own life and ministry?
- Describe the difference between a “theologian of glory” and a “theologian of the cross.” Which one does Kopic prefer? Why? How can you apply this insight into your own theological activity?
- Why is grace necessary in good theological work, according to Kopic? What difference should this make in your own personal theological work?
- How does each quote in a blurb box summarize or contribute to the teaching of this chapter? Which stood out to you most? Why? What difference does it make for your life?

### **Chapter 8 – Suffering, Justice, and Knowing God**

- What choice must we resist making, according to Kopic? Why? Do you agree?
- How does Psalm 113 illustrate this issue? How can you keep your own thoughts clear and accurate on this?
- Why does Kopic bring up the term “anthroposensitive” in talking about God’s revelation of Himself? What result should this produce in the life of the theologian, according to Kopic? How does knowing God impact the theologian, according to Kopic?
- What point does Kopic make about the connection between compassion and being “unstained by the world”? What example did Jesus give of this? How does Kopic suggest we should follow His example? How should you personally live this out?
- According to Kopic, what was the problem with the theology of the people in Isaiah’s day? Why was this offensive to God? How does God (through Isaiah) say they must change?

- How are rationality and compassion connected, according to Kopic? What point does he make about “lived theology”? How should you respond to this insight?
- Do you agree with the phrase “Good theology is public theology”? Why or why not? What difference does this make for your theological work?
- How is the truth of God’s compassion displayed in the synoptic Gospels and in 1 John? What difference does this make for your own life and ministry?
- What are the two opposite errors that Kopic speaks of in this section? How can you protect yourself from each of them? How can you rightly keep a faithful theology in this regard? What personal action steps can you take to pursue this?
- How does each quote in a blurb box summarize or contribute to the teaching of this chapter? Which stood out to you most? Why? What difference does it make for your life?

### **Chapter 9 – Tradition and Community**

- What is the problem that Bavnick warns against? Why do you think this is a problem?
- How does our culture shape our view of Christ? What are some examples of this that Kopic gives? What are some dangers to avoid?
- What is the best way, according to Kopic, to protect ourselves from cultural prejudices and blind spots?
- What is “orthodoxy” according to Kopic? What is the function of the creeds? What difference should this make in your own life?
- According to Kopic, how should we respond to the various distinctions and divisions in the church? What is the danger of “restricting God’s grace to one tradition”? Why can’t we believe that “all traditions are equally valid”?
- What are the five slogans of the Protestant Reformation movement? Why do you think each is important?
- What is the difference between tradition and traditionalism, according to the Pelikan quote? How can that distinction help you in your life and theological activity?
- What does Kopic argue about the relationship between tradition and Scripture? What implication does this have for the way that we treat tradition?
- What does Kopic mean by “we have never completed the theological task”? How should you respond to this insight?
- How can our “present communities of faith” help us in our theological work? Why is this important? What does the John Owen quote add to your understanding?
- What is the relationship between the church’s practice and its theology?
- What point does the illustration of the firefighters have for theologians?
- How can/should a theologian fit into the life of the church, according to Kopic? What are the particular dangers? What are the opportunities and benefits? How does the Charles Hodge quote illustrate this dynamic? How can you apply this in your own life and ministry?
- What are the limits of the role of tradition and practice, according to Kopic? Do you agree? Why or why not? Why is this an important issue? How does it apply in your own life?

- How does each quote in a blurb box summarize or contribute to the teaching of this chapter? Which stood out to you most? Why? What difference does it make for your life?

### **Chapter 10** – *Love of Scripture*

- What are the characteristics of Scripture that Kopic assumes, but does not argue in this section? Do you agree with his assumptions? What principle does he insist upon?
- Describe the first possible error in using Scripture in theology in your own words. Why is this dangerous? How can you protect yourself from this mistake?
- Describe the first possible error in using Scripture in theology in your own words. Why is this dangerous? How can you protect yourself from this mistake?
- Which of these two errors do you think is more dangerous? Why? Which of these two errors are you more likely to fall into? Why? How should you respond?
- What does it mean for God to self-identify with holy Scripture? What does this tell us about the nature of the Bible? How should we respond in our theological work? What implication does this have for the source of authority for our theology?
- Describe Kopic's second point in your own words. What is the attitude toward the Word displayed in the Psalms? In what ways do you share that attitude? In what ways can you grow in this area?
- According to Kopic, what is the purpose of the Bible? How can we avoid making the Bible an end in itself? How should this impact the way you do theology?
- What stood out to you in Kopic's definition of Christian theology? How has your definition of theology changed from reading this entire book? How should this insight impact your life and ministry?
- How does each quote in a blurb box summarize or contribute to the teaching of this chapter? Which stood out to you most? Why? What difference does it make for your life?