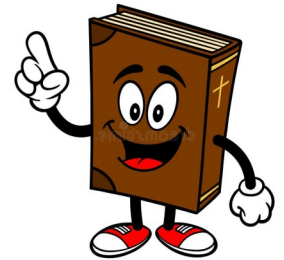


BYOB&B: Thinking Faithfully Out Loud

A Bible Study sponsored by: First Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, Faith Presbyterian Church, Monmouth College Chaplain's Office

Session 1: Introduction to Thinking Faithfully Out Loud
Tuesday, October 7



Scripture: Acts 17:16-34, Paul visits Athens

Who all is mentioned here—what groups of people are identified?

What assumptions do we have about how they think theologically?

Paul is challenged to a debate, what are they (all those groups) saying about Paul?

What questions lead to Paul sharing his way of thinking theologically?

What does Paul identify as his way of connecting his message to his listeners?

What reaction do the people have after Paul shares his message?

Connecting Scripture to today

Who do you typically have conversations about God with?

What types of conversations about God are meaningful to you?

What types of conversations about God turn you off?

What influences the way you think about God?

Where do your politics and your thinking theologically intersect?

Definitions as we begin this conversation

Thinking Theologically

Hermeneutics

Systematics

Apologetics

Critical Scholarship

Text Criticism

Christianity—as an umbrella term

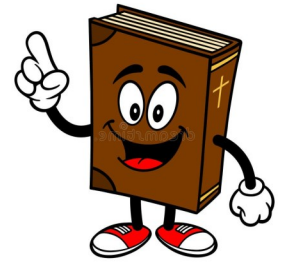
Christian—as a denominational term

* insert your denomination here—what does the term you use to define yourself mean

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Types of Theological Thinking Systems

Theology of the Cross

Starts with central doctrine of God coming to earth, and being found centrally in the cross

Theology of Glory

Starts with central doctrine of Jesus' resurrection, Jesus' victory and the victory of the faithful

Prosperity Gospel

Starts with our faithfulness is evidenced by what God is doing for us

Christian Nationalism

Starts with God's privileged relationship with our particular nation, and how the nation goes on to show how God's blessings then are able to work in our lives.

Hermeneutic Privilege of the Poor

Starts with being poor, and seeing God siding with the poor, and how throughout scripture true blessings from God start with those disadvantaged by society.

Answers In Genesis (Young Earth/Creationism)

Starts with a belief that God created the whole world in 6 literal 24-hour days, there are no contradictions anywhere in scripture, and it is all true or none of it is true.

Thinking Faithfully Out Loud is often a mixture of many systems intersecting all at the same time. We often find that contradictions in one theological system are smoothed over by another theological system. We often don't even realize how our thinking theologically is impacted by many ideas, cultural forces, political forces, extra-biblical teachings, etc.

Closing Prayer