

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Theological Studies for Some, Theology for All

Dear WAC,

It feels surreal to say this, but I recently began my fifth and final year at Trinity Theological College. I remember how I used to dread the start of a new semester, bracing myself for the mountain of readings and assignments. I never saw myself as a good student, let alone one studying theology! Yet, this year, I felt a genuine excitement to start the new semester. The journey has transformed my view of what it means to study theology.

We often think of "theology" as something reserved for pastors or academics in ivory towers. But theology is simply the study of God, and in that sense, we are all theologians. We can't escape it. Even when someone says, "Don't give me any of that theology stuff," they are making a theological statement about what they believe is important for their faith.

But why is it so important for us to think rightly about theology? Paul gives us a beautiful picture in his letter to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 4:11–14 (ESV)

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Theology isn't about winning arguments or accumulating head knowledge. As Paul says, its purpose is to equip us for service and to build up our church family. It helps us mature in our faith, grounding us in the truth of who God is. When we know Him deeply, we are less likely to be swayed by confusing or false ideas about Him.

One of the most important lessons I've learned at TTC is the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing God. It's easy to get lost in books and forget that God is not a subject to be mastered, but a Being to be loved and worshipped. Our study must always lead us to a deeper relationship with Him, where our hearts are as engaged as our minds.

As I enter this final year of theological studies, I want to encourage all of us to never stop seeking to know God more. Don't ever feel that you know enough. Continue to dive into His Word daily. For some of you, that might even mean discerning a call to theological studies. You don't need to be called to full-time ministry before starting theological studies! You can be simply called to study, to be better equipped for service in the church.

Thank you all for your prayers and faithful support throughout this journey. I am eternally grateful for WAC's investment in my theological education, and in the work of God's kingdom!

With love,
Ps Justin Chua