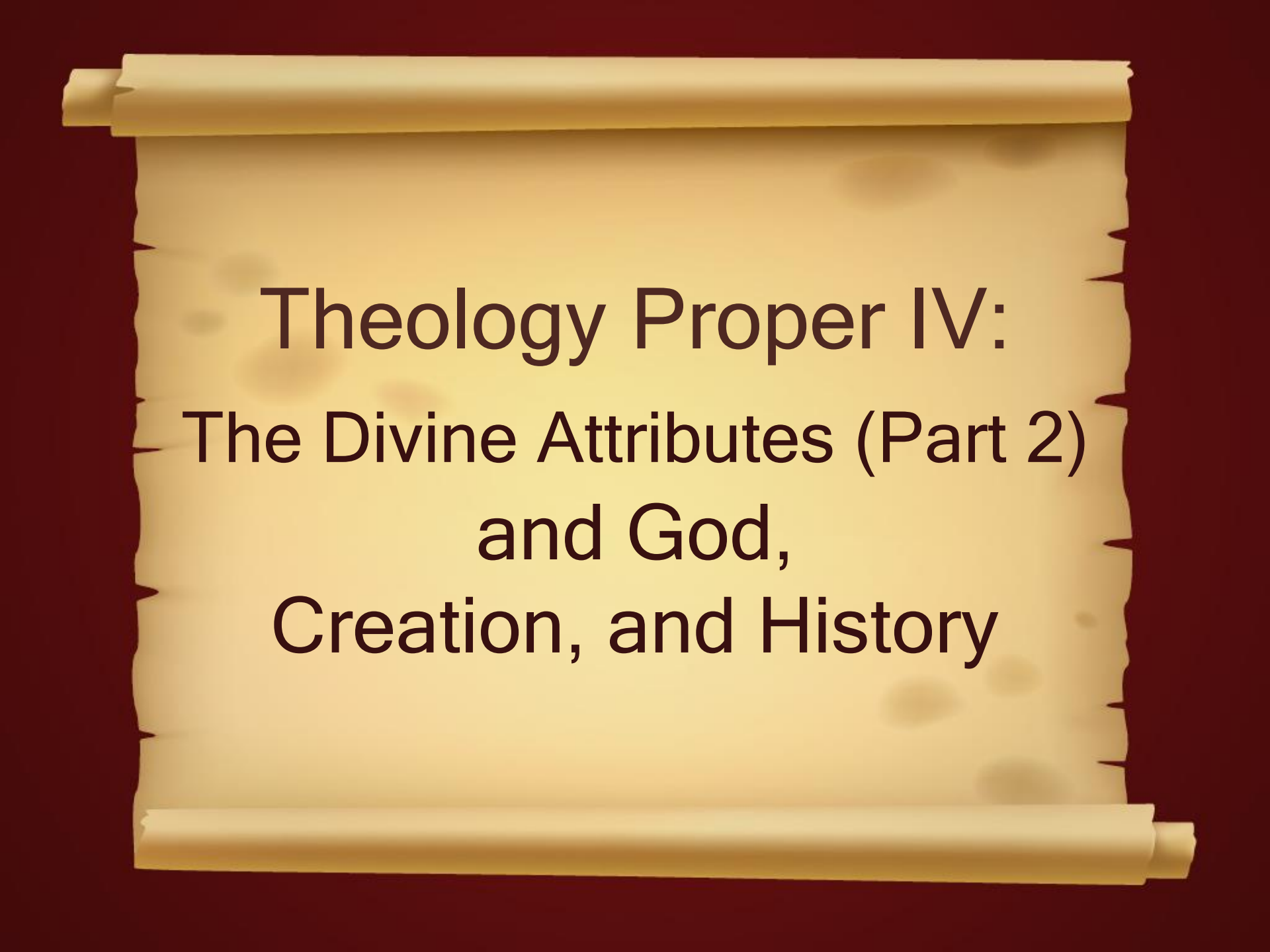


Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

A scroll of parchment with text on a dark red background. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text in the center. The parchment has a slightly aged, yellowish-tan color and a rough, torn edge. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a solid, dark red color.

**Theology Proper IV:
The Divine Attributes (Part 2)
and God,
Creation, and History**

God is Omnipresent

- God is personally present at every point in the universe.
- Impossible to escape His presence (Ps 139:7)
- Impossible to limit God to one location (1 Kings 8:27)

God is Eternal

- God is not limited by the passage of time: he does not age, forget, or grow impatient as he participates in the outworking of his plan for redemptive history.
- God existed before the created order (Gen 1:1; ps 90:2)
- God's actions stem from pre-creation purposes (1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:4)

God is Eternal

- God will never go out of existence (ps 9:7; 1 Tim 1:17)
- God does not age (Ps 102:25-27)
- God does not grow weary or impatient (2 Pet 3:8)
- **SUMMARY:** God's existence is eternal in that it transcends time while God acts in the time-space universe and interacts with His creatures.

God in Omnipotent

- God is all-powerful and is able to do all that He is His perfect wisdom has decided to do. (Job 42:2)
- God cannot do what is contrary to His nature:
 - Approve evil (Hab 1:13)
 - Deny promises (2 Tim 2:13)
 - Lie (Titus 1:2)
 - Tempt anyone (James 1:13)
 - Anything absurd or self-contradictory

God is Omniscient

- God perfectly and exhaustively knows everything about himself and his creation: past, present, and future; actual and possible.
- Himself—1 Cor 2:10
- All existing things—Ps 147:4-5
- Thoughts and hearts of man (Ps 139:1-4)
- All things possible (Matt 11:21-24)
- All things future (Is 46:9-10)

God is Omniscient (all-wise)

- God employs his perfect knowledge in perfectly appropriate ways in order to bring about the enactment of his eternal decree for his glory
- Wisdom of God in creation (Ps 104:24; Prov 3:19)
- ...of God in Redemption (1 Cor 1:21ff; Eph 3:10)
- Wisdom comes from God (Prov 1:7; 9:10; Eph 1:17)

God is Glorious

- The goodness and greatness of God expressed in his attributes, manifested to his creatures, and responded to by them such that God is seen to be weighty, honored, majestic, and praiseworthy.

The Decree of God

- Definition: The eternal plan by which God has rendered certain all the events of the universe, past, present, and future.
- All-inclusive plan—Eph 1:11; Rom 8:28; Prov 16:33
- Arises from His own purposes—Rev 4:11; Eph 1:6, 11; Rom 11:34
- Eternal—Eph 3:11
- Certain—Ps 33:11

Creation

- Definition: God, by a direct act, brought into being virtually instantaneously everything that is.
- Theology of Creation
 - Work of the Triune God
 - Father (1 Cor 8:6)
 - Son (John 1:3)
 - Holy Spirit (Gen 1:2)
 - A result of God's wisdom and will for His glory (Jer 10:12; Ps 19:1; Isa 43:7; Rev 4:11)

Creation

- Creation is distinct from God yet always dependent on God
- God created the universe at a definite point in time (Gen 1:1; John 17:5)
- Creation was instant and out of nothing—*ex nihilo* (Gen 1:1; Gen 1:3, 6, 9, etc; Ps 33:6; Heb 11:3)
- God directly created Adam and Eve (Gen 2:7; 2:21)

Creation

- God's creation produced "after its kind" (Gen 1:11, 12 etc)
- God's creation was perfect at the end of the creative week (Gen 1:31)
- God created the universe in a state of maturity
 - Adam and Eve
 - Plant life
 - Animal
 - Heavens and earth

Creation

- **Problems with Old Earth View:**
 - Based on least likely interpretation of Scripture
 - Denied historic view of the church
 - Puts sun, moon, stars (Day 4) millions of years AFTER plants and trees
 - If insects were formed on the 5th day and plants on the 4th, how were plants pollinated for millions of years?
 - Verbs in the creation account define instantaneity not a process
 - Adam gave names to all the land animals God had formed

Divine Providence (Sovereignty)

- “Providence is that continuous agency of God by which He makes all the events of the physical and moral universe fulfill the original design with which He created it” (A. H. Strong).
 - Over the universe (Ps 103:19)
 - Physical world (John 37:1ff; Ps 104:1ff)
 - Animal kingdom (Matt 10:29)
 - Affairs of nations (Ps 22:28)
 - Birth and careers of men (Isa 45:1-5)
 - Human success and failure (Ps 75:6)
 - Spiritual good of the righteous (rom 8:28)
 - Prayer (Matt 6:8)
 - Seemingly Trivial Things (matt 10:30; Prov 16:33)

Divine Providence (Sovereignty)

- THEOLOGY of PROVIDENCE:
 - God is self-sufficient and unable to be coerced
 - God is incomprehensible and has an infinite perspective
 - God is all-wise and capable of formulating the best plan for the universe
 - God is sovereign and has the right to carry out his plan
 - God is all-powerful and is able to carry out his plan
 - God is all-knowing and cannot be taken by surprise
 - God is all-good and has absolutely pure motives and actions
 - God is loving and is committed to personal relationships

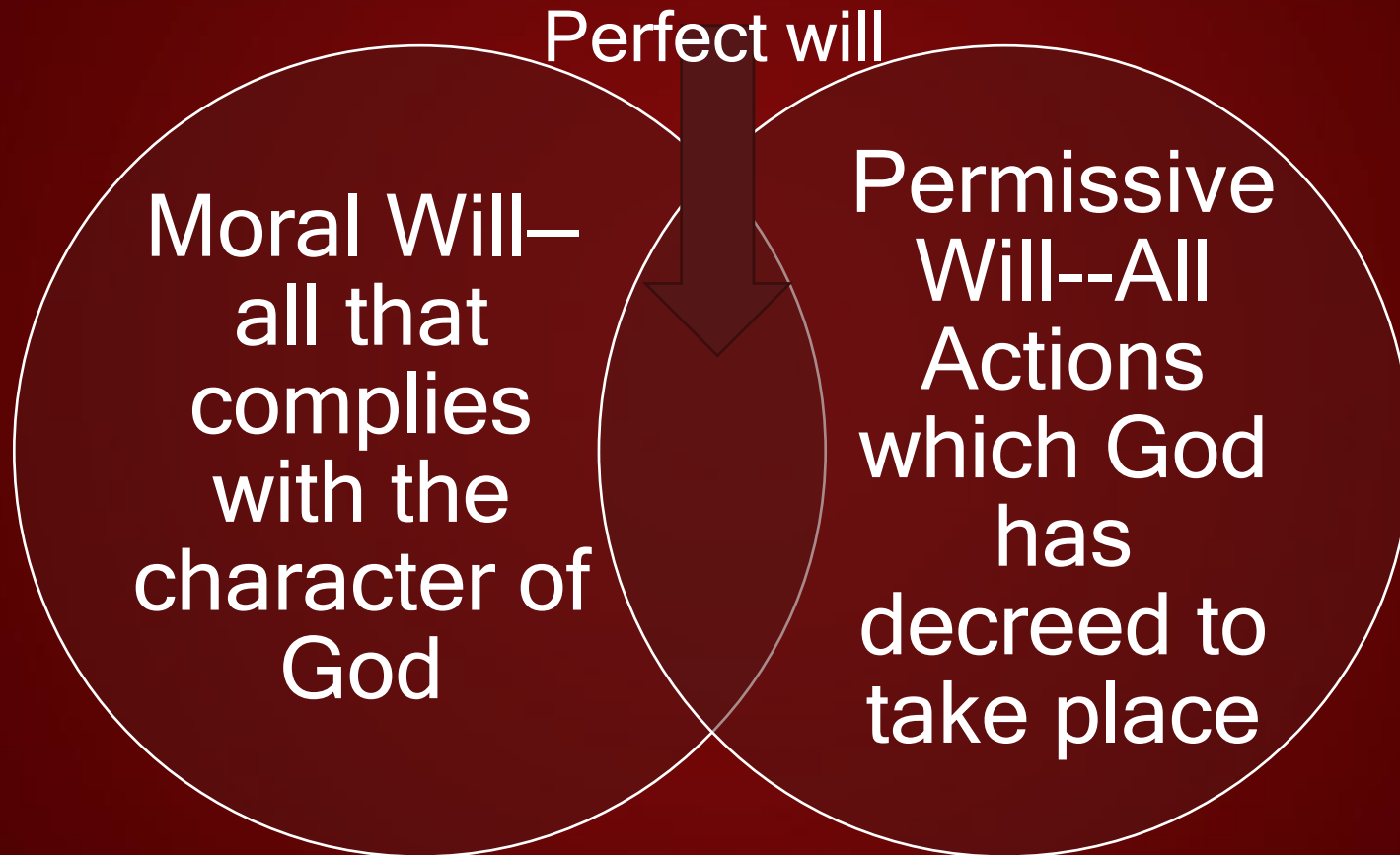
Nature of God's Will

- Acts 2:23—Three levels of causation
- NOTE: According to God's sovereign plan, he permits his creatures to do evil, yet without incurring guilt upon himself, for a greater good that only he fully comprehends.

Nature of God's Will

- God's Permissive Will: **EVERYTHING** that God has ordained
- God's Perfect Will: that which is (a) his permissive will and (b) his moral will

Nature of God's Will



Why Should We Pray?

- Prayer is a part of providence—God's ordained method
- If anyone prays, then God has ordained the prayer
- God has ordained the means as well as the end