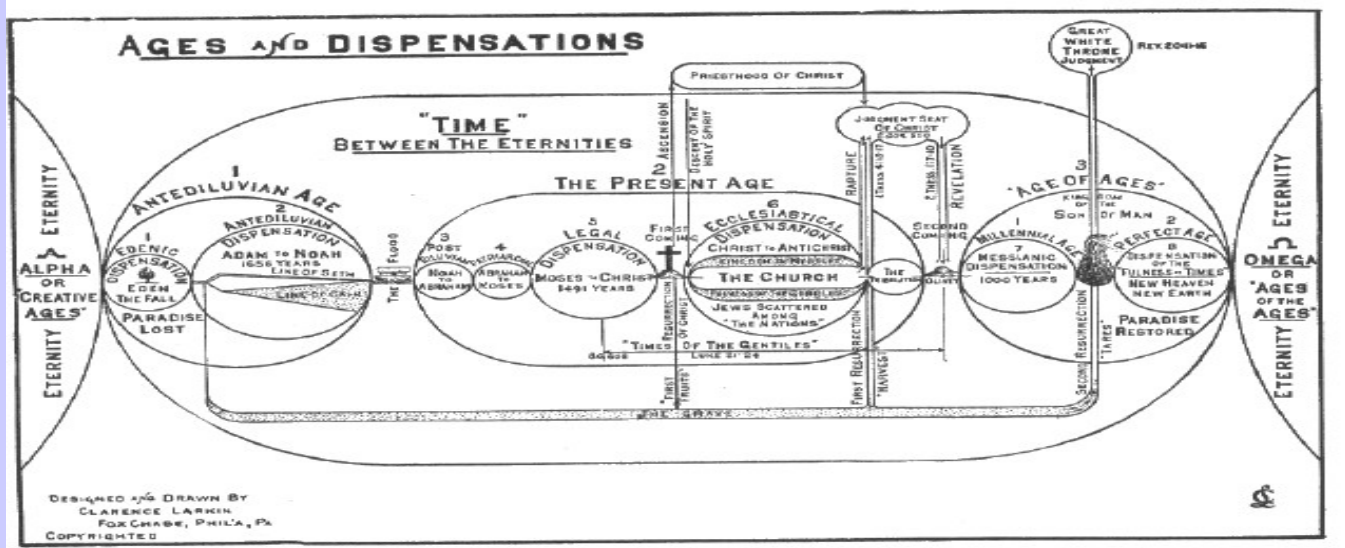


SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

MWF: 11:30-12:20 BRNG: B247



Dominique Chenu, has described the nature of theological systems as follows: “Most of the great theologians have one trait in common which enables us to appreciate and appraise ... their science: they reach the point where they build it into a ‘system’—that is, a logical whole, planned architecturally, wherein the various elements are so disposed as to knit together and buttress the entire structure. Systematization is a normal and proper consequence of a rational understanding of the faith. By achieving that unity which mind perennially demands and needs, it consummates the efforts of reason” (*Is Theology a Science?* 100).

Our purpose, in this course, is to explore historical examples of *how* Systematic Theology has been accomplished. This dual-level (undergraduate and graduate) introduction to the history, nature, and methods of Systematic Theology is designed to focus on the works of some of its famous architects. Selections from the writings of Origen of Alexandria, Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas, Melancthon, John Calvin, Francis Turretini, Karl Barth, Paul Tillich, Karl Rahner, Hans Urs Von Balthasar, *et al.*, will be read as models of systematic theological inquiry. Most time in class will be taken up working our way through historical examples of systematic theology (and their influence on one another), always asking “How does each author *do* systematic theology and what is the relevance of this approach to the specific theological theme chosen?” The theme for this semester will be the Christian conception of **SIN**.

Requirements: In addition to the completion of the reading assignments and intelligent participation in class, the following are required: two 15 pp. thought papers: one expository, one critical.

Required Readings (All are short introductions.): 1. Louis Berkhof, *Introduction to Systematic Theology* (provided electronically); 2. Robert Doran, *What is Systematic Theology?* 3. Wolfhart Pannenberg, *An Introduction to Systematic Theology*; 4. Paul F. M. Zahl, *A Short Systematic Theology*.