

**The Historical and Philosophical Foundations
For Describing the Theology of the New Testament**

1. The History of New Testament Theology as a Discipline:
Biblical theology as a product of the Reformation
 - a. Luther
 - b. Melancthon
 - c. Protestant Scholasticism
 - d. Two developments, however, worked against this tendency:
 1. German Pietism
 2. English (and German) Rationalism
 - e. The first Biblical theologies and the first New Testament theologies.
 - (a) Gotthilf Traugott Zachariä (1729–1777)
 - (b) Georg Lorenz Bauer (1755–1806)
2. The Legitimacy of New Testament Theology as a Discipline: Three Figures and Two Issues
 - a. Three important historical figures and their ideas.
 - i. Johann Philipp Gabler (1787)
 - ii. William Wrede (1897)
 - iii. Heikki Räisänen (1990, 2000)
 - iv. The Common Ground...
 1. ...Beneath Gabler, Wrede, and Räisänen
 2. ...Beneath Wrede and Räisänen
 - b. Two Issues
 - i. Can theology mix with historical description?
 - ii. Is there a unified "theology" of the New Testament?

c. How Can Christians Who Believe in Special Revelation Respond to the Criticisms of Gabler, Wrede, and Räisänen?

- i. The issue of the canon.
- ii. The issue of presuppositions.
- iii. The issue of theological diversity.
 - a) Diversity as a problem
 - b) The "canon within the canon" approach.
 - 1) Luther
 - 2) Bultmann—*Sachkritik*
 - 3) Käsemann
 - 4) Modern liberationists
 - c) Why this approach will not work

The following resources were especially helpful in the preparation of this lecture:

Baird, William. *History of New Testament Research*, vol. 1. *From Deism to Tübingen*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.

Hasel, Gerhard. *New Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1978.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Real Jesus*. San Francisco: Harper Collins: 1996.

Morgan, Robert P., ed. *The Nature of New Testament Theology: The Contribution of William Wrede and Adolf Schlatter*. London: SCM, 1973.

Sandys-Wunsch, John and Laurence Eldredge. "J. P. Gabler and the Distinction between Biblical and Dogmatic Theology: Translation, Commentary, and Discussion of His Originality." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 33 (1980), 133- 58.