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Experience with Theology

Name

Institutional Affiliation

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How I Understand Theology

I interpret the word theology as a study of the Bible and a commitment to dedicate one's life to serving God. Christians learn more about God and his character through the Bible. However, understanding the word of God is not automatic as there are various hidden meanings in each verse. Christians must thus have a clear understanding of God's word for them to lead a life of holiness before their creator. The study of theology equips individuals with the knowledge of the Bible which they teach the church. God wants humans to be obedient to him by following His commandments. However, Christians need someone to guide them on how to live a righteous life thus the need for some individuals to study theology and become teachers of the gospel.

I believe people who study theology make efforts to avoid sin which angers God and distances Him from man. Studying theology thus means denying oneself the pleasures of the world by avoiding contact with evil actions. The people who study theology experience a challenging life since everyone has high expectations of moral conduct from them, and they receive condemnation for committing sin. Theology, though it helps learners understand God and the Bible, is a challenging course since the public expects them to be righteous, yet according to the scripture, everyone is a sinner (Romans 3: 23 New International Version).

Past Experience with Theology

I learned about the concept of theology at an early age since I come from a Christian background. At first, I thought those who believe in God and adhere to the teachings of the Bible shall always enjoy a good life on earth. I knew those who faced misfortunes in their lives were disobedient to God, and their suffering was some form of punishment from Him. I thus made

significant efforts to avoid sin and was always ready to confess and ask for forgiveness from God when I felt I had failed Him. I picked the habit of condemning people who had problems in their lives for disobeying God and always insisted they must seek forgiveness and change their conduct to receive God's love and protection.

My idea of God changed when I lost my best friend through a terrible road accident. I felt I did not deserve the loss since I was prayerful and always keen not to annoy God with my conduct. I felt disappointed and stopped being prayerful, and I entertained sin unlike before when I was careful not to fall short of His glory. However, one preacher explained how God could make human beings suffer to test their faith like when he ordered Abraham to sacrifice Isaac yet, he was his only son (Genesis 22: 1-16). Since then, I changed my perception of God again and believed He remains mighty whether in happiness or sadness.

Expectations for the Course

I have other goals apart from excelling in this course such as knowing how to handle people who come to me for consolation in times of grief. Leaders in theology will mostly encounter people battling emotional pain and hurt. Therefore, they must have the skills and competence to comfort them. Further, they should be trusted individuals who can keep the secrets of their congregation. When believers open up to their pastors or other religious leaders, they hope their stories and situations are safe, and no third party will get wind of the happenings around them.

Apart from finding solutions from the leader, believers have other expectations such as high levels of confidence. I thus wish to develop a trustworthy character where my followers will see not only a solution in my consolation but a confidant. I also look forward to losing my self-centeredness personality which drives me to be too preoccupied with myself without caring

much about others. As a theology minister, I have to sacrifice more time and resources for others who are in need (Deuteronomy 15:11). It will mean utilizing my free time to visit the sick or sharing my meals with the less fortunate just like Jesus ordered Christians to help the poor.

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References

The Holy Bible, New International Version (2009). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

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