

Theology is, indeed, thought and speech about God. But it is so only indirectly, in that its direct object—even in its constructive mode—is what is, or is to be, thought, said, and done about God at the primary level of self-understanding and life-praxis.

Thus as historical theology it has to do with what in fact has been thought, said, and done about God, while as systematic and practical theology it has to do with what by right should be thought, said, and done about God—either in any situation whatever (in the case of systematic theology) or in this or that particular situation here and now (in the case of practical theology).

8 June 1990; rev. 31 May 2009