The goal of our brief time together will be to provide a Reformed theological analysis of the methodology of Thomas Aquinas. With that in view, we will not be able to focus on the almost infinite amount of literature from Aquinas and his followers. Instead, we will focus on Thomas's relationship to the two principia of theology — the principium cognoscendi, which is the foundation of knowledge, and the principium essendi, which is the foundation of existence. In this way, we can begin to acquire a basic, though not thorough, assessment of Thomas's approach to his own philosophical theology.

We will attempt to follow the basic outline below:

Part I

A. The Principium Cognoscendi (Foundation of Knowledge)
   1. Reason and Revelation
   2. The Problem of Self-Evidence
   3. Praeambula Fidei

B. Critique
   1. Reason and Revelation
      a. The "light" of reason?
   2. The Problem of Self-Evidence
   3. Praeambula Fidei

Part II.

A. Principium Essendi (Foundation of Existence)
   1. Proofs of God's Existence
   2. Who God Is

B. Critique
   1. Proofs of God's Existence
   2. Who God Is

C. Conclusion
Assignment:

Your assignment will be to write a 15 to 20 page summary of the required readings. These summaries are not meant to cover every detail in the readings, but are meant to reflect the main and central content of the readings, as well as their implications. They will be graded, primarily, on the basis of the reader adequately to synthesize, rather than just repeat or quote, the material read. Synthesizing material read is a key, initial, component of good thinking and of accurate assessment.

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


