

CHAPTER III

A SYSTEMATIC CORRELATION OF THEOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF THE QUESTION

The chief theological components of this question would appear to be three: (1) the question of the relationship of the Holy Spirit to God's work of regeneration; (2) the question of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world during the Old as well as the New Testament periods; and (3) the question of the relationship between the reality of depravity and the necessity of regeneration during both Old and New Testament periods. In addition to these questions, certain secondary considerations would appear to be somewhat relevant. These components will be treated in the order indicated above.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REGENERATION

Charles Hodge, in his great classic, Systematic Theology, states, among the varied activities of the Spirit, this relationship:

It is the special office of the Spirit to convince the world of sin; to reveal Christ, to regenerate the soul, to lead men to the exercise of faith and repentance; to dwell in those He thus renews, as a principle of a new and divine life.¹

Louis Berkhof, in his excellent one-volume work Systematic Theology, states his view of this relationship:

The only adequate view is that of the Church of all ages, that the Holy Spirit is the efficient cause of regeneration. This means that the Holy Spirit works directly on the heart

¹Charles Hodge, Systematic Theology, Vol. I (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1952), p. 532.