

## Gig Harbor 'Theology on Tap' 2023 Annual Summary

Theology on Tap (ToT) meets the third Thursday of every month at Round Table Pizza in Gig Harbor. Its purpose is to foster discussion on theological and religious topics in an open, non-judgmental, and non-proselytizing format. Many Christians aren't sure exactly what they believe and Theology on Tap is an opportunity for a safe conversation on a wide variety of topics while having dinner and an adult beverage. (Drinking is not required!)

Phil Waite leads ToT in Gig Harbor which includes scheduling a location every month, researching topics, preparing summaries of those topics, and emailing the summaries out to interested parties in advance.

The ToT discussion summaries (called euphemistically 'One-Pagers') are usually between 2 and 6 pages in length. Phil researches, writes, and sends these out, taking an unbiased, 'academic' point of view without shading the topic one way or another but often his biases and snark slip through. All of the 'one-pagers' follow the same structure:

- I. **The Issue** – usually a definition and a description of why it's important
- II. **Background & History of the Topic** – how the topic developed in church history
- III. **Considerations** – different stances, views, or schools of thought on the topic
- IV. **Conclusion** – usually what the only thing we can say with certainty about the topic
- V. **Discussion** - questions to consider that our discussions are based on
- VI. **Resources** - not always included, but sometimes useful for those who may want to dig deeper. Sometimes the footnotes are thorough enough that this section is unnecessary
- VII. **Footnotes** - the footnotes are usually extensive and cite quotes and resources used in the research or develop further questions on the topic

In 2023, ToT meets monthly from September through May. Discussion topics in 2023 were:

- **January: Creeds** – their history, use, and relevance to modernity
- *February: cancelled due to illness*
- **March: Theosis** - the doctrine that the ultimate destiny of humanity is to be conformed to the *imago Dei* or the image of God.
- **April: Imago Dei** – there are at least seven different views as to what “the image of God” means for humans
- **May: Ascension Day** – background and history of Ascension Day as a holy day of observance in the church. (held at ADLC in conjunction with the church's Ascension Day Potluck)
- June – July- August: *off for the summer*
- **September: Original Sin** – background and history and alternative views of the topic
- **October: Open & Relational Theology** – a theological view that rejects the classical views of God and proposes a relational theory based on God's character as love.
- **November: Feminist Theology** – an exploration of three different kinds of feminist theology.
- **December: Universal Salvation** – an exploration of alternative views to the prevalent 'Eternal Conscious Torment' view of what happens when a non-Christian dies.

**Attendance:** 24 invitations are sent monthly. Average attendance for 2023 was 14. Low:11; High 16. Four pastors are cc'd each month to provide feedback if they wish.

More in-depth information on the ToT topics is available in the church office.