

# THE251 Theological Foundations Wk 2 Assignments

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## Weekly Objectives

- Follow a systematic procedure for investigation and application of theological issues.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the primary functional authority of Scripture in all theological work.

## Weekly Outcomes

### Cognitive Outcomes

- Describe the different branches of theological investigation
- Articulate the logical relationship and priority of the various theological disciplines
- Apply exegetically responsible procedures for theological investigation
- Describe a flexible process for theological investigation and application
- Follow a detailed and/or an abridged process to investigate a theological topic

### Affective Outcomes

- Prioritize revelation from God over human reason, tradition and experience in doing theology.
- Appreciate regular Bible and theological study
- Value exegetical responsibility in all theological investigation
- Integrate intellectual investigation with appropriate affections and actions
- Value making theology practicable and actually putting it into practice

## Devotional

Scripture: 2 Tim. 2:15

In this verse, Paul is encouraging his young protégé Timothy to do theology and do it well. He tells Timothy to “be diligent” (or “work hard” or “do your best” etc. depending on your translation). He is asking Timothy to be willing to do whatever is necessary, even though it might not be easy. And the purpose for this is so that he would present himself to God as one who is proven – a workman with no cause to be ashamed. And then Paul adds a phrase that describes the characteristic activity that would ensure Timothy of being approved and avoiding shame. Timothy should rightly, accurately handle the word of truth.

In giving this command to Timothy, Paul not only communicates the importance of accurately handling the word, but also implies that it is not automatic. It is entirely possible for Timothy (and us) to wrongly, inaccurately work with God’s Word, and therefore to be ashamed and unapproved. For this reason, it is necessary that we take this task seriously and work skillfully as well as hard.

The material for this week is intended to help us to fulfill this task well. There are attitudes and tools and skills that will help us to do theology well, and to avoid certain pitfalls. If we learn and practice these things, it will be a benefit, not only for our own life, but for the people around us. And we will be able to present something to God that will please Him, and not something of which we will be ashamed.

Please, then, prayerfully consider how you can be an approved worker. In what ways can you improve your effort? Why will it be worth the effort? In what ways do you perceive that you lack skill and practice? What do you hope that this week's material will provide to help with this lack? What difference do you hope it will make? And what things can you do to grow in this area?

## Introduction

Hi Everyone. Welcome back to week two!

The focus of this week is on how to do theology for yourself. You will learn practical skills and approaches to use in your own study. Some of the topics to be covered this week are the basis and authority for all theology, the various branches of theology that connect God's revelation to practical application, some strategies for faithful Bible study, strategies for theological thinking and application, and then specific processes and skills to do theological work. There may seem to be a lot of material to be learned. But it is most important to see that it is all connected together because God is the foundation of it all. Ideally, you will understand all the concepts and begin to practice all the skills. The material for this week is meant to provide tools that will be used (with increasing skill the more they are used) in the weeks ahead. And hopefully you will see the benefit and commit to use these skills and approaches for a lifetime of theological investigation.

## Preparation

Read Kopic pp. 41-121

Find resources and begin to research term project topic

Watch 4 Course Videos

"How to do Theology: How do we Know?" at

[www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Epistemology.php](http://www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Epistemology.php)

"How to do Theology: From the Bible" at [www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Exegesis.php](http://www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Exegesis.php)

"How to do Theology: to Application" at

[www.bradcopp.com/THE251/toTheology.php](http://www.bradcopp.com/THE251/toTheology.php)

"How to do Theology: Theological Methods" at

[www.bradcopp.com/THE251/methods.php](http://www.bradcopp.com/THE251/methods.php)

## Assignments

### 1. How To Do Theology Discussion

- This discussion will help you process the large amount of material from this week. You will interact with different aspects of the process of moving from the Bible to application in theology and form your own skills and understanding of

the whole. Ideally, you will demonstrate understanding of the separate theological disciplines and the theological process and help other students to increase in theirs. Ideally, you will thoughtfully interact in more depth with at least some aspect of the theory underlying theology, some aspect of the process of Bible study, and some aspect of application.

- Prepare to discuss the 2-3 items that most stood out to you from this week's material. Ensure the following points are addressed.
  - Choose those 2-3 items that you will discuss in detail.
  - Describe the content and meaning of each item.
  - Why did each item stand out to you as important for developing your theology.
  - In what ways were you informed and/or challenged?
  - How will this impact your discipleship and ministry?

## 2. Personal Theological Method Paper

- The goal of this paper is for you to design a process of investigating theology that is personally tailored for yourself - your unique needs and abilities. The student should demonstrate significant interaction with the course material without just restating it. The student should think through the process asking "How should I do this and why?" and give evidence of thoughtfulness in making the process relevant and workable in their own life. This process should be flexible enough to cover different issues while comprehensive enough to give definite direction how it should be done. This process should demonstrate how the student will connect and apply the ancient truth of the Bible with their own life and ministry.
- Write a paper describing your personal process for theological investigation. And ensure the following points are addressed.
  - An outline of the process, breaking it down into distinct steps
  - An explanation of what each step is intended to accomplish and a description of the activities the student will do in each step
  - An explanation of the relationship between the steps and the reason the student has put the steps in this particular order.
  - A description of the desired outcome(s) of the process as a whole, and what the student desires to accomplish by following this process.

## 3. Term Project Part 2 – Asking a Theological Question

- This activity will continue the project that will span all five weeks of this course. For this week's activity, you will refine the general category of topic into a specific theological question. Ideally, your question should meet the following criteria:

- It is a small enough scope to do well in the limited time period of this assignment?
  - It is a theological question that is directly addressed in the Bible as opposed to a historical or application question that is one or more steps removed from the Bible?
  - The question clear and precise enough to give clear direction to your research and to set limits so that your research stays on track?
- Briefly write out the specific question which you will research and submit for instructor comment and approval.