

THE251 Theological Foundations Wk 4 Assignments

Weekly Objectives

- Formulate a survey understanding of the Biblical teaching of the nature of God, the nature of the universe, the nature of humanity and the nature of God's revelation to humanity.
- Demonstrate a commitment to reject false worldviews and to conform their thoughts, affections and actions to the true nature of all reality.

Weekly Outcomes

Cognitive Outcomes

- Articulate a survey understanding of the Biblical teaching of the nature and character of God
- Articulate a survey understanding of the Biblical teaching of the nature of creation and its significance in God's plan
- Articulate a survey understanding of the Biblical teaching on the nature of humanity and our significance in God's plan
- Articulate a survey understanding of the Biblical teaching on God's general and special revelation to humans.

Affective Outcomes

- Acknowledge a commitment to conform their life to the nature and character of God
- Acknowledge a commitment to conform their life and use of creation to God's intended purposes.
- Acknowledge a commitment to conform their life to the purpose for which God created them as an individual, and as a typical human
- Acknowledge a commitment to conform their life to God's chosen means of revealing Himself – receiving, trusting and obeying this revelation

Devotional

Scripture: Psalm 78:1-8

This Psalm, which is one of the longer chapters in the Bible (but not the longest) begins with a proclamation of the intention to pass on the traditions about God to the next generation. And this tradition is summarized in this passage as “the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” (v. 4 NIV). Then the Psalmist gives a list of reasons and purposes for teaching these things to their children and their children's children.

The first is that they would know God's revelation, which includes His laws, but also His praiseworthy deeds and nature. The second is that they would put their trust in God, obey Him and never forget Him. And the third is that they would avoid the rebellion of the generation that was faithless toward God.

In the same way, as we study theology, we are receiving the traditions passed on to us which originated from God Himself. In this week and the next, we are going to survey the major Christian doctrines. And as a result, we will be able to more fully know the praiseworthiness of God's character and deeds. We are so blessed to have access to revelation from God Himself. We should therefore take full advantage of this privilege. We should trust and obey God. We should flee from unfaithfulness, and we should in turn proclaim this truth to the people around us, so that they too can share in this privilege.

Please, then, prayerfully consider what a blessing it is to have authoritative revelation from God on so many topics. And consider how you can most faithfully respond to this privilege. In what ways can you trust Him more? How can you know Him more? How can you remain faithful and obedient to Him? And how can you cultivate an attitude of wonder and gratitude as you work through all the theological truth this week?

Introduction

Hi everyone and welcome back to week four!

In this week and the next we will look in more depth at each of the major theological categories and give you the opportunity to explore further those topics that interest you the most. This is where you will fill in the mental framework that you built in the previous week. There is a huge amount of material in each category that is beyond the scope of this class. And each student will come to this class with a different amount of previous knowledge in each topic. Wherever you start from in each category, ideally your knowledge will grow both in depth and in clarity, and you will be well prepared to go further in your understanding as you go beyond this class.

Preparation

Choose and read 1 chapter from Grudem chs. 2-13

Read the chapter summaries posted by cohort members.

Watch 5 Course Videos

“Survey: Theology Proper – General” at www.bradcopp.com/THE251/General.php

“Survey: Theology Proper – Attributes” at

www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Attributes.php

“Survey: Bibliology” at www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Bibliology.php

“Survey: Creation & Providence” at www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Creation.php

“Survey: Anthropology & Hamartiology” at

www.bradcopp.com/THE251/Anthropology.php

Research secondary resources and organize material relevant to your term project question.

Assignments

1. Summary of Textbook reading discussion

- This activity will help you to explore a theological topic of your choice in more depth. You will choose one chapter from this week's material in the Grudem textbook and think through the appropriate applications for your life and ministry. Ideally, you will understand the material and communicate its significance for the benefit of other students in your cohort. And you will share the benefit of understanding gained from other students.

- Read one chapter from the Grudem textbook chs. 2-13. Write a summary of the chapter for discussion, ensuring that the following points are covered.
 - A detailed description of the content of the chapter
 - Your personal reaction to the material
 - The manner in which this content can be applied in your life and ministry.
 - An interaction with the summary contributions from other students, describing the application of their content to your life and ministry.

2. Exam on Course Material

- This activity will help you to have a survey level understanding of the course material covered in this week's videos. Ideally, you will demonstrate a conceptual grasp of basic concepts and an ability to apply the general ideas covered in each theological subtopic.

- Write an objective and essay exam covering the theology subtopics covered in this week's material.

3. Term Project Part 4 – Systematic Theology Paper

- This activity will continue the project that will span all five weeks of this course. For this week's activity, you will follow the parts of your personal process for theological investigation, which you wrote in week to, that apply to the synthesis of Biblical material into an organized theological presentation. This project helps you to learn theology by actually engaging in theological synthesis to answer your chosen theological question. Ideally, you will use skills and approaches you are learning to relate the Scriptural data together into an organized and consistent answer to your chosen question. Ideally, you will demonstrate understanding of your chosen topic and the process by which you have gained this understanding.

- Organize all the Biblical data from your previous paper into distinct categories, putting all similar material together. Place all the material into a logical process, which demonstrates the appropriate development of the Biblical ideas and their relationship together.

- Write a 3-5-page paper to communicate your theological conclusion and answer to your chosen question. You may use any secondary resource, but this paper should come primarily from your own summary of the Biblical material from your previous paper. Any resources used should be properly documented. This paper should address the following:
 - Synthesize the variety of Biblical data described in the previous project into a logical organization that best demonstrates how all of the Bible teaching fits together
 - Summarize the Biblical answer to your chosen question.
 - Demonstrate that your answer flows directly from the Biblical data.