READING SCHEDULE – MODULE 4/PART 1

Textbook Reading
☐ Read ***one chapter of your choosing*** from Grudem ch. 4, 5, ***or*** 6
Supplemental Reading (After Lecture Material)
☐ "How to: Systematic Theology" - https://www.scriptureexegesis.com/TF/TH255HowtoSystematicTheology.pdf

Study Guide (for whichever chapter of Grudem you may choose to read)

For Grudem Chapter 4 – *The Character of God: "Incommunicable" Attributes* (pp. 73-93)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What is the first question addressed in this chapter? How is it answered? What types of evidence are given?
- Describe what Grudem means by "inner sense of God." What does he say about those who deny this inner sense? How is this experienced by growing Christians?
- What is the evidence for God's existence in Scripture? In human nature? In creation?
- What conclusion does Grudem make from this evidence?
- What is the second question addressed in this chapter? How is it answered?
- What is the difference between "fully" knowing God and "truly" knowing God? Why is that distinction important? How does it apply?
- What does it mean that God is "incomprehensible"? What is the Biblical evidence given? Why does that matter?
- What does it mean to know true things about God? How is that related to Scripture?
- What point does Grudem make with the distinction between knowing facts and knowing persons? How does this apply to theological study?
- What does Grudem mean by "incommunicable" attributes? What are some examples?
- What is the weakness Grudem emphasizes about this categorization? What difference does this make?
- Describe God's attribute of "independence" in your own words. What is the Biblical evidence for this? What does this tell us about God? How does this apply?
- How is God's being unique and different from our being?
- What is the "balancing consideration" with respect to God's independence? Why does this matter?
- What does the "unchangeableness" of God tell us about Him? In what ways is He unchangeable? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does this make?
- How does God's unchangeableness apply to His purposes and promises? How does this relate to Bible passage where God seems to change His mind?

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- How does Grudem define the idea of God's "impassibility"? What does Grudem think about this idea? What is the Biblical evidence he gives? Do you agree? Why or why not? What difference does this make?
- What is the point Grudem makes about God being both "personal" and "infinite"? How does this make God unique? Why is this important?
- Why is it significant that God does not change? In what ways does He not change?
- How does Grudem define God's eternity? What does this tell us about God? How does this apply to our lives?
- What is meant by "omnipresence"? How is this related to God's eternity? What does this describe about God? What does this tell us God is NOT like? What are the different manners in which God can be present? Why does this all matter?
- How does Grudem define God's "unity"? How does this relate to our understanding of God's attributes? What is the application Grudem makes of this point? Do you agree?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 5 – *The "Communicable" Attributes of God* (pp. 94-116)

- What is the main question which this chapter addresses?
- What are the five categories of attributes given in this chapter? Which attributes are contained in each category? How do these categories help you process and understand the nature and character of God?
- What is God NOT made of, according to the attribute of "spirituality"? Why does this matter for our understanding of God? How is this related to the prohibiting of idolatry?
- What reasons does Grudem give for classifying "spirituality" as a communicable attribute? How does this apply?
- How does Grudem define God's "invisibility"? What are the reasons and benefits of God not being fully visible to all? How is this attribute related to our future hope?
- Describe what it means that God's knowledge is infinite (omniscience). What are the various categories of things that God knows? What does this tell us about God and His interaction with His people?
- What does it mean that God's knowledge is a "simple act"? What does it mean that God's knowledge is an "eternal act"? What difference does this make?
- What does "open theism" claim about God's knowledge? Do you agree? What is the Scriptural evidence Grudem mentions against that position?
- How does Grudem define God's attribute of "wisdom"? How do humans experience God's wisdom? How is this related to our need to exercise faith?
- Describe what is meant by God's "truthfulness." What are the different parts of the definition given by Grudem? What does each part claim? Why is each part important? What are the ways we should imitate God's truthfulness?
- What are the two parts of the definition of God's goodness? What does each part tell us about God? What is the Biblical evidence for God's goodness? How should we imitate His goodness?
- How are God's mercy and grace related to His goodness?
- How does Grudem define God's love? How is this similar or different from our culture's definition of love? How is God's love shown among the trinity? How does this overflow to mankind? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does this make? How should we imitate God's love?

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- What is God's holiness, according to Grudem? How can we imitate His holiness?
- What does God's attribute of righteousness (or justice) tell us about God and His interactions with His creation? How should we define and determine what is "right" or "just"? How is God's righteousness related to His power? Is that a good thing?
- How can the term "jealousy" refer to something that is good? What does this tell us about God's attitude, desires, and character? What is the main way that God's attribute of jealousy is different from all examples of human jealousy?
- How is God's wrath related to His love and hate? How would you defend the idea that God's wrath is actually a good thing? What is the Biblical evidence for this attribute? What would the world be like without God's wrath? How is this related to His mercy and patience? How should we respond to the truth of this attribute?
- How does Grudem define God's will? What are the results of God's will? What can you learn from this?
- List and describe the different ways that God can will something, and how these distinctions help us to understand God's will and the way He works in our lives. What is the Biblical evidence for these distinctions?
- According to Grudem, what are the dangers of thinking and speaking about God's will which we should avoid? Why are these ways of thinking dangerous? How can we avoid them?
- What does Grudem mean by God's freedom? How is this related to His will? What are the implications of God's freedom, especially for our understanding of why God does something?
- What does "omnipotence" mean? How is this related to God's will? What kind of things can God NOT do? Are these a limitation to His omnipotence? Why or why not?
- How can we imitate God's will, freedom and power? How are our exercise of these attributes different from God's
- How does Grudem define God's "perfection"? What does this tell us about God? What difference does this make?
- What does it mean that God is "blessed"? How is this different from the blessings that people experience? How is it similar?
- How does Grudem define God's "beauty"? What does this tell us about God? How does this relate to our desires? How should we apply this knowledge in our lives and ministries?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 6 – *The Trinity* (pp. 117-146)

- What is the main question which this chapter addresses?
- How does Grudem define the term "Trinity"? What does this tell us about God? Is this a familiar concept, or is this a new way for you to think about God?
- How is this doctrine partially revealed in the Old Testament? What do we learn from these things?
- How is this doctrine more fully revealed in the New Testament?
- What are the three statements that summarize the doctrine of the Trinity? What is the Biblical evidence for each? How do they relate together? Why can't we fully understand and describe the truth of the Trinity?
- How are the three persons of the Trinity distinguished? What is the evidence that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person?
- What is the Biblical evidence that the Father is God? That the Son is God? That the Spirit is God?

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- What is the Biblical evidence that there is only one God?
- Why are the analogies which Grudem describes inadequate to teach about the Trinity?
- What is the problem of the simplistic solutions described by Grudem?
- In what way is "Modalism" mistaken? What truth does it deny about God? How is the correct understanding better?
- In what way is "Arianism" mistaken? What truth does it deny about God? What Bible passages were used to argue for Arianism? How is the correct understanding better?
- What does the Nicene Creed teach in opposition to Arianism? What does this tell us about Christ and the Trinity?
- In what way is "Tritheism" mistaken? What truth does it deny about God? How is the correct understanding better? How are we in danger of falling into tritheism today?
- Why is the doctrine of the Trinity important for us today? How should we apply this doctrine in every part of life?
- What is the main category of difference which Grudem emphasizes between the persons of the Trinity? How is this related to the idea of the "economy of the Trinity"? How is this seen in creation? In redemption? What are the roles of each person in these activities? Do you agree with the idea that the persons are equal in their attributes, but subordinate in their roles?
- What does Grudem (based on Irons) argue is the meaning of "monogenes"?
- What are the two options for the "eternal generation of the Son"? How does this apply?
- What are the implications of the eternal distinctions between Father, Son, and Spirit?
- What is the evidence given that the Son eternally submits to the Father? What are the implications of this?
- What are the falsehoods to be avoided in thinking about the relationship between the Three Persons and the One Being of God? Why are these dangerous? What are the truths we should affirm in opposition to these errors? How should we think of the differences between the persons?
- Why is the Trinity difficult to fully understand? Is it true to say that we cannot understand the Trinity at all? Why or why not? Why is it healthy to acknowledge the limitations of our understanding of the Trinity? Is the Trinity therefore a contradiction? Why or why not?
- How is the Trinity reflected in creation, especially in human relationships? How is unity and diversity important in creation? How should this reflect the glory of God?
- Describe the significance of each of the ten ways listed in which Christianity differs from Mormonism. What difference does each make in your life and ministry?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."