READING SCHEDULE – MODULE 4/PART 2

Textbook Reading
☐ Read ***one chapter of your choosing*** from Grudem ch. 2 ***or*** 3

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

For Grudem Chapter 2 – *The Authority and Inerrancy of the Bible* (pp. 21-47)

- What are the two main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What are the four characteristics of the Bible? Why are they important?
- What does Grudem mean by "the authority of Scripture"? What difference does this make?
- What is the Biblical evidence that its words are God's words? What are the implications of the phrase "Thus says the Lord"? How does the role of a prophet contribute to our understanding of this topic?
- What does 2 Tim. 3:16 tell us about the Bible's authority? What are the implications of the word "theopneustos"?
- What does 2 Pet. 1:21 tell us about the Bible's authority? How should we respond to these ideas?
- What other New Testament passages contribute to this issue? What do they tell us? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem argue that this same authority also applies to the New Testament? What does the term "Scripture" contribute to this argument? How was it used in the New Testament? What do 2 Pet. 3:15-16 and 1 Tim. 5:18 tell us about this issue? What evidence shows the New Testament authors understood they were writing with God's authority? What should we conclude from this? Why does this matter?
- What does Grudem say gives us ultimate conviction that the Bible is the Word of God? How does this happen in our lives?
- What are the other evidences that the Bible is God's Word? What does Grudem think of the validity and helpfulness of those evidences? What does the Westminster Confession tell us about this issue?
- What does Grudem mean by "self-attesting"? Why is this principle important?
- How does Grudem respond to the claim that the self-attesting of Scripture is a circular argument? How does the Bible answer this objection better than the Book of Mormon or human reason, etc.? What is the point of the illustration of a spiral? Why does this matter?
- What is the point of the discussion of "dictation"? What does this tell us about the process(es) by which God caused the Bible to be written? What does this tell us about the nature of the Bible? What difference does this make?
- What is the consequence Grudem draws from the authority of Scripture? What does this mean for your life? What does this mean for the preaching ministry of the church?

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- How is the character of the Bible as God's Word connected to the character of God Himself? What is the implication of this for the nature and trustworthiness of the Bible? What is the Biblical evidence for this? How does this apply?
- What are the consequences of the fact that God's Word is truth? How is that different from merely saying that it is true? What are the implications for the concepts of pluralism and postmodernism? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem suggest we respond to some new "fact" that apparently contradicts the Bible? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What is the meaning of "inerrancy"? What does "inerrancy" NOT mean?
- How can the use of ordinary language conventions, different levels of precision, freedom in quotation, and unusual grammar still be consistent with inerrancy?
- Why do some claim that the Bible is only inerrant in matters of "faith and practice"? How is the claim that the Bible is "infallible" different from the claim it is "inerrant"? Describe how Grudem answers that objection, and the problems with holding that the Bible is only "infallible' but not "inerrant."
- How does Grudem answer the objection to using the term "inerrancy"?
- How is the inerrancy of the original manuscripts related to the trustworthiness of the copies of the Bible we use today? What does this tell us about how we should use our Bibles?
- How does Daniel Fuler's view of accommodation in language differ from Grudem's view? Which do you think better reflects the intention of Jesus in communicating? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem suggest we handle apparent "errors" in the Bible? What did you learn from his various examples of alleged errors and their possible solutions? How should this approach apply to your own Bible reading?
- What are the problems of denying errancy? Why should we be zealous to avoid these dangers? Why does this matter?
- Why does Grudem insist that written Scripture is our final authority? What ideas is he rejecting in making that claim? What is the danger of those mistaken ideas?
- Describe the view of the Bible held by liberal Protestant theology. How is this different from the evangelical view described by Grudem? Which is closer to the Bible's description of itself? How should you respond to this distinction?
- Review the differences between liberal theology and evangelical theology summarized in the chart from Machen's book? Which do you think more accurately conforms to what the Bible actually teaches? How should you respond?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 3 – *The Clarity, Necessity, and Sufficiency of the Bible* (pp. 48-69)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What are the three questions/topics covered in this chapter? Why are each of these important, not only for our understanding of the nature of the Bible, but for our Christian life and ministry?
- How does Grudem define the clarity of Scripture? What mistakes is this definition designed to protect us against? Why is this important?
- What is the Old Testament evidence for the clarity of Scripture? What is the New Testament evidence? How did Jesus typically respond to those who misunderstood Scripture? Why?

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- Describe each of the requirements for understanding Scripture rightly in your own words. Why is each necessary? Why is each important? How can you apply each insight to your own Bible reading?
- What does it mean that "clarity is a property of Scripture, not a property of its readers"? What are the implications of this for our own Bible study?
- Why is there always more that we can learn from Scripture? How should we respond?
- What are the reasons Grudem gives for the Bible not being more immediately clear than it is? Do you think these are good reasons? What difference does this make?
- What is the connection between the clarity of Scripture and the character of God?
- Describe each of the objections to the clarity of Scripture and the reasons Grudem gives to reject each objection.
- If the Bible is clear, what then is the role of scholars in studying the Bible, according to Grudem? How does this apply to the local church and its leadership?
- What are the implications and applications of the clarity of Scripture as a whole? How should we respond?
- How does Grudem define the necessity of Scripture? Why is this important?
- What is the line of reasoning in Romans 10:13-17 and what does this tell us about the necessity of Scripture?
- Why is the Bible necessary for salvation? Why is it necessary for continued spiritual growth? What difference does this make?
- Describe the six views of how people can be saved. How are they different? Which is the most Biblical? What is Grudem's assessment of those who reject the idea of exclusivism? What are the practical applications of this overall debate?
- How does the Bible help us have certain knowledge of God's will? Why is this necessary? How would we be hindered without this knowledge?
- What are the implications of the Bible revealing certain knowledge of God's will? How should re respond to this?
- Why, according to Grudem, is the Bible necessary for certain knowledge of anything? What difference does this make?
- What is the difference between knowledge that can be gained from the Bible and knowledge gained without the Bbile? Why is this important?
- What does Romans 1:19-21 tell us about the knowledge of God in humanity? What are the implications of this? How does this apply?
- What does Grudem mean by "general revelation" and "special revelation"? What are the implications of this distinction for our knowledge of God? What kind of things can be known from general revelation? What kind of things can only be known and experienced through special revelation?
- How does Grudem define the "sufficiency of Scripture"? What difference does this doctrine make?
- What is the Biblical evidence for the sufficiency of Scripture? How does this apply?
- How does the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture give us confidence? How should we respond to and live out this truth?
- What are the practical applications of the sufficiency of Scripture? How should we respond to each of these?

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- What does the sufficiency of Scripture tell us about the relative authority we should give to modern claims of revelation from God? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem apply this doctrine to specific moral rules not given in Scripture? Do you agree with his assessment? Why or why not? What are some issues where this insight should be applied in your own context?
- How should the sufficiency of Scripture relate to our contentment? How should we put this insight into practice?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."