READING SCHEDULE – MODULE 4/PART 3

Textbook Reading
☐ Read ***one chapter of your choosing*** from Grudem ch. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, ***or*** 13

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

For Grudem Chapter 7 – *Creation* (pp. 147-179)

- What is the main question which this chapter addresses?
- What are the questions and issues addressed in this chapter? Why are they important? How is this chapter different from earlier ones?
- How does Gruden define the doctrine of creation? What does this tell us about our world? What difference does this make?
- What does the phrase "ex nihilo" mean? What does it tell us about creation? What is the Biblical evidence for this idea? What are the implications of this idea for our worship?
- How is the creation of humans different from the creation of the rest of the universe? What does this tell us about the idea of evolution? What does this tell us about humanity?
- What did each person of the Trinity contribute to the activity of creation?
- What does the Bible teach about the relationship of God to His creation and of creation to God? What do the words "transcendent" and "immanent" tell us about this relationship? Why do you think it is important to believe both of these concepts?
- How does the Biblical view differ from materialism, pantheism, dualism and deism? Describe the errors of each of these views? What difference does this make? Why is living like a "practical deist" a danger for lukewarm Christians today?
- What is the reason Grudem gives why God created the universe? What does this tell us about God? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What does this tell us about the universe? What does this tell us about the way we should live?
- Why does Grudem emphasize the God did not need to create the universe? What does this tell us about God?
- How do we imitate God's creative activity (in a lesser way)?
- Why is it important to understand that God created the universe "very good"? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What does this tell us about material creation? How should we respond to this?
- What does the history of people like Newton and Galileo teach us about the possible relations between the Bible and the findings of science? What possible mistakes can be made? How are they to be avoided?
- What is the point made by the phrase "no final conflict"? How does this help us think about the Bible and science? How can we apply this approach?
- How does Grudem answer the claim that the Bible is not intended to teach science?
- Why are purely secular theories of creation incompatible with Scripture?

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- What is the difference between "microevolution" and "macroevolution"? Which is typically meant in the discussion of "Neo-Darwinian evolution"?
- Describe the process of evolution according to Neo-Darwinian understanding? What are the scientific objections to that view?
- How do the ideas of extreme improbability, information in DNA, and "irreducible complexity" argue against Darwinian evolution? Why is similar body structures not evidence for evolution?
- What does Grudem suggest is the reason many scientists commit to irrational beliefs rather than believe the Bible?
- What is "theistic evolution"? What is notable in the definition given (even with the additions proposed by its advocates)?
- What are the reasons Grudem gives why theistic evolution is mistaken and incompatible with Scripture? In what ways does theistic evolution directly contradict the teachings of Genesis chapters 1-3? How do theistic evolutionists attempt to explain away the teachings of Genesis? Is there convincing evidence for this? What is the Old and New Testament evidence against the claims of theistic evolution? What are the other objections to theistic evolution? What conclusion does Grudem make?
- Describe the damages that have been done by evolutionary theory? How would a Biblical view of creation have prevented these?
- How does Grudem rate the importance of the age of the earth? What are the two options?
- What do the discussions of the genealogies and dinosaurs add to this topic?
- Describe each of the old earth theories of the dating of creation? What is the evidence for each view? What is the main reason people hold these views?
- Describe each of the young earth theories of the dating of creation? What is the evidence for each view? What is the main reason people hold these views?
- What is the conclusion Grudem makes about this issue? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- How does the doctrine of creation apply, according to Grudem? How should you personally respond to this doctrine? What difference does it make for your life and ministry?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 8 – *God's Providence* (pp. 180-200)

- What are the two main questions which this chapter addresses?
- How does Grudem define "providence"? What are the three elements of this definition? What does this tell us about God and His interaction with His creation? What difference does this make?
- What is the Biblical evidence for preservation? How does this add to and clarify our understanding of God's preservation? How is this related to the created properties of things? How did this doctrine contribute to the rise of science, and how does it contribute to its current practice?
- What does Grudem mean by "concurrence"? How is this related to preservation? How is this seen in inanimate creation, animals, and "random" events?
- According to Grudem, how are natural causes related to the working of God? Why is it important to acknowledge both types of causes as equally true? What is meant by "primary" and "secondary" causes? What difference does this make for the way we live?

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- What is the Biblical evidence for God's involvement in all events, from the largest affairs of nations to the smallest details of our everyday lives? What difference does this make? How is this related to our plans, talents, decisions, and actions?
- What mistakes must we avoid on this topic? How do these mistakes distort the truth? Why are these mistakes harmful? What truths does Grudem suggest we hold to protect from these mistakes?
- How does Grudem suggest we think about evil in relation to God's providence? What Biblical evidence does he give for this? What conclusions should we reach from this? How should we apply these truths?
- How is God's righteous judgment of sin help us understand certain occurrences of evil? How should this truth change our attitude toward difficult circumstances?
- How does the cross of Christ help us understand the concurrence of God's providence? What difference does this make?
- Describe each of the conclusions Grudem makes about God's relation to evil in your own words. What Biblical evidence does he give for each point? How is the idea of secondary causes related to this issue? What does this say about God's punishment of evil?
- How does Grudem address the question of "free will"? Why is it important to define this term? What are the various possible understandings of this term? Which are incompatible with Scripture, and which are compatible? Why? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem define God's "government"? of the universe? What Biblical evidence does he give for this doctrine?
- How is God's government related to human actions? Describe the subpoints Grudem makes about this? How does each apply to your life and ministry?
- How should we respond to the fact that we cannot fully understand God's providence and its relation to evil and/or our free actions? What difference does this make?
- What is the "Arminian" position on the issue of providence? How does it differ from the position given earlier by Grudem? How does Grudem respond to each of these differences?
- Describe each of the "additional objections" to the Arminian view in your own words.
- How does Grudem respond to the idea that choices cannot be genuinely free without the possibility of choosing evil? What are the implications of the Calvinist and Arminian answers to this topic? What are the questions that each approach leaves unanswered?
- What is the "middle knowledge" position? What does it teach? Why is it called middle knowledge (what is it in the middle of)? What are the objections that Grudem gives to this approach? What conclusion does he make?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 9 – *Prayer* (pp. 201-212)

- What are the two main questions which this chapter addresses?
- How does Grudem define "prayer"? Why is this definition broad?
- What is NOT the reason for prayer? What IS the reason for prayer, according to Grudem? What is the Biblical evidence for this? How does this apply?
- What is the Biblical evidence that God responds to our prayers? What are the implications of this for the way we should pray?

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- How is our prayer related to Christ? Why is His mediation necessary? Why is it effective? What does it mean to pray in Jesus's name? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does this make for our prayer?
- How is prayer related to the persons of the Trinity? To which person(s) of the Trinity should we address prayer? What is the Biblical example? Is it illegitimate to pray to any of the persons of the Trinity?
- What does it mean to pray according to God's will? How is knowledge of Scripture an aid to doing this? How should we pray when we don't yet know God's will in a specific situation?
- What does it mean to pray with faith? How do we experience this faith and assurance? How does this apply?
- How is our obedience related to our prayer? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What misunderstanding should we guard against? How should we respond?
- How is confession of sins related to prayer? How is forgiving others related to prayer? What difference do these things make?
- What difference does humility make in prayer? What is the Biblical evidence for this? How should this influence the way that we pray?
- What are the various reasons why certain prayers may be unanswered? How should we respond when prayers are unanswered? How does this apply?
- How can praise and thanksgiving be a part of prayer? What is the Biblical teaching on this? How should this influence the way we pray?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 10 – *Angels, Satan, and Demons* (pp. 213-230)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- How does Grudem define "angels"? What are the characteristics and activities of angels, according to the Bible?
- What are the other kinds of heavenly beings? What are their tasks?
- What is the Biblical evidence for hierarchy and rank among angels?
- Does Grudem think the idea of "individual guardian angels" is Biblical? Why or why not?
- What is the Biblical evidence for the power of angels? What difference does this make?
- How are angels different from humans? What does this teach us about God's special care for humans? How does this apply in your life and ministry?
- How do angels remind us of the unseen world? What are Biblical examples of this? Why is this important?
- How can angels be positive examples for us? What is the Biblical evidence of this? How should we respond?
- What are some ways that angels participate in God's work in the world? What difference does this make?
- How do angels glorify God? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What do the angels learn from humans and our interaction with God? What difference does this make?
- Why should we be aware of angels in our daily lives? What will this accomplish? How should we respond to this?
- What dangers should we beware in our interaction with angels? How can we protect ourselves from these dangers? What is at stake in this?

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- How does Grudem define "demons"? How are they similar to angels? How are they different?
- What is the Biblical evidence for an angelic rebellion? What does the Bible tell us about the fall of satan? What was likely their primary sin? What does this tell us about the world we live in? What difference does this make?
- What is the role of satan and his relationship to the demons? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does it make?
- What do satan and demons do in the world? How do they attempt to do this? How can we protect ourselves from this?
- How is demonic activity related to the sovereign control of God? In what ways is the power of demons limited? What CAN the demons do? How is this related to occult divination activities? How can we protect ourselves from this?
- What are the reasons Grudem gives why we should think demons are active today? How should we think about demonic activity?
- What proportion of New Testament teaching is about dealing with the demonic? What conclusion does Grudem draw from this? What does this teach about how much emphasis we should give to the demonic? How can we protect ourselves from erring on either side – thinking of them too much or too little? How should we protect ourselves against demonic activity in general? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem prefer to use the terms "demon possession" and "demonized"? What effect does definitions have on the question of whether a Christian can be demon possessed? By Grudem's definition, does he think that a Christian can be demon possessed? Why or why not? What does he teach about any level of demonic influence on believers? How should we respond?
- What is the Biblical teaching about the authority believers have over the demonic? What is the basis for any authority we have? What conclusions does Grudem draw from this? How should we apply this teaching? What misunderstanding should we guard against?
- How is the preaching and power of the Gospel related to the triumph over the demonic? How should we put this into practice?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 11 – *The Creation of Man* (pp. 233-245)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- Does Gruden think it is legitimate to use the term "man" to refer to all of humanity (male and female)? What reasons does he give for his approach? How does he address objections? What difference does this make for wider issues and doctrines?
- What is NOT the reason God created man? What IS the reason? What does this tell us about our purpose in life? What does this tell us about our significance? How should we respond?
- How does Grudem define our purpose in life? How is our happiness and joy related to our purpose in life? How is that connected to God? How should this idea change our attitudes, goals, and actions?
- How does Grudem explain the phrase "image of God"? What are the possible characteristics theologians have argued constitute the image of God? How does Grudem think this question should be approached? What does this tell us about ourselves? How does the rest of the Bible answer that question? What difference does it make?

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- How did the fall affect the image of God in man? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What does this tell us about murder? How has the image been distorted? What does this tell us about our hope for restoration? How should this change the way we live?
- How does the redemption from Christ restore the image of God in man? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What kind of restoration should we expect at Christ's return? How is this related to Christ being the perfect example of perfect humanity?
- Describe each of the specific aspects of our likeness to God. What does each tell us about ourselves and what we should be working toward becoming in response to our redemption? How are we different from the animals? What does this tell us about how we are like God and represent Him?
- Why should we reflect on the fact that we are created in the image of God? How should this influence our mindset? How should our fallenness influence our mindset? What does this tell us about our nature and destiny? What mistakes should be avoided? How should we apply this knowledge?
- What are the differences in the view of "trichotomy," "dichotomy," and "monism"? What does each view affirm, and what do they deny?
- What is the emphasis that Grudem makes about the nature of humanity? What is the Biblical evidence for this? Why is this important?
- Describe the way the Bible uses the various terms for the makeup of humanity? What conclusion does Grudem make from this? What does Grudem conclude on this issue? What is the reasoning he gives for his conclusion? What does he claim to be the benefits of holding this view? Do you agree? Why or why not? What difference does it make?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 12 – *Man as Male and Female* (pp. 246-258)

- What are the two main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What is the Biblical evidence that God's image in humanity is connected to our being created both male and female? What are the three ways, according to Grudem, that the creation of man as male and female shows God's image?
- What is the fullest expression of interpersonal unity in this age? Describe what this unity entails. What is the Biblical evidence for this? How is this connected to the nature of God? What difference does it make?
- What is the evidence Grudem gives for the equality in personhood and importance between male and female? How is this reflective of the nature of God? What are the implications of this? How should this apply in our attitudes and actions?
- How is the difference in roles between the persons of the trinity related to the idea of different roles in marriage between the husband and wife? According to Grudem, are differences in roles and authority consistent with equal importance? Why or why not?
- What is the Biblical evidence Grudem gives for the difference between the roles of husband and wife? What is the Biblical evidence that these role differences existed before the fall? What are the implications of this? How should this be applied in our mindset, actions, and attitudes?
- How did the fall distort the relationship between male and female? How does the redemption of Christ work to reverse the harmful effects of the fall on this relationship? How should we work to protect against the distortions and experience the restoration?
- How does Grudem summarize the major difference of opinion on the application of male/female distinctions in the church?

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- Define the word "egalitarian" and what the egalitarian position believes. Define the word "complementarian" and what the complementarian position believes. Which position does Grudem hold? What evidence does he give for holding that position? How does Grudem respond to the claim that the New Testament statements depend on cultural circumstances particular to that time?
- How does Grudem think local churches should apply the distinction between male and female roles? How does Grudem think churches should NOT apply this distinction? What kinds of teaching does Grudem think are appropriate for both male and female? What is the Biblical evidence for this?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 13 – *Sin* (pp. 259-277)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- How does Grudem define "sin"? What does this tell us about ourselves? What does this tell us about our relationship to God? What are the implications of this for the way we live? What are the implications of this for the way we *should* live?
- What does Grudem mean to extend the definition of sin not only to cover our acts, but also our attitudes and natures? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What does this tell us about the nature of sin? What does this tell us about ourselves and how we should fight sin?
- What claim does Grudem make about the seriousness of sin? What does this tell us about God's evaluation of and reaction to all sin? Why is this serious?
- What are the two opposite errors we must avoid in answering the question about the origin of sin? What is wrong about each error? How is each dangerous?
- Describe the ways that the actions of Adam and Eve were evil, according to Grudem. What do these things tell us about the nature of sin? How can we work to protect against and correct these errors?
- What evidence does Grudem give that sin is always irrational? What does this tell us about the nature of sin? What are the implications of this for all our individual sins and their consequences? What difference does this make?
- What is the doctrine of "inherited sin"? In what ways do we inherit sin and its effects? What does this tell us about ourselves and our society? What difference does this make?
- What is the Biblical evidence for inherited guilt? What conclusion does Grudem draw from this? What does the word "impute" mean and how does it apply to this doctrine? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem wish to define "original sin," "original guilt," and "inherited guilt"? What distinctions and clarity is he trying to protect? What misunderstanding is he trying to avoid? Why does this matter?
- How does Grudem respond to the objection that inherited guilt is "unfair"? Describe each of the three points of response in your own words. What implications do these have for our salvation in Christ?
- What is meant by "inherited corruption"? What is the Biblical evidence given for this? How is this different from "inherited guilt"? What does this tell us about ourselves and our nature? What does this NOT mean? What difference does this make?
- What are the two implications that Grudem draws from inherited corruption? What are the implications of the fact that every part of our being is affected by sin? What is the Biblical evidence for this? Why is this a big deal?

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- What is meant when Grudem states we are totally unable to do spiritual good before God? How is this related to the prior point? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What is he NOT saying? What are the implications of this for our freedom and for our salvation? How should we respond?
- What is the question/debate around an "age of accountability"? How does Grudem answer that question? What evidence does he give? What difference does it make?
- What implications does this have for people who die as infants and the possibility of their salvation? What evidence does Grudem give? How does Grudem suggest we approach this issue?
- What is the evidence that all people are sinful before God? What difference does this make?
- What did Pelagius teach on this topic? How does Grudem respond? What is the evidence given?
- How does Grudem answer the question of degrees of sin? Why is it important to distinguish the different senses of this question? Are there degrees in our legal guilt before God? Why or why not? What is the evidence for this?
- Are there degrees of consequences in our life and relationship with God for various sins? What is the evidence for this? What makes one sin "greater" than another? What do the distinctions given in God's Law tell us about this issue? How are these distinctions helpful to us in our daily lives? How should we respond?
- What are the results of sin in the life of a Christian? How does it affect our legal standing before God? How does it affect our relationship with God and our Christian life? How is this related to God's discipline? How does sin affect our ministry and heavenly reward? How should you respond to what you are learning?
- What does Grudem mean by "unconverted evangelicals"? What is the evidence for this being true of an individual? What is the danger of this? How can we protect ourselves from this label being an accurate description of us?
- What are the passage that speak of sin that will not be forgiven? What possible explanations have been given for "unpardonable sin"? What explanation does Grudem give? What evidence does he give for this? What are the components of this kind of sin? Why would this be unpardonable? What is the implication of this for someone who worries they have committed this kind of sin? How can we protect ourselves and others from committing "unpardonable sin"?
- Why does God punish sin? What does this tell us about the nature of God and His purposes? What does this tell us about the seriousness of sin? What difference does this make?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."