READING SCHEDULE – MODULE 5/PART 4

Textbook Reading
☐ Read ***one chapter of your choosing*** from Grudem ch. 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, ***or*** 34
☐ Read Grudem Appendix 1 (pp. 589-595)

For Grudem Chapter 25 – *Death, the Intermediate State, and Glorification* (pp. 426-439)

- What are the four main questions which this chapter addresses?
- According to Grudem, what is NOT the reason Christians die? What is the reason he gives for this?
- What is the reason Christians die? What evidence does he give for this? How does this give us hope for the future? How does this help us think realistically about the present? How should we respond?
- What distinction does Grudem make between "punishing" and "disciplining"? What are the implications of this for the things we experience? What are the results of God's discipline? What difference does this make?
- Summarize Grudem's point about obedience in your own words. What is the Biblical evidence he gives for this? How should we respond?
- How does Grudem suggest we think about our own death? What Biblical evidence does he give for this? How does this apply?
- According to Grudem, what should be our attitude and response to the death of Christian friends and relatives? How is this different from the attitude toward our own death? What Biblical examples are given? What do they teach us? How should we respond to this?
- How should we think about the death of unbelievers? How is this different from the previous examples? How should we NOT respond to this, according to Grudem? How should we respond?
- What happens to believers at the time of death? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does this make?
- What two doctrines does Grudem deny? Describe each of these doctrines and the reasons Grudem gives for rejecting them? Why are they harmful?
- What practice does Grudem deny? What are the reasons he gives for not doing this? How should we respond?
- What happens to unbelievers at the time of death? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does this make?
- Why is important that our bodies are included in our redemption? What is the Biblical evidence for this? When should we expect this to happen?
- How does Grudem define "glorification"? Describe the various aspects that will happen at glorification? How is this related to the other parts of our experience of salvation? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference should this make in the way we live now?
- What will our future glorified bodies be like? How will that be different from our present experience? What is meant by the phrase "spiritual body"? How should we respond?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 26 – *The Nature of the Church* (pp. 443-466)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- How does Grudem define the "church"? What does this tell us about the church? How is this different from other possible definitions of the church?
- How does Grudem define "the invisible church" and "the visible church"? What is the difference between these two? What is the significance of this distinction? What does this tell us about the nature of the church? How does Grudem (following Calvin) suggest we respond to this?
- What is meant by the distinction between "local" and "universal" church? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does this make?
- Describe the metaphors the Bible uses for the church? What is the Biblical evidence for each? What does each tell us about the nature of the church and its relation to God and one another? How can we protect against an unbalance view of the church based on these metaphors? How does each apply?
- What does the dispensational view believe about Israel and the church? How does progressive dispensationalism modify these views? How does Grudem distinguish these views from other evangelical views? How does Grudem suggest we navigate these differences?
- How does Grudem suggest the New Testament church is related to Old Testament Israel? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What does this tell us about the church and how this should apply to us?
- According to George Ladd, how is the church related to the Kingdom of God? What does this tell us about the church? What does this tell us about the Kingdom? What difference should this make in our world?
- What was the historical event that caused people to more closely define how to recognize a true church? How did each side define the characteristics of a true church? What are the two marks of a true church which Grudem emphasizes? What reasons does he give why each should be considered a mark of a true church? Why does this matter?
- What conclusion does Grudem reach about the Roman catholic church, using this evaluation? What conclusion does he reach about typical liberal Protestant churches? What can we learn from this to strengthen our own churches?
- What other distinction does Grudem make in evaluating churches, beside "true" and "false" churches? What is the Biblical evidence for this? How does Grudem define the purity of the church? What does this tell us about the mission of the church and how we should seek to honor God in our church?
- How does Grudem define the unity of the church? What does this tell us about how we should (and how we should not) pursue genuine unity? How are we to decide when to unify and when to separate? What does church unity NOT require, according to Grudem? What does this tell us about denominations? What difference does this make?
- Describe the three major purposes of the church and the Biblical evidence fore each. How can we work toward all of these purposes? How should we keep all of them in the proper balance?
- How does Grudem suggest the church use (or not use) weapons and the possibility of violence? How does this apply?
- Understand and summarize each of the doctrinal differences between Protestant and Roman Catholic churches? What is the official Roman teaching on each doctrine? What is the Protestant response? Why are these differences significant and important? How should we respond to each?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 27 – *Baptism* (pp. 467-479)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What does Grudem say about the uses of the words "sacrament" and "ordinance"? How does he suggest we think about and use those words in terms of Baptism and the Lord's Supper? Why does he take that position?
- What is the main division among Protestants about baptism? What does each side believe and practice?
- What was the "mode" of baptism practiced in the New Testament? What is the evidence given for this? What does the symbolism of death and resurrection tell us about the appropriateness of immersion as the mode of baptism? What else does baptism symbolize? What difference does this make?
- Who does Grudem argue are the subjects of baptism? What are the two arguments given for this position? What is the Biblical evidence for each argument? Why does this matter?
- What is the Roman Catholic teaching about baptism? How does Grudem (following Luther) respond? What is the Biblical evidence given for either side? How should we respond?
- What does the pedobaptist view believe about baptism? What are the three main points the paedobaptists make in this debate? How does Grudem respond to each of these points? In what ways are baptism and circumcision similar? In what ways are they different? How is this question related to church membership? What do the New Testament examples of "household baptism" contribute to this question? What is the "simple question" Grudem asks about baptism? How does each approach answer this simple question? How does each answer compare with the New Testament teaching? What are the practical effects of each approach?
- According to Grudem, what are the positive effects of baptism? How should we respond to this?
- What does Grudem teach about the necessity of baptism? What are the reasons he gives? What does Mark 16:16 and the thief on the cross contribute to this question? How should we respond?
- What answer does Grudem give to the question about the appropriate age for baptism? What difference does this make?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 28 – *The Lord's Supper* (pp. 480-489)

- What are the two main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What are the differences between baptism and the Lord's supper as ordinances of the church? What does this tell us about then nature and purpose of each? How does this apply?
- How did Jesus institute the Lord's Supper? What is the connection between this and Old Testament precedents? What is the Biblical evidence for this? How is the New Testament ordinance different from these forerunners? How does the New Testament ordinance point toward our future? What does this tell us about the nature of the Lord's Supper?
- Describe each of the things that the Lord's Supper symbolizes. What is the Biblical evidence for each? What does each tell us about the nature and purpose of the Lord's Supper? What difference should this make in the way we practice this ordinance?
- What do Roman Catholics believe about the presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper? How does Grudem respond to this teaching? What difference does this make?
- What do Lutherans believe about the presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper? How does Grudem respond to this teaching? What difference does it make?
- How does the rest of Protestantism understand the presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper? How does Grudem respond to this teaching? What difference does it make?

(continued on the next page)

- How do most Protestants answer the question "Who should participate in the Lord's Supper?"? What are the qualifications that Grudem gives for legitimate participants? What is the Biblical evidence given for them? What does each tell us about the Lord's Supper and the manner in which we should partake? What does this tell us about our relationship with other Christians? How should we respond?
- What are the "other questions" which Grudem raises about the Lord's Supper? How does he answer those questions? How should we apply this?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 31– *The Return of Christ: When and How?* (pp. 533-547)

- What are the two main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What is the difference between believers and unbelievers as pertains to our knowledge of the future? What difference does this make?
- What is the difference between "personal eschatology" and "general eschatology"? What events do each of these talk about?
- What will the return of Christ be like? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What false idea does Grudem contrast this with? Why does this matter?
- How should we respond to the certainty of Christ's future return? What, according to Grudem, does the degree of our longing for Christ's return tell us about the spiritual condition of our lives? What are the implications of this for our long-term plans and activities?
- What is the Biblical evidence that we cannot know when Christ will return? What conclusion does Grudem make from this? How should we respond to predictions of the date of His return?
- What are the issues about Christ's return on which all Evangelicals agree? What are the issues where there is disagreement? What is the cause of these disagreements? How should we interact with genuine Evangelicals with whom we disagree on these issues?
- Describe the "significant area of disagreement" which Grudem covers in detail. What is the teaching of the two sets of passages which cause this tension? What are the different ways of resolving this tension? What are the conclusions drawn from either approach?
- What is the Biblical evidence that predicts a sudden and unexpected return of Christ? How does Grudem respond to the suggestion that the New Testament authors were mistaken in their prediction that Jesus would return in their time?
- What are the signs that precede Christ's return? What is the Biblical evidence for each? What is the conclusion that many have drawn from these predicted signs?
- Describe the different possible solutions to the tension Grudem is describing.
- How does Grudem respond to those who conclude that Jesus could not come at any time, based on the predicted signs before His coming? What reasons does Grudem give for his evaluation?
- Describe each of the views that conclude Christ could come at any time, and how they reconcile their view with the predicted signs. How does Grudem respond to each view? What reasons does he give? What conclusion does Grudem make? What difference does all this make?
- In light of his conclusion, how does Grudem suggest we think about the status of each of the predicted signs? What arguments and conclusion does he give for each sign? What conclusion does he reach? How should we respond?
- What does the "Preterist View" teach about the return of Christ? What arguments do they give? How does Grudem respond? How does he understand "this generation" in Matt. 24:34? How does this compare with other verses in the New Testament (from Jesus and Paul, for example)? What conclusion does Grudem make about the Preterist View? What difference does this make?

(continued on the next page)

- What is "partial preterism"? How is it different from the Preterist View? What evaluation and suggestion does Grudem make about partial preterism? How should we respond?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 32– *The Millennium* (pp. 548-565)

- What are the three main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What is the meaning of the term "millennium"? What is the significance of this term and idea for eschatology? What is the Biblical data behind this concept?
- Describe what Amillennialism believes about the "millennium." How does this view understand and explain the Biblical data? What are the arguments given for this view?
- Describe what Postmillennialism believes about the "millennium." How does this view understand and explain the Biblical data? What are the arguments given for this view? How is the Postmillennialist view of the millennium different from the Premillennialist view? What difference does it make?
- Describe what Classic/Historical Premillennialism believes about the "millennium." How does this view understand and explain the Biblical data? What are the arguments given for this view?
- Describe what Pretribulational/Dispensational Premillennialism believes about the "millennium." How does this view understand and explain the Biblical data? What are the arguments given for this view?
- Why should we be more cautious in our conclusions about eschatology than in our conclusions in other areas of theology? How should we respond to this idea?
- Which view of the millennium does Grudem favor? What are the reasons he gives? What difference does it make?
- What is the "great tribulation"? What is the Biblical data about this? Describe the different views of the timing of the great tribulation in relation to the Second Coming of Christ. What are the arguments for each view? Which view does Grudem favor and why? How does this apply?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 33– *The Final Judgment and Eternal Punishment* (pp. 566-579)

- What are the two main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What is the Biblical evidence for the fact of final judgment? How is this consistent with God's character and His actions throughout all of history?
- When will the final judgment take place? How is this related to other events at the end of this age?
- Describe each of Grudem's points about the nature of the final judgment? What is the Biblical evidence for each? What does each tell us about the character and purposes of God? What difference does each make?
- According to Grudem, how does the final judgment of unbelievers differ from the final judgment of believers? Why will there be degrees of punishment or reward? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What is the misunderstanding Grudem warns us to guard against? How should we respond?
- What does the Scripture tell us about the judgment of angels? How does this apply?
- According to Grudem, why is final judgment necessary? What does it accomplish, according to Berkhof? Why does this matter?
- What is the Biblical evidence for the justice of the final judgment? How should we respond?

(continued on the next page)

- Describe in your own words each point Grudem makes about the moral application of the final judgment. How should each point be applied in your own life and ministry?
- How does the fact of final judgment give us hope and peace? How does it help us forgive in the assurance that justice will be done? What example did Jesus give for us of entrusting judgment to God? How does the reality of judgment and the "fear of God" motivate people to righteous living? How does it motivate evangelism? How should we respond to all these things?
- How does Grudem define "hell"? What are the What is the Biblical evidence for this?
- What does "annihilationism" teach? What are the arguments used in favor of this view? How does Grudem respond? What do these responses tell us about the character of God and His just purposes in eternal punishment of wickedness? How would God and all of reality be diminished if annihilationism were true? What difference does this make?
- Why is final judgment a "hard" doctrine, according to Grudem? How does Grudem suggest we should react to this doctrine and all the people impacted by the reality of final judgment? What is the Biblical evidence for this? How should we respond?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Chapter 34– *The New Heavens and New Earth* (pp. 580-587)

- What are the four main questions which this chapter addresses?
- What is inadequate about using the phrase "in heaven" to describe our future existence? What is the Biblical evidence for this? What difference does this make?
- How does Grudem answer the question "What is heaven?"? How does he define "heaven"? What does this tell us about heaven and its relation to God? What does this tell us about our future existence?
- What is the Biblical teaching about the location of heaven? What does this tell us about heaven? How does that explain why we cannot see or locate it by human observation? What does Grudem conclude about heaven and its nature? How does this apply?
- According to Grudem, how is the future creation related to the present creation? What are the different possibilities? What is the Biblical evidence given for each possibility? How can the Biblical evidence best be reconciled? What difference does this make?
- How will we experience the new heavens and the new earth? What is the Biblical data describing the future creation? What does this tell us about our activity in the new creation? What does this tell us about God and His purposes?
- How does the doctrine of the new creation influence how we should live in this present life? What Biblical teaching reinforces this? How should we respond?
- How does Grudem describe the new creation? What Biblical evidence is given for this? What is the most important aspect of the new creation? How does this fulfill and bring to climax all of God's promises and purposes for His people? What difference should this make in our attitudes, desires, goals, and actions?
- Review and reflect on the "Review Questions" and "Questions for Personal Application."

For Grudem Appendix 1 – *Historic Confessions of Faith* (pp. 589-595)

- What does each confession/creed affirm to be true? Why are these truths important? How do they apply? What (if anything) does each confession/creed deny? Why are these ideas rejected as untrue? How can they be avoided?
- How are all of these affirmations and denials related to what you have learned earlier in this textbook and in this course as a whole? What stood out to you as most important for your own life and ministry? How will you put these things into practice?