

Systematic Theology

Introduction to Systematic Theology

What is systematic theology? Why should Christians study it? How should we study it?

Note: The primary textbook for the _____ of this series is Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*. The primary text for the _____ of this series is the Bible.

Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Introduction

Grudem: What is systematic theology? Many different definitions have been given, but for the purposes of this book the following definition will be used: *Systematic theology is any study that answers the question, "What does the _____ Bible teach us today?" about any given _____.*

The Schedule

Chapter 1: Introduction to Systematic Theology (February 16)

Part 1: The Doctrine of the Word of God (February – April, 2014)

Part 2: The Doctrine of God (September – November, 2014)

Part 3: The Doctrine of Man (~ early 2015)

Part 4: The Doctrines of Christ and the Holy Spirit (~ late 2015)

Part 5: The Doctrine of the Application of Redemption (~ early 2016)

Part 6: The Doctrine of the Church (~ late 2016)

Part 7: The Doctrine of the Future (~ early 2017)

Why this book?

1. Based on the _____
2. Clearly written
3. Application to _____

Grudem's Initial Assumptions

1. The Bible is _____ and that it is, in fact, our only absolute standard of truth
2. The God who is spoken of in the Bible exists, and that he is who the Bible says he is: the Creator of heaven and earth and all things in them

What are Doctrines?

Grudem: A doctrine is what the _____ Bible teaches us today about some particular topic

Why Should We as a Class Study Systematic Theology?

1. To fulfill the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:19-20](#))
2. To confront sin in our lives
3. Grudem: To be able to make better decisions later on _____ questions of doctrine that may arise

Grudem: How Should Christians Study Systematic Theology?

1. With prayer: [Psalm 119:18](#); [1 Corinthians 2:14](#); [Ephesians 1:17-19](#)
2. With _____: [1 Peter 5:5b](#); [James 1:19-20](#); [James 3:13, 17-18](#); [1 Corinthians 8:1b](#)
3. With _____
4. With help from others: [1 Corinthians 12:28a](#)
5. By collecting and understanding all relevant passages of Scripture on any topic
6. With rejoicing and _____: [Psalm 139:17](#); [Psalm 19:8](#); [Psalm 119:14](#); [Psalm 119:103](#); [Psalm 119:111](#); [Psalm 119:162](#); [Romans 11:33-36](#)

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application

1. What is your attitude now? (about studying systematic theology)
2. What is likely to happen to a church or denomination that gives up learning systematic theology for a generation or longer?
3. Are there any doctrines listed . . . for which a fuller understanding would help to solve a personal difficulty in your life at the present time?
4. Pray for God to make this study of basic Christian doctrines a time of spiritual growth and deeper fellowship with him, and a time in which you understand and apply the teachings of Scripture rightly.

Scripture Memory Passage

[Psalm 119:11](#): Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Hymn: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (Charles Wesley)

Systematic Theology

Part 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Chapter 2: The Word of God

What are the different forms of the Word of God?

Scripture Memory Passage Review

Psalm 119:11:

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

The “Word of God” as a Person: Jesus Christ

_____ is the Word of God. Revelation 19:13; John 1:1; John 1:14 (and perhaps 1 John 1:1)

The “Word of God” as Speech by God

1. God’s decrees: a word of God that _____ something to happen

The events of original creation: Genesis 1:3, 24; Psalm 33:6

The continuing existence of all things: Hebrews 1:3a

2. God’s words of personal address: when God communicates with people on earth by speaking _____ to them; Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:16-19; Exodus 20:1-3; Matthew 3:17

3. God’s words as speech through _____ lips; Deuteronomy 18:18-19: I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put _____ words in _____ mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear _____ words, which _____ speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him.’ Jeremiah 1:9; Jeremiah 1:7; Exodus 4:12; Numbers 22:38; 1 Kings 20:36; 2 Chronicles 25:15; Jeremiah 36:29-31

Anyone who claimed to be speaking for the Lord but who had not received a message from him was severely _____ (Ezekiel 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 18:20)

4. God's words in written form (the Bible); Exodus 31:18; Exodus 32:16; Exodus 34:1; Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 31:9-13; Deuteronomy 31:24-26; Joshua 24:26; Isaiah 30:8; Jeremiah 30:2; Jeremiah 36:2-4; Jeremiah 36:27-28; John 14:26; John 16:12-13; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 3:2

Several benefits come from the writing down of God's words . . . more _____ preservation . . . opportunity for _____ inspection . . . accessible to many more _____.

The Focus of Our Study

God's words in _____ form—since, it is available for study, for public inspection, for repeated examination, and as a basis for mutual discussion. Psalm 1:1-2; Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 3:16

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application

1. Do you think you would pay more attention if God spoke to you from heaven or through the voice of a living prophet than if he spoke to you from the written words of Scripture? Would you believe or obey such words more readily than you do Scripture? Do you think your present level of response to the written words of Scripture is an appropriate one? What positive steps can you take to make your attitude toward Scripture more like the kind of attitude God wants you to have?
2. When you think about the many ways in which God speaks and the frequency with which God communicates with his creatures through these means, what conclusions might you draw concerning the nature of God and the things that bring delight to him?

Scripture Memory Passage

Psalm 1:1-2: Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Hymn: "Break Thou the Bread of Life" (Mary A. Lathbury)

Systematic Theology

Part 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Chapter 3: The Canon of Scripture

What belongs in the Bible and what does not belong?

Scripture Memory Passage Review

Psalm 1:1-2:

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: *The _____ of Scripture is the list of all the books that belong in the Bible.*

The Old Testament Canon

Grudem: The Ten Commandments . . . form the beginning of the biblical canon. Exodus 31:18.

Grudem: Moses himself wrote additional words to be deposited beside the ark of the covenant.

Deuteronomy 31:24-26. Grudem: After the death of Moses, Joshua also added to the collection of written words of God. Joshua 24:26a. Grudem: Later, others in Israel [Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.], usually those who fulfilled the office of prophet, wrote additional words from God: 1 Samuel 10:25; 2 Chronicles 20:34; 2 Chronicles 32:32; Jeremiah 30:1-2.

The Apocrypha

The New Testament Canon

The New Testament points exclusively to _____

Grudem: The development of the New Testament canon begins with the writings of the _____. John 14:26: But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance _____ things that I said to you. John 16:13-14: However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into _____ truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and _____ it to you.

Grudem: Those who have the office of apostle in the early church are seen to claim an authority equal to that of the Old Testament prophets, an authority to speak and write words that are God's very words. Peter: 2 Peter 3:2; Paul: 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Grudem: The apostles, then, have authority to write words that are God's own words, _____ in truth status and authority to the words of the Old Testament Scriptures.

2 Peter 3:15-16: and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the _____ of the Scriptures. 1 Timothy 5:17-18: Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the _____ says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” [Deuteronomy 25:4] and, “The laborer *is* worthy of his wages.” [Luke 10:7]

Grudem: Should we expect any more writings to be added to the canon? Revelation 22:18-19

Grudem: We base our confidence in the correctness of our present canon on the faithfulness of _____.

Grudem: The work of the early church was not to _____ divine authority or even ecclesiastical authority upon some merely human writings, but rather to _____ the divinely authored characteristic of writings that already had such a quality.

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application

1. Why is it important to your Christian life to know which writings are God's words and which are not? How would your relationship with God be different if you had to look for his words that were scattered among all the writings of Christians throughout church history?
2. Have you had doubts or questions about the canonicity of any of the books of the Bible? What caused those questions? What should one do to resolve them?
3. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and members of other cults have claimed present-day revelations from God that they count equal to the Bible in authority. What reasons can you give to indicate the falsity of those claims? In practice, do these people treat the Bible as an authority equal to these other “revelations”?
4. If you have never read any parts of the Old Testament Apocrypha, perhaps you would want to read some sections. Do you feel you can trust these writings in the same way you trust Scripture?

Scripture Memory Passage

Hebrews 1:1-2: God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

Hymn: “O Word of God Incarnate” (William Walsham How)

Systematic Theology

Part 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Chapter 4: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (1) Authority

How do we know that the Bible is God's Word?

Scripture Memory Passage Review

Hebrews 1:1-2:

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey _____ word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.

Grudem: All the Words in Scripture Are God's Words

1. This Is What the Bible Claims for Itself (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Timothy 5:18)
2. We Are Convinced of the Bible's Claims to Be God's Words as We _____ the Bible. 1 Corinthians 2:13-14: These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does _____ receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are _____ discerned.; John 10:27
3. Other Evidence Is Useful but Not Finally _____
4. The Words of Scripture Are _____-Attesting. Who is the highest authority to you?
5. Objection : This Is a Circular Argument. All arguments for an absolute authority must ultimately appeal to _____ authority for proof: otherwise the authority would not be an absolute or highest authority.

Grudem: To Disbelieve or Disobey Any Word of Scripture Is to Disbelieve or Disobey _____

Grudem: The Truthfulness of Scripture

1. God Cannot _____ or Speak Falsely. Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; 2 Samuel 7:28
2. Therefore All the Words in Scripture Are Completely True and Without Error in _____ Part. Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 119:89
3. God's Words Are the Ultimate Standard of _____. John 17:17: Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application

1. If you want to persuade someone that the Bible is God's Word, what do you want that person to read more than any other piece of literature?
2. Who would try to make people want to disbelieve something in Scripture? To disobey something in Scripture? Is there anything in the Bible that you do not want to believe? To obey? If your answers to either of the preceding two questions were positive, what is the best way to approach and to deal with the desires you have in this area?
3. Do you know of any proven fact in all of history that has shown something in the Bible to be false? Can the same be said about other religious writings such as the *Book of Mormon* or the *Qur'an*? If you have read in other books such as these, can you describe the spiritual effect they had on you? Compare that with the spiritual effect that reading the Bible has on you. Can you say that when you read the Bible you hear the voice of your Creator speaking to you in a way that is true of no other book?
4. Do you ever find yourself believing something not because you have external evidence for it but simply because it is written in Scripture? Is that proper faith, according to Hebrews 11:1? If you do believe things simply because Scripture says them, what do you think Christ will say to you about this habit when you stand before his judgment seat? Do you think that trusting and obeying everything that Scripture affirms will ever lead you into sin or away from God's blessing in your life?

Scripture Memory Passage

2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Hymn: "Standing on the Promises" (R. Kelso Carter)

Systematic Theology

Part 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Ch 5: The Inerrancy of Scripture

Are there any errors in the Bible?

Scripture Memory Passage Review

2 Timothy 3:16:

Grudem: The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to _____.

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

The Meaning of Inerrancy

Grudem: The Bible _____ tells the truth, and that it always tells the truth concerning _____ it talks about.

1. The Bible Can Be Inerrant and Still Speak in the Ordinary Language of Everyday Speech. Ecclesiastes 1:5; Numbers 1:35. Grudem: Inerrancy has to do with truthfulness, not with the degree of _____ with which events are reported.
2. The Bible Can Be Inerrant and Still Include Loose or Free Quotations.
3. It Is Consistent with Inerrancy to Have Unusual or Uncommon Grammatical Constructions in the Bible. Good grammar _____ inerrancy.

Grudem: Some Current Challenges to Inerrancy

1. The Bible Is Only Authoritative for “Faith and Practice.” 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5. What are some New Testament passages that refer to details in the Old Testament? Grudem: No detail was too insignificant to be used for the instruction of New Testament Christians. . . . It seems clear that the Bible itself does not support any _____ on the kinds of subjects to which it speaks with absolute authority and truth
2. The Term Inerrancy Is a Poor Term
3. We Have No Inerrant Manuscripts; Therefore, Talk About an Inerrant Bible Is Misleading
4. The Biblical Writers “Accommodated” Their Messages in Minor Details to the False Ideas Current in Their Day, and Affirmed or Taught Those Ideas in an Incidental Way.
5. Inerrancy Overemphasizes the Divine Aspect of Scripture and Neglects the Human Aspect . A proper view of inerrancy does not exclude human involvement—it magnifies _____ oversight.

6. There Are Some Clear Errors in the Bible. Gary Jared: _____.
- Grudem: If we believe that the Bible is indeed inerrant, we should be _____ and certainly not afraid to inspect these texts in minute detail.
- Grudem: Our understanding of Scripture is _____ perfect, and this means that there may be cases where we will be unable to find a solution to a difficult passage at the present time.

Problems with Denying Inerrancy

1. If We Deny Inerrancy, a Serious Moral Problem Confronts Us: May We Imitate God and Intentionally Lie in Small Matters Also? [Ephesians 5:1](#). It's never right to do _____ to get a chance to do right.
2. If Inerrancy Is Denied, We Begin to Wonder If We Can Really Trust God in Anything He Says.
3. If We Deny Inerrancy, We Essentially Make Our Own Human Minds a Higher Standard of Truth Than God's Word Itself.
4. If We Deny Inerrancy, Then We Must Also Say That the Bible Is Wrong Not Only in Minor Details but in Some of Its Doctrines as Well.

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application

1. Why do you think the debate about inerrancy has become such a large issue in this century? Why do people on both sides of the question think it to be important?
2. If you thought there were some small errors affirmed by Scripture, how do you think that would affect the way you read Scripture? Would it affect your concern for truthfulness in everyday conversation?
3. Do you know of any Scripture texts that seem to contain errors? What are they? Have you tried to resolve the difficulties in those texts? If you have not found a solution to some text, what further steps might you try?
4. As Christians go through life learning to know their Bibles better and growing in Christian maturity, do they tend to trust the Bible more or less? In heaven, do you think you will believe the Bible is inerrant? If so, will you believe it more firmly or less firmly than you do now?
5. If you are convinced that the Bible teaches the doctrine of inerrancy, how do you feel about it? Are you glad that such a teaching is there, or do you feel it to be something of a burden which you would rather not have to defend?
6. If you agree with inerrancy, do you think belief in inerrancy should be a requirement for church membership? For teaching a . . . class? For holding a church office? . . . Why or why not?

Scripture Memory Passage

[Psalm 12:6](#): The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.

Hymn: "The Law of the Lord is Perfect" (Anonymous)

Systematic Theology

Part 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Chapter 6: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (2) Clarity

Can only Bible scholars understand the Bible rightly?

Scripture Memory Passage Review

Psalm 12:6:

Introduction

Some parts of the Bible are _____ to understand than others. [2 Peter 3:15-16](#)

Grudem: The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by _____ who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it.

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: The Bible Frequently Affirms Its Own Clarity

[Deuteronomy 6:6-7](#). Grudem: _____ the people of Israel were expected to be able to understand the words of Scripture well enough to be able to "teach them diligently" to their children.

So, how do we do that? [Psalm 1:1-2](#); [Psalm 19:7](#)

Jesus' response to questions: [Matthew 12:3](#); [12:5](#); [22:31](#); [21:42a](#): Jesus said to them, "Have you never _____ in the Scriptures.

Why would the authors expect believers to understand their words? Because understanding Scripture is not about intelligence—it is about the _____

Grudem: The Moral and Spiritual Qualities Needed for Right Understanding

[1 Corinthians 2:14](#); [2 Corinthians 3:14-16](#); [James 1:5](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-3:4](#)

So, what does a person need to be able to rightly understand the scriptures? The _____

Grudem: Why Do People Misunderstand Scripture?

Grudem: The problem always lies not with Scripture but with _____.

Grudem: The Role of Scholars

1. They can teach Scripture _____
2. They can explore new areas of understanding the teachings of Scripture
3. They can _____ the teachings of the Bible against attacks by other scholars. Titus 1:9;2 Timothy 2:25

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application (abbreviated)

1. Observing the diversity of interpretations of Scripture, some conclude, "People can make the Bible say anything they want." How do you think Jesus would respond to this statement?
2. What would happen to the church if most believers gave up reading the Bible for themselves and only listened to Bible teachers or read books about the Bible? If you thought that only expert scholars could understand the Bible rightly, what would happen to your personal reading of Scripture? Has this already happened to some extent in your life or in the lives of those you know?
3. Will a conviction about the clarity of Scripture affect the care you use when studying a text of Scripture? Will it affect the way you approach Scripture when trying to gain a biblical answer to some difficult doctrinal or moral problem?
4. Do you think ordinary people among the Jews at the time of Jesus had a hard time deciding whether to believe Jesus or the scholarly experts who disagreed with him? Did Jesus expect them to be able to decide?
5. Church leaders at the time of Martin Luther said they wanted to keep the Bible in Latin to prevent the common people from reading it and then misinterpreting it. Evaluate this argument. Why do you think Martin Luther was so anxious to translate the Bible into German? Why do you think church leaders in previous centuries have persecuted and even killed men—like William Tyndale in England— who were translating the Bible into the language of the people?

Scripture Memory Passage

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Hymn: "Jehovah's Perfect Law" (From: The Psalter, 1912)

Systematic Theology

Part 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Chapter 7: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (3) Necessity

For what purposes are the Bible necessary? How much can people know about God without the Bible?

Scripture Memory Passage Review

Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible ____ necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but is _____ necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws.

Grudem: The Bible Is Necessary for Knowledge of the Gospel

Romans 10:13-17; Hebrews 11:13; John 8:56; Genesis 3:15

Grudem: The Bible Is Necessary for Maintaining Spiritual Life

Matthew 4:4; Grudem: To neglect regular reading of God's Word is as detrimental to the health of our souls as the neglect of physical _____ is detrimental to the health of our bodies.

Deuteronomy 32:47; 1 Peter 2:2

Grudem: The Bible Is Necessary for Certain Knowledge of God's Will

Grudem: In the Bible, however, we have clear and definite statements about God's will.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Grudem: For people who are not omniscient, the Bible is necessary for certain knowledge about _____.

Grudem: But the Bible Is Not Necessary for Knowing That God Exists

Grudem: What about people who do not read the Bible? Can they obtain any knowledge of God? Can they know anything about his laws? _____. Psalm 19:1; Acts 14:16-17; Romans 1:19-21

Grudem: Furthermore, the Bible Is Not Necessary for Knowing Something About God's Character and Moral Laws

Romans 1:18-32; Romans 2:14-15

Grudem: It is on this basis that Paul argues that _____ humanity is held guilty before God for sin, even those who do not have the written laws of God in Scripture.

Grudem: The knowledge of God's existence, character, and moral law, which comes through creation to all humanity, is often called "_____ revelation"

Grudem: "_____ revelation" . . . refers to God's words addressed to specific people

Grudem: We need _____ revelation to interpret _____ revelation rightly.

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application

1. When you are witnessing to an unbeliever, what is the one thing above all others that you should want him or her to read? Do you know of anyone who ever became a Christian without either reading the Bible or hearing someone tell him or her what the Bible said? What then is the primary task of an evangelistic missionary? How should the necessity of Scripture affect our missionary orientation?
2. Do you nourish your soul on the spiritual food of the Word as carefully and diligently as you nourish your body on physical food? What makes us so spiritually insensitive that we feel physical hunger much more acutely than spiritual hunger? What is the remedy?
3. When we are actively seeking to know God's will, where should we spend most of our time and effort? In practice, where do you spend most of your time and effort when seeking to find God's will? Do God's principles in Scripture and the apparent guidance we receive from feelings, conscience, advice, circumstances, human reasoning, or society ever seem to conflict? How should we seek to resolve the conflict?
4. Is it a hopeless task to work for civil legislation based on standards that accord with God's moral principles in Scripture? Why is there good reason to hope that we will finally be able to persuade a great majority of our society to adopt laws consistent with scriptural norms? What would hinder this effort?

Scripture Memory Passage

Matthew 4:4: But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Hymn: "Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way of Truth" (From: The Psalter, 1912)

Systematic Theology

Part 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Chapter 8: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (4) Sufficiency

Is the Bible enough for knowing what God wants us to think or do?

Scripture Memory Passage Review

Matthew 4:4:

Grudem: Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Grudem: The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains _____ we _____ God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly. 2 Timothy 3:15-17: 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. James 1:8: he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. 1 Peter 1:23: having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, Psalm 119:1: Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD!

Grudem: We Can Find All That God Has Said on Particular Topics, and We Can Find Answers to Our Questions

Grudem: The Amount of Scripture Given Was Sufficient at Each Stage of Redemptive History

Grudem: It helps us to understand how God could tell his people that his words to them were sufficient at many different points in the history of redemption, and how _____ could nevertheless add to those words later.

Grudem: _____ has always taken the initiative in revealing things to us: Deuteronomy 29:29; Deuteronomy 4:2; Deuteronomy 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19

Grudem: Practical Applications of the Sufficiency of Scripture

1. The sufficiency of Scripture should encourage us as we try to discover what God would have us to think (about a particular doctrinal issue) or to do (in a particular situation).
2. The sufficiency of Scripture reminds us that we are to add nothing to Scripture, and that we are to consider _____ other writings of equal value to Scripture.
3. The sufficiency of Scripture also tells us that God does not require us to believe anything about himself or his redemptive work that is not found in Scripture.
4. The sufficiency of Scripture shows us that no modern revelations from God are to be placed on a level equal to Scripture in authority.
5. With regard to living the Christian life, the sufficiency of Scripture reminds us that nothing is _____ that is not forbidden by Scripture either explicitly or by implication.
6. The sufficiency of Scripture also tells us that nothing is _____ of us by God that is not commanded in Scripture either explicitly or by implication.
7. The sufficiency of Scripture reminds us that in our doctrinal and ethical teaching we should emphasize what Scripture emphasizes and be _____ with what God has told us in Scripture.

Grudem: Questions for Personal Application

1. In the process of growing in the Christian life and deepening your relationship with God, approximately how much emphasis have you placed on reading the Bible itself and how much on reading other Christian books? In seeking to know God's will for your daily life, what is the relative emphasis you have put on reading Scripture itself and on reading other Christian books? Do you think the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture will cause you to place more emphasis on reading Scripture itself?
2. What are some of the doctrinal or moral questions you are wondering about? Has this chapter increased your confidence in the ability of Scripture to provide a clear answer for some of those questions?
3. Have you ever wished that the Bible would say more than it does about a certain subject? Or less? What do you think motivated that wish? After reading this chapter, how would you approach someone who expressed such a wish today? How is God's wisdom shown in the fact that he chose not to make the Bible a great deal longer or a great deal shorter than it actually is?

Scripture Memory Passage

Psalm 119:1: **Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD!**

Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation" (Rippons Selection of Hymns)

Systematic Theology: Review of the Doctrine of the Word of God

Scripture Memory Passage Review: [Psalm 119:1](#):

Chapter 1: Introduction to Systematic Theology

Systematic theology is any study that answers the question, "What does the _____ Bible teach us today?" about any given topic. Example: _____ sets vs pieces. Scripture Memory Passage (SMP): [Psalm 119:11](#): **Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**

Chapter 2: The Word of God

The "Word of God" as a Person: Jesus Christ / The "Word of God" as Speech by God

1. God's decrees: a word of God that _____ something to happen
2. God's words of personal address: when God communicates . . . by speaking directly to them
3. God's words as speech through human lips
4. God's words in written form (the _____)

SMP: [Psalm 1:1-2](#): **Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.**

Chapter 3: The Canon of Scripture

The canon of Scripture is the list of _____ the books that belong in the Bible. The Old Testament and the New Testament both point exclusively to _____. SMP: [Hebrews 1:1-2](#): **God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.**

Chapter 4: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (1) Authority

The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey _____ word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.

All the Words in Scripture Are God's Words / To Disbelieve or Disobey Any Word of Scripture Is to Disbelieve or Disobey _____ / The Truthfulness of Scripture / SMP: [2 Timothy 3:16](#): **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**

Chapter 5: The Inerrancy of Scripture

The Bible _____ tells the truth, and that it always tells the truth concerning _____ it talks about. SMP: Psalm 12:6: **The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.**

Chapter 6: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (2) Clarity

The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by _____ who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it.

The Bible Frequently Affirms Its Own Clarity (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Why would the authors expect believers to understand their words? Understanding Scripture is not about intelligence—it is about the _____. SMP: Deuteronomy 6:6-7: **And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

Chapter 7: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (3) Necessity

The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible _____ necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but is _____ necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws.

The Bible Is Necessary for Knowledge of the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17) / The Bible Is Necessary for Maintaining Spiritual Life (Matthew 4:4) / The Bible Is Necessary for Certain Knowledge of God's Will (Deuteronomy 29:29) / For people who are not omniscient, the Bible is necessary for certain knowledge about _____. / But the Bible Is Not Necessary for Knowing That God Exists (Psalm 19:1) / Furthermore, the Bible Is Not Necessary for Knowing Something About God's Character and Moral Laws (Romans 1:18-21) / SMP: Matthew 4:4: **But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"**

Chapter 8: The Four Characteristics of Scripture: (4) Sufficiency

The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains _____ we _____ God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly. 2 Timothy 3:15-17

We Can Find All That God Has Said on Particular Topics, and We Can Find Answers to Our Questions / The Amount of Scripture Given Was Sufficient at Each Stage of Redemptive History / _____ has always taken the initiative in revealing things to us: Deuteronomy 29:29

SMP: Psalm 119:1: **Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD!**