

Theology 204 – Intro to Systematic Theology, Fall 2006

Study Guide for Final Exam

Overview: The following questions are designed to help you focus your study for the midterm exam. The questions from the midterm will be taken from what is presented here, so there should be no surprises in terms of material (although there may be an alteration of the *form* of the question, e.g., what is an essay question here might be asked as an identification question or multiple choice). You will find page references to indicate when I want you to be looking at specific passages of text.

For essay questions, you should keep in mind the following:

- a **failing** answer will not show adequate comprehension of the material
- a **passing** answer will demonstrate that you have grasped the material or concepts, but largely in the author's words and without much feel for the connections or what is at stake to the larger whole
- a **superlative** answer will demonstrate your ability to write about the concepts and material *in your own words* and with a sense of what impact your decisions make on the larger theological picture

Focus points:

- 1) Guthrie examines several claims for the origin of Evil (Satan, God, humans, society, fallen angels) in the text. What, in the end, is *Guthrie's* accounting of the origin of Evil? Do you agree or disagree with this accounting? If you disagree, which of the other accounts is more compelling to you theologically and why? [173-182]
- 2) Define "docetism". Why is it considered dangerous to Christian faith? What are some consequences of docetism for Christian faith? What are some biblical examples Guthrie cites against docetism? [Guthrie 237-238, lecture notes]
- 3) What are some of the important consequences, according to Guthrie, of the claim that Jesus is *fully God*? [Guthrie 243-248]
- 4) What is meant by the theological term 'kenosis'? Why, scripturally and theologically, might it be necessary to talk about God 'emptying' God's self during the incarnation? What problems does this solve? What problems does this raise? [Lecture notes and class discussion]
- 5) What are the four images of atonement Guthrie outlines in the text? Of these, pick one you find the most compelling and describe in your own words how it "works". If none of the four seem reasonable to you, how do *you* account for atonement within the Christian tradition? [Guthrie 251-256]

- 6) What are some claims that Christian theology *refuses* to believe about Jesus' death on the cross? [Lecture notes]
- 7) Describe some key aspects of the doctrine of Resurrection. Why was this problematic for Paul and other early Christians? How did Paul account for Jesus' *individual* resurrection? [Guthrie 274-275, 392-395, lecture notes]
- 8) In your own words, describe what Guthrie means when he speaks of the Kingdom of God as being "between the times." What are the "concrete implications" of such a view? [Guthrie 283-287]
- 9) What, in Guthrie's view, is "the holiness that Jesus commands"? What are the four specific examples Guthrie lists to make his point? What are the three specific results that follow from "listening to Jesus' description of the life his followers must live?" [Guthrie 341-347]
- 10) How does Guthrie view "the mission of the church in the world"? What are some examples he gives for "the task of the one holy catholic and apostolic church"? From your tradition, do you strongly agree or disagree with the view of mission in any of these examples? Which description is the best, in your opinion? Which is the worst? [Guthrie 363-368]
- 11) Guthrie claims that "Christians do not believe in the perfectability of humankind" [376]. What does he mean by this? Do you agree with this general claim about Christianity? What sources and norms would you cite to make your case for or against Guthrie?
- 12) What does Guthrie contend is the proper Christian attitude toward death? What does *Guthrie* mean when he describes the Christian 'afterlife'? How does *your* tradition agree or disagree with his claims? [Guthrie 376-381]
- 13) a) What is the meaning of "apocalyptic"? b) Why might the "delay of parousia" be a problem that must be addressed by Christian theology? [Lecture notes]
- 14) What does Guthrie mean when he says "Heaven is for sinners and Hell is for 'good' people"? [396] How would your tradition agree or disagree with this?