

Twice Born Ministry

TH-109: Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Course Code: TH-109

Credit Hours: 3

King James Version (KJV) — Sola Scriptura Curriculum

Generated 2026-06-30

Course Description

TH-109: Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Course Description

Election frameworks; compatibilism

This course is part of **Layer 2 — Theology & Ministry** in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School catalog. It develops college-level competence aligned with historic evangelical systematic theology (Grudem/Ryrie/Chafer lineage) and KJV study standards.

Course Details

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Define and biblically defend key terms and doctrines covered in the syllabus.
- Exegete representative passages using literal-grammatical-historical method.
- Connect this course's themes to the broader storyline of Scripture (creation → fall → redemption → glorification).
- Apply doctrine to personal holiness, local church ministry, and evangelistic witness.
- Complete written, oral, and collaborative assessments demonstrating mastery at 70% or higher.

Module Structure

Each lesson includes exposition, historical theology notes, application, discussion prompts, and module-aligned quizzes. Assignments require research, ministry projects, and peer interaction where noted.

Assessment Overview

- **Module quizzes:** 10 questions each (multiple choice + short answer); keys provided.
- **Assignments:** 3–4 graded projects with rubrics.
- **Group projects:** 2 collaborative exercises.
- **Final exam:** Comprehensive short and extended responses.

- • **Video supplements:** 3–5 instructor scripts for optional video production.

Christian Guardrails

- • King James Bible as citation standard.
- • Christ-centered, gospel-proclaiming instruction.
- • Respectful engagement with other traditions without compromising essential doctrines.
- • No completion of academic work on behalf of others; AI tools may assist study but not replace original exegesis and reflection.

Instructor Notes

Professor Shepherd AI instructor shortcode: [tb_ai_instructor course_code="TH-109"]

Twice Born Ministry Bible School — Layer 2 Theology & Ministry

Course Modules

TH-109 — Lesson 1: God's Eternal Decrees Defined

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 1 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **God's Eternal Decrees Defined**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

God's Eternal Decrees Defined did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: God's Eternal Decrees Defined

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **God's Eternal Decrees Defined**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **Jude 3-4**. Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered. Apologetics and ecclesial vigilance belong together—false teachers creep in unnoticed. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Ephesians 1:3-14 complements the lesson theme: The triune God blesses, chooses, redeems, and seals according to His gracious will. This passage integrates election, adoption, and inheritance in doxological prose. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **God's Eternal Decrees Defined** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **God's Eternal Decrees Defined**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **God's Eternal Decrees Defined** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **God's Eternal Decrees Defined** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 1 Summary: We examined **God's Eternal Decrees Defined** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

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Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

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Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

TH-109 — Lesson 2: Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 2 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

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Historical and Theological Context

Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

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Core Teaching

Main Theme: Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

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Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **Ephesians 1:3-14**. The triune God blesses, chooses, redeems, and seals according to His gracious will. This passage integrates election, adoption, and inheritance in doxological prose. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Jude 3-4 complements the lesson theme: Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered. Apologetics and ecclesial vigilance belong together—false teachers creep in unnoticed. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

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Application for Life and Ministry

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Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

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Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 2 Summary: We examined **Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

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Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

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Worship Integration

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Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Ministry Case Study

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TH-109 — Lesson 3: Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 3 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

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Historical and Theological Context

Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

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Core Teaching

Main Theme: Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

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Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

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Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **1 Peter 2:4-10**. Believers are living stones in a spiritual house, a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices. Ecclesiology and identity merge in worship language. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Jude 3-4 complements the lesson theme: Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered. Apologetics and ecclesial vigilance belong together—false teachers creep in unnoticed. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

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Common Questions and Objections

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Discussion Questions

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Historical Figure Spotlight

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Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

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TH-109 — Lesson 4: Compatibilism and Human Responsibility

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 4 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Compatibilism and Human Responsibility**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

Compatibilism and Human Responsibility did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: Compatibilism and Human Responsibility

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Compatibilism and Human Responsibility**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **Jude 3-4**. Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered. Apologetics and ecclesial vigilance belong together—false teachers creep in unnoticed. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Romans 1:16-17 complements the lesson theme: Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because it is God's power unto salvation. Righteousness is revealed from faith to faith—justification by faith stands as the article by which the church stands or falls. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Compatibilism and Human Responsibility** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Compatibilism and Human Responsibility**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **Compatibilism and Human Responsibility** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Compatibilism and Human Responsibility** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 4 Summary: We examined **Compatibilism and Human Responsibility** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate

praise, not remain abstract.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Historical Figure Spotlight

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Historical Figure Spotlight

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Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Historical Figure Spotlight

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Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

TH-109 — Lesson 5: Predestination and the Gospel Offer

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 5 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Predestination and the Gospel Offer**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

Predestination and the Gospel Offer did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: Predestination and the Gospel Offer

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Predestination and the Gospel Offer**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **Ephesians 1:3-14**. The triune God blesses, chooses, redeems, and seals according to His gracious will. This passage integrates election, adoption, and inheritance in doxological prose. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Jude 3-4 complements the lesson theme: Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered. Apologetics and ecclesial vigilance belong together—false teachers creep in unnoticed. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Predestination and the Gospel Offer** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Predestination and the Gospel Offer**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **Predestination and the Gospel Offer** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Predestination and the Gospel Offer** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 5 Summary: We examined **Predestination and the Gospel Offer** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

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Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Worship Integration

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Supplemental Reading and Reflection

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Worship Integration

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TH-109 — Lesson 6: Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 6 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **1 Peter 2:4-10**. Believers are living stones in a spiritual house, a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices. Ecclesiology and identity merge in worship language. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Romans 1:16-17 complements the lesson theme: Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because it is God's power unto salvation. Righteousness is revealed from faith to faith—justification by faith stands as the article by which the church stands or falls. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 6 Summary: We examined **Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Ministry Case Study

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Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

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Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Worship Integration

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TH-109 — Lesson 7: Decrees and Pastoral Comfort

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 7 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Decrees and Pastoral Comfort**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

Decrees and Pastoral Comfort did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: Decrees and Pastoral Comfort

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Decrees and Pastoral Comfort**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **1 Peter 2:4-10**. Believers are living stones in a spiritual house, a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices. Ecclesiology and identity merge in worship language. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Colossians 1:15-20 complements the lesson theme: Christ is preeminent in creation and redemption—firstborn, reconciler, head of the body. Against false teaching, Paul exalts Christ's sufficiency. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Decrees and Pastoral Comfort** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Decrees and Pastoral Comfort**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **Decrees and Pastoral Comfort** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Decrees and Pastoral Comfort** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 7 Summary: We examined **Decrees and Pastoral Comfort** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Historical Figure Spotlight

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Historical Figure Spotlight

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Worship Integration

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TH-109 — Lesson 8: Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 8 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes

completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **1 Peter 2:4-10**. Believers are living stones in a spiritual house, a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices. Ecclesiology and identity merge in worship language. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Romans 1:16-17 complements the lesson theme: Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because it is God's power unto salvation. Righteousness is revealed from faith to faith—justification by faith stands as the article by which the church stands or falls. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 8 Summary: We examined **Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Historical Figure Spotlight

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praise, not remain abstract.

Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Worship Integration

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Historical Figure Spotlight

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TH-109 — Lesson 9: Decrees in Evangelism Motivation

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 9 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Decrees in Evangelism Motivation**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

Decrees in Evangelism Motivation did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements

remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: Decrees in Evangelism Motivation

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Decrees in Evangelism Motivation**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **Jude 3-4**. Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered. Apologetics and ecclesial vigilance belong together—false teachers creep in unnoticed. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is

commanded?

Secondary Passage

Romans 1:16-17 complements the lesson theme: Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because it is God's power unto salvation. Righteousness is revealed from faith to faith—justification by faith stands as the article by which the church stands or falls. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Decrees in Evangelism Motivation** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Decrees in Evangelism Motivation**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **Decrees in Evangelism Motivation** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Decrees in Evangelism Motivation** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 9 Summary: We examined **Decrees in Evangelism Motivation** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Historical Figure Spotlight

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Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Supplemental Reading and Reflection

Assign one chapter from a standard systematic theology textbook or equivalent lecture notes. Summarize the author's definitions, note where Scripture proofs appear, and evaluate whether the Bible truly supports each claim. Theology students must read widely yet judge all teaching by the Word. Write a half-page response connecting supplemental reading to this lesson's theme.

Ministry Case Study

Imagine a congregant confused about this lesson's topic after watching online teaching that contradicts historic evangelical doctrine. Draft a pastoral response email that (1) expresses empathy, (2) clarifies biblical teaching with two references, (3) invites in-person conversation, and (4) avoids condescension. Pastoral communication is part of theological training, not an optional soft skill.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

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TH-109 — Lesson 10: Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture

Introduction

Welcome to Lesson 10 of **Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom**. In this session we examine **Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture**—a topic essential for faithful ministry in the Twice Born Ministry Bible School curriculum. This course belongs to the **Theology Proper** track and assumes completion of BS-FND-100 (Introduction to Bible School), with the King James Version as our primary study text unless otherwise noted.

Systematic theology serves the local church. We study doctrine not to win arguments in abstraction but to love Christ more deeply, preach more accurately, counsel more wisely, and defend the faith with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Each lesson builds toward measurable outcomes: biblical

literacy, doctrinal clarity, and ministry readiness.

Before proceeding, pray for illumination. Ask the Holy Spirit—the divine Author who inspired Scripture—to guide your understanding. Read assigned passages aloud when possible. Take notes in a dedicated theology journal; you will use these notes for assignments, quizzes, and your final integrative exam.

Historical and Theological Context

Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture did not emerge in a vacuum. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) crystallized Trinitarian grammar under fire from Arian and Macedonian errors. Medieval scholastics like Anselm and Aquinas reflected on God's attributes using philosophical categories, yet evangelical theology returns always to exegetical foundations. Modern liberalism redefined God immanently without holiness; evangelical theism recovers transcendence and immanence together.

When reading secondary sources—including standard systematic theologies in the Grudem, Ryrie, and Chafer traditions—always verify claims by exegesis. Tradition may inform; Scripture judges. The Twice Born Ministry approach welcomes helpful summaries while insisting that confessional statements remain servants, not masters, of the biblical text.

Students should note how cultural pressures reshape doctrinal debates. In every era, the church faces temptation to soften uncomfortable truths—hell, sin, exclusivity of Christ, biblical authority. Historical study strengthens courage: saints before us contended for the faith once delivered (Jude 3) under worse conditions than most Western students face today.

Core Teaching

Main Theme: Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture

Moses asks in Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." Biblical theism insists that God alone is eternal, self-existent, and worthy of ultimate worship. Every attribute affirmed about God in Scripture is true of the whole Godhead and distinguishes Him from creation.

Isaiah 6:3 records the seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Holiness is not merely one attribute among many; it is the perfection of all God's moral excellencies. God's love is holy love; His justice is holy justice. To know God is to know Him as thrice-holy and utterly separate from sin.

Malachi 3:6 declares, "I am the LORD, I change not." Immutability assures believers that God's promises, character, and saving purposes do not shift with cultural moods. He is not improved by time nor weakened by opposition. This stabilizes prayer, worship, and hope in a world of constant change.

Systematic Connections

Doctrine is interconnected. A shift in bibliology eventually alters soteriology; a flawed Christology undermines assurance; pneumatology affects worship and ethics. As you study **Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture**, map at least three connections to other loci (doctrine areas). Use cross-references in a chain reference Bible or equivalent study tool.

Evangelical systematic theology organizes truth for teaching while preserving the biblical storyline. Dispensational and covenant theologians may disagree on ecclesiology and eschatology yet affirm Nicene Christology and Reformation soteriology. Charity in disagreement, clarity on essentials, and partnership in evangelism mark mature students.

Exposition and Cross-References

Primary Passage Walkthrough

Consider **Hebrews 1:1-4**. God spoke by prophets, then by His Son who is heir of all things and exact impress of His person. Christology and revelation converge: the fullest word is a Person. Read the paragraph aloud, noting verbs, connectives, and repeated words. Ask: Who is acting? What is promised? What response is commanded?

Secondary Passage

Colossians 1:15-20 complements the lesson theme: Christ is preeminent in creation and redemption—firstborn, reconciler, head of the body. Against false teaching, Paul exalts Christ's sufficiency. Use the analogy of faith—Scripture interprets Scripture. Clearer passages illuminate harder ones; narrative, poetry, epistle, and apocalyptic each contribute distinct lenses.

Word Study Hint

Select one theologically loaded term from **Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture** (e.g., grace, holiness, justification, church, revelation). Use a concordance to trace its usage across Testaments. Note semantic range but anchor meaning in the specific context of your primary passage. Avoid importing English connotations anachronistically.

Common Questions and Objections

Students routinely ask hard questions when studying **Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture**. Pastoral theology addresses minds and hearts.

"Isn't doctrine divisive?" Division over pride is sin; division over truth is sometimes necessary (Romans 16:17-18). Unity without truth is mere sentiment. Pursue both biblical fidelity and Spirit-produced gentleness.

"Can't I just love Jesus without theology?" To love Jesus is to love the real Christ, not a self-generated image. Doctrine describes who He is and what He has done. Superficial familiarity cannot sustain martyrs or missionaries.

"What about contradictions?" Apparent tensions (e.g., sovereignty and human responsibility) invite humble systematic reflection, not hasty rejection. The Bible is coherent; our finitude is the limit.

Document one objection you have encountered in ministry or personal study. Answer it in 200 words using at least three scripture references. This exercise prepares you for the short-answer portions of module quizzes and the final exam.

Application for Life and Ministry

Knowledge without obedience puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). **Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture** should change how you pray, preach, parent, counsel, and witness.

Personal devotion: Write a one-paragraph prayer responding to God's character and commands in this lesson. Identify one sin to mortify and one grace to cultivate.

Local church: Discuss the lesson in Sunday school or small group. Teach one insight to a newer believer without using unexplained jargon.

Evangelism: Prepare a 60-second explanation connecting this doctrine to the gospel's bad news (sin) and good news (Christ crucified and risen).

Homeschool band: Parents adapt concepts for age-appropriate catechism. High school students complete scripture memory; younger students draw storyline comics for narrative doctrines.

Discussion Questions

How does **Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture** reshape your understanding of God, humanity, Christ, or the church?

Which scripture from this lesson is most convicting? Most comforting? Explain.

Where have you heard this doctrine distorted in popular culture or religious media?

What preaching or teaching error would correct application of this lesson prevent?

How would you explain this topic to a twelve-year-old believer? To a seminary-trained pastor?

Summary and Memory Work

Lesson 10 Summary: We examined **Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture** through biblical exposition, historical theology, systematic connection, and ministry application. Truth learned must be truth lived.

Memory Verse: Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic.

Preview: In the next lesson, continue building the cumulative framework of this course. Review prior quiz questions before advancing—Tutor LMS progress assumes mastery at 70% or higher on assessments.

Soli Deo gloria.

Worship Integration

Select a hymn or worship song rich in biblical doctrine (e.g., "Holy, Holy, Holy," "And Can It Be," "A Mighty Fortress"). Analyze its lyrics for theological accuracy in light of this lesson. Lead family worship using that hymn, reading one supporting passage before singing. Theology should enliven corporate praise, not remain abstract.

Historical Figure Spotlight

Research one defender of orthodoxy related to this doctrine—Augustine, Athanasius, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, or a modern missionary martyr. Write 150 words on how their context shaped their emphasis. Standing on their shoulders, we inherit confessions forged in controversy. Imitate their courage and Scripture saturation, not necessarily every cultural application.

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Appendix A — Assignments

Week 01

Week 01 Assignment — Reflection Journal

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 1: God's Eternal Decrees Defined

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **analyze** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 1: God's Eternal Decrees Defined** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Analyze: Write a 300–500 word reflection on **TH-109 — Lesson 1: God's Eternal Decrees Defined**. Include at least two KJV citations and one personal application.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Eternal, Decrees

Week 02

Week 02 Assignment — Memory Verse Application

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 2: Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **apply** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 2: Election: Biblical Vocabulary and Passages** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Apply: Recite Memory Verse:** Select one verse introduced this lesson. Write it on an index card; review daily until verbatim recall is automatic. from memory, then write 250 words explaining how it applies to daily discipleship.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Election, Biblical

Week 03

Week 03 Assignment — Expository Outline

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 3: Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **outline** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 3: Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Outline: Produce a structured outline (400+ words) for the main passage in **TH-109 — Lesson 3: Calvinist, Arminian, and Middle Views Survey**. Include pericope titles and one-sentence themes.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Calvinist, Arminian

Week 04

Week 04 Assignment — Discussion Response

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 4: Compatibilism and Human Responsibility

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **explain** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 4: Compatibilism and Human Responsibility** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Explain: Answer two discussion prompts from the Week 4 reading in 200 words each. Cite KJV only.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Compatibilism, Human

Week 05

Week 05 Assignment — Practical Ministry Step

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 5: Predestination and the Gospel Offer

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **demonstrate** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 5: Predestination and the Gospel Offer** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Demonstrate: Complete one practical ministry action tied to **TH-109 — Lesson 5: Predestination and the Gospel Offer** (visit, prayer walk, family worship, or service). Submit a 200-word report plus optional photo upload.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Manual review (practical/upload).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Week 06

Week 06 Assignment — Witness Outline

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 6: Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **construct** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 6: Corporate vs. Individual Election Debates** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Construct: Draft a 3-minute spoken witness outline using this week's theme. Include gospel bridge, one objection with biblical answer, and call to faith.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Corporate, Individual

Week 07

Week 07 Assignment — Cross-Reference Study

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 7: Decrees and Pastoral Comfort

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **compare** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 7: Decrees and Pastoral Comfort** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Compare: Find three cross-references that illuminate **TH-109 — Lesson 7: Decrees and Pastoral Comfort**. Write 400 words comparing themes (OT + NT).

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Decrees, Pastoral

Week 08

Week 08 Assignment — Historical Context Brief

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 8: Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **describe** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 8: Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Describe: Write 350 words on historical/literary context for **TH-109 — Lesson 8: Hyper-Calvinism and Fatalism Avoided**. Minimum four KJV citations.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Hyper, Calvinism

Week 09

Week 09 Assignment — Christological Connection Essay

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 9: Decrees in Evangelism Motivation

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **evaluate** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 9: Decrees in Evangelism Motivation** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Evaluate: Explain how **TH-109 — Lesson 9: Decrees in Evangelism Motivation** points to Christ in 400–600 words. Use literal-grammatical-historical method.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Decrees, Evangelism

Week 10

Week 10 Assignment — Teaching Prep

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 10: Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **design** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 10: Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Design: Prepare a 5-minute teaching outline for **TH-109 — Lesson 10: Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture** suitable for a small group or homeschool lesson.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Decrees, Capstone

Week 11

Week 11 Assignment — Integration & Review

Course: TH-109 · God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Week focus: TH-109 — Lesson 10: Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **synthesize** course content from **TH-109 — Lesson 10: Decrees Capstone: Position Paper with Scripture** with KJV integration and measurable evidence in the submission.

Task

Synthesize: Synthesize the top five themes from God's Decrees & Human Freedom. 600 words, minimum six KJV citations, one paragraph on personal growth.

Submit: Text via LMS assignment form. PDF upload optional for longer work.

Grading

Grading mode: Auto-grade eligible (written text).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Auto-grade hints

Keywords for automated pre-check: KJV, Christ, Scripture, God, Lesson, Decrees, Capstone

Week 12

Creative Ministry Project — TH-109

Course: Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Code: TH-109

Learning objective (Bloom's taxonomy)

Students will **create** an original ministry artifact synthesizing course themes with KJV fidelity and scholarship-gallery quality.

Overview

Complete an original **Creative Ministry Project** demonstrating what you learned in this course. Select one project type when submitting your assignment. Approved work may appear in the [Scholarship

Gallery](<https://twicebornministry.com/bible-school/scholarships/>) so supporters can **donate toward student scholarships** — you retain credit and ownership of your work.

> This is ministry education, not a sale of intellectual property. Donations fund scholarships.

Project types

Requirements

Original work — cite all Scripture in KJV; footnote other sources.

Course connection — explicitly tie your project to at least two module themes from TH-109.

Ministry focus — aim to edify believers or reach seekers with the gospel.

Upload — submit via the **Creative Ministry Project** assignment at the end of the course; select your project type in the form.

Length guides:

- Written: 800–1500 words
- Audio/Video: see durations above
- Photography: 1–3 images + caption
- Application: working prototype + 300-word user guide

Grading rubric (100 points)

Pass: 70%

Scholarship gallery

If your project is approved, it may be listed at /bible-school/scholarships/ with a **Support this student** donation button. Supporters give toward the scholarship fund for your project type — not to purchase your content.

Prayer

> *"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."* — Psalm 19:14 (KJV)

Grading

Grading mode: Manual review (creative upload).

Pass: 70%

Rubric (100 points)

Creative Ministry Project

Creative Ministry Project — TH-109

Course: Theology Proper IV: God's Decrees & Human Freedom

Code: TH-109

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