**Understanding Worldview Seminar**

**Topic 1**

**CWV-106HN**

**Grand Canyon University**

Read through the assigned materials for weeks 1 and 2 (Topic 1) and answer the questions thoroughly. Make sure that your answers are at least 20-50 words per (non-bolded) question. **Bolded questions should receive at least 150 or more words**. These questions will help you focus on the issues we will explore in seminar during class. Students will be graded on the quality of seminar preparation and participation.

Please submit this into Turnitin (or Lopeswrite).

Week 1

* Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 in *The Beginning of Wisdom: An Introduction to Christian Thought and Life*. https://lc.gcumedia.com/cwv101/the-beginning-of-wisdom-an-introduction-to-christian-thought-and-life/v3.1/#/chapter/I
* Read Chapter 1 of *Proslogium*, from the Christian Classics Ethereal Library. <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/anselm/basic_works.iii.ii.html>
* Read Book I: Chapters I, III-V, and X-XIV, XVIII, XXIII, XXVI-XXX, XXXII-XXXIV of *Of God and His Creatures*, by Aquinas. <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/aquinas/gentiles.toc.html>
* Read Genesis 1-2

Week 2

* Read Chapter 1-3 of Book I of *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, by Calvin, from the Christian Classics Ethereal Library. <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes.iii.ii.html>
* Read Chapter 1-5 of Book I of *On Christian Doctrine*, by Augustine, from the Christian Classics Ethereal Library. <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/doctrine.iv.ii.i.html>
* Read “How Can the Bible Be Authoritative?” by Wright, from the Biblical Studies.org.uk website. <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/vox/vol21/bible_wright.pdf>
* Read Chapters 6-10 of *On Loving God*, by Bernard Clairvaux, from the Christian Classics Ethereal Library. [http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bernard/loving\_god.viii.html](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.ccel.org_ccel_bernard_loving-5Fgod.viii.html&d=DwMGaQ&c=h8tWSEopLyY-jufMqa6tqNiQLH-Hu55HVFAFe4cURDM&r=XRM2jZUEX8FLlRZuzjfFjuKCGeLds-kIpwqfPrN3EfA&m=fplhU1o7y-swNeO_UlijHUtq3nZpSXpxasV7Fh9JPBQ&s=PQ4q-fqllqefA52bTVa9Ucb2Gw5xLBItac6dTc4GLEs&e=)

1. Gleaning from the relevant sections of *The Beginning of Wisdom*, answer the following: What is a worldview? How is this concept useful and valuable?
2. Describe and contrast the basic worldview families prominent in western cultures (atheism, pantheism, theism). What sources of knowledge does each worldview emphasize? (see *The Beginning of Wisdom*)
3. Reflect on your own personal commitments with respect to basic worldview components. How does your view compare to your understanding of Christianity?
4. What thinker(s) (Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Calvin, or Bernard of Clairvaux) did you identify or resonate with? Why? What did you find most surprising, interesting, or confusing?
5. **What does Anselm’s prayer tell us about the process of knowing God?**
6. **How does Aquinas explain the role of reason in knowledge in general and knowledge of God in particular? How does faith relate to reason?**
7. **How does “negative differentiation” relate to what Aquinas later discusses as the likeness between God and creatures? Why can we say that creatures are like God but God is not like creatures?**
8. **What is analogical predication according to Aquinas? How does it differ from univocal predication (“one meaning” or “same meaning”) and equivocal predication (“different meanings”)?**
9. **Why does Calvin think the knowledge of God and the knowledge of self are intertwined?**
10. **How does Calvin think every human bears knowledge of God innately?**
11. **According to Augustine, what is the distinction between sign and thing; then, how is the created world and everything in it (e.g. food, friendships, stars at night, etc.) a sign of and for God? Augustine says that God is ultimately the only “thing” to be “enjoyed”. What does he mean by this and how are signs used along the way?**
12. **Summarize NT Wright on how the Scriptures are authoritative. What problems need to be avoided in understanding the Scriptures as authoritative?**
13. **How does Bernard describe what it means to love God? What are the stages or developments of growth in loving God?**