

Preparation for Final Exam

Procedure:

The student will choose one of the questions from the list, then the professor will choose at least one other question from the list in addition to question #26, which will be asked of all. Remember to structure well the answer to question of your choice as well as question #26, and try to formulate for yourself good opening statements for each of the other questions. Your opening statement should include a basic outline of what you intend to say in your answer. That opening statement is extremely important. It immediately shows whether you know what you are talking about. You should use the introductory lectures, readings, the PowerPoints about those readings and the class notes to prepare for the exam. **The student's chosen question may NOT be on a chapter presented by that student in class, or the subject of the student's paper.**

Questions

- 1) Give an outline of Patristic Greek Anthropology (see Primer)
- 2) Explain how Holy Tradition speaks of being created according to the image and likeness of God. What is the Image? Who is the image? (AC's powerpoint)
- 3) According to Archimandrite George, what are the consequences of receiving spiritual guidance that is not aimed at theosis?
- 4) Explore, explain, challenge (if necessary) Prof.P.B.T.Bilaniuk's definition of Theosis.
- 5) What does Michael Christensen mean by the "problem", the "promise" and the "process" of theosis?
- 6) Examine Andrew Louth's claim that theosis has structural significance in Orthodox Theology.
- 7) Explain several usages of "deification" in the Classical Greek Philosophical Tradition as presented by John R Lenz.
- 8) Comment on the way Stephen Finlan presents theosis in Paul?
- 9) Does James Starr make a good case for 2Peter 1:4 speaking of deification? Critique his presentation.
- 10) What does John McGuckin mean by the idea that the Cappadocians adapted the idea of deification strategically. Examine the historical context and the theological implications.
- 11) Examine Vladimir Kharalamov's contention that Athanasius and Gregory the Theologian used the concept of theosis rhetorically.
- 12) Explain and critique the various levels of reciprocity presented in Elena Vishnevskaya's presentation on Divinization as perichoretic Embrace in Maximus the Confessor.
- 13) Thomas Buchan presents the theology of Ephrem the Syrian. How does that father express the mystery of deification through various metaphors?

- 14) How does Bulis al-Bushi's treatment of theosis reflect the unique situation of Copts in a Muslim environment according to Stephen J. Davis? Comment on possible lessons for today.
- 15) Nathan R. Kerr presents a different view of Anselm than one would usually find in Eastern Christianity, which focuses all too often on his argument regarding supreme offense of God and a price that needs to be paid. Comment on Kerr's presentation and especially his conclusion regarding theosis and theoria.
- 16) Present and critique Jonathan Linman's treatment of theosis in Martin Luther.
- 17) According to J. Todd Billings, how is Calvin's treatment of deification similar to but distinct from that of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. Critique.
- 18) According to Michael J. Christensen, there is a distinctive Wesleyan approach to deification. Present and critique this position.
- 19) Jeffrey Finch's presentation of neo-Palamism deals with ecumenical East-West implications of certain ideas surrounding the essence-energy debate. What in his presentation did you find most helpful, and what was least helpful in addressing the situation.
- 20) In Boris Jakim's study of theosis in Sergius Bulgakov, emphasis is placed on Divine-Humanity. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of this approach?
- 21) Examine how Karl Rahner's thought both uses and goes beyond philosophical categories in expounding theosis, according to the presentation by Francis J. Caponi.
- 22) Examine how Gösta Hallonsten's plea for clarity regarding theosis interfaces with the rest of the chapters in the book edited by Michael J. Christensen. In the end, who is more correct in your mind?
- 23) Daniel Rogich, in his book *Becoming Uncreated*, deals with various levels of knowledge and religious experience. Explore how this meshes with Orthodox anthropology and critique his presentation.
- 24) Explore and critique the stages of mystical encounter of the Lord as presented by Daniel Rogich.
- 25) How does Daniel Rogich treat differences and similarities between hesychast practice and that of Eastern religions? Present and critique.
- 26) **How would you briefly present Theosis to a friend, student, parishioner, using a personal witness as well as your theological knowledge.(This has extreme relevance for those who will someday preach, teach, or counsel others.) Has this course made any difference in the way you would approach this task?**