

Week 5 Thesis Outline and Structure

1. Lecture Objectives

- 1) Understand the overall structure of an academic thesis.
 - 2) Learn how to create an effective thesis outline.
 - 3) Develop the ability to organize research logically.
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2. Key Lecture Content

1) Basic Structure of a Thesis

typical academic thesis includes the following sections:

2) Introduction

- (1) Research background
- (2) Research purpose
- (3) Research questions
- (4) Significance of the study

3) Literature Review

- (1) Review of previous studies
- (2) Theoretical framework
- (3) Research gap

4) Methodology

- (1) Research methods
- (2) Research subjects or data
- (3) Research procedures

5) Results / Findings

- (1) Findings of the research
- (2) Data analysis

6) Discussion

- (1) Interpretation of results
- (2) Comparison with previous studies
- (3) Academic contribution

7) Conclusion

- (1) Summary of the research
 - (2) Limitations of the study
 - (3) Suggestions for future research
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2) Importance of a Thesis Outline

- (1) A thesis outline functions as the blueprint of the research.
 - (2) Benefits of an outline:
 - ① Clarifies research direction
 - ② Organizes logical flow
 - ③ Saves writing time
 - ④ Maintains research consistency
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3) How to Create a Thesis Outline

Step 1: Define the Research Topic

Example: A Study on the Concept of Grace in Pauline Theology

Step 2: Organize Main Chapters

Example:

- ① Introduction
- ② Historical Background of Pauline Theology
- ③ Theological Meaning of Grace
- ④ Grace in the Pauline Epistles
- ⑤ Contemporary Theological Application
- ⑥ Conclusion

Step 3: Develop Subsections

Example:

- ① Historical Background of Pauline Theology
 - ② Jewish Background
 - ③ Influence of Hellenistic Culture
 - ④ Theology of the Early Church
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4. Practice Exercise

1) Create a thesis outline using one of the following topics:

(1) Example topics:

- ① The Relationship between the Gospel of Paul and the Law
- ② The Understanding of the Gospel in the Early Church
- ③ The Biblical Gospel and the Modern Church

(2) Include:

- ① Thesis title
 - ② 5–6 major chapters
 - ③ 2–3 subsections for each chapter
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5. Discussion Questions

- 1) How does a well-structured thesis improve the persuasiveness of research?
 - 2) What is the most important factor when creating a thesis outline?
 - 3) What role does the biblical text play in theological research?
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6. Assignment

- 1) Based on your own research topic, prepare the following:
 - (1) Thesis title
 - (2) Thesis outline (at least five chapters)
 - (3) Brief explanation of each chapter (3–4 lines each)