

THL 110 Online – The Christian Tradition: Then & Now

Essay # 4 Guidelines: Contemporary Issues in Christianity

Assignment: Recent class reading includes Chapters 25-26 of your textbook, focusing on Contemporary Christianity. You have also read a study by the Pew Center. The purpose of this essay is to discuss several contemporary issues in Christianity.

Guidelines: Your corresponding written assignment is to compose a **two-three-page essay** reflecting upon your experience with these readings along the specific guidelines delineated below.

- Your introductory paragraph must include a thesis statement and should focus on:
 - Summarizing the historical situation of the Contemporary World. What is the political and intellectual climate of this time? Be sure to include Postmodernism and the state of the development of Christianity.
- In three-four body paragraphs, **choose two** of the following to pursue in more detail:
 - How do postmodern approaches to the study of the Bible differ from earlier historical scientific approaches? What positive contributions do they make to understanding and appreciation of the Bible today? Discuss one of the newer developments in Theology such as Liberation Theology, Feminist Theology, or Black Theology.
 - Summarize Catholic Social Teaching and ways that it can be implemented in our world. What difference might it make in the lives of people? Are these teachings something that all Christians might strive for regardless of denomination?
 - Discuss the changing Christian perspectives on non-Christian Religions, particularly the concepts of exclusivism and inclusivism. Likewise light, discuss the two activities of dialogue and proclamation and how they might affect Christianity in the future.
 - Summarize and reflect upon the article from the Pew Center. How is religiosity changing in America? What affect might it have on the role of religion in society?
- Conclude by bringing it all together and commenting on your overall assessment of contemporary issues in Christianity.
 - How is Christianity relevant for today?
 - How should Christianity meet such challenges now and in the future?

Format: The essay should be two-three pages, double-spaced, 12 point Times-New Roman font, one-inch margins, with the student's name in the upper left corner.

To fully accomplish this task in the space allotted, you will have to think about the information at some length before you begin to write, and then write concisely but thoroughly about the major issues at stake. You will likely also have to edit your work.

You may only use the assigned readings and class notes thus far as your sources. If you cite the textbook, just put CTT, page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence before the period. Likewise with the Pew article, just put Pew in parentheses at the end of the sentence before the period. You do not have to cite your class notes.

Assessment: See corresponding rubric.