**Research Paper: Final Assignment Instructions**

**Overview**

In the PhD in Bible Exposition, writing and research at the course level is at the core of academic development leading to the point of competency for dissertation writing. The research paper in OBST 860 is an opportunity for students to select a topic of choice within the “Writings,” and thoroughly research that topic to considerable depth. The research paper should include a clear thesis statement that is thoroughly supported by an examination of content and relevant source material.

**Instructions**

Choosing a topic that reflects exegetical, theological, historical, or literary interests from within the “Writings,” you will write a 20 to 25 page double spaced research paper following standard Turabian format. Students will choose their topic (with faculty direction), research the topic, and develop and defend a thesis through the course of their writing. The development of this research paper should begin near the start of the 8 week term, with research and writing taking place throughout the class. There is some flexibility in style depending on the topic of the paper (an exegetical paper may have a different look from a historical analysis). Whatever the exact subject, in the end, the paper should reflect PhD level depth and style.

Research is an important component in this assignment, and as determined by the topic, students should utilize 10 to 20 academic sources in their research, including but not limited to academic commentaries, journal articles, and monographs.