Eschatology Position Paper 3. Position Paper 3 (Final paper format should be in 1 page single-spaced nkt 2 page double-spaced. Thank you.) Each student will write three (3) one-page, single-spaced “position papers” addressing key issues in Eschatology. These brief papers will present the student’s answers to specific assigned questions based on course lectures or readings, defending answers with biblical, theological, and historical arguments and documenting the answers appropriately with footnotes. Topic For Position Paper 3: Discuss the issue of personal eschatology—what happens to a person when he or she dies. Interacting with key biblical passages and differentiating your view with heterodox opinions about life after death. How would you answer a Christian who says he or she doesn’t really know what will happen after physical death. Discuss the importance of bodily resurrection for this topic. Important Instructions on Position Paper Assignments Position Papers are not simply “journaling assignments” or “reflection papers.” They are to be well-thought-out, well-researched, well-written, and well-edited, as would be expected from graduate level work in theology. Please attend to the following important elements for quality position papers. 1. Introductions and Conclusions. This is simply standard graduate level practice. Each intro can have 1-2 sentences that state the topic and your argument in a thesis statement. A good thesis statement is very direct and succinct. Try writing a short intro with a thesis that states, “This paper will address the topic of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and will argue that \_\_\_\_\_.” Forgetting intros and conclusions will result in a loss of points. Your conclusion says nothing new but summarizes and restates your thesis statement. 2. Appropriate Use of Sources. There is probably no good reason to actually quote sources in these position papers. That is, do not quote sentences or paragraphs from your sources or from the Bible. You only have one page to make your case, so the majority of the page should be your own words and thoughts, summaries, arguments, and conclusions. They should not be packed with the words of others. You are expected to summarize and synthesize the content of sources, then cite the source of the information as a footnote. Scripture verses should be noted in parenthesis, e.g. (Gal 3:15). However, it is best to state how this passage supports what you are arguing. 3. Overuse of Sources. All written assignments will be analyzed by Turnitin, software that compares your work with published and internet sources, including other student papers from DTS and other institutions. It will determine quite accurately what percentage of the work is yours and what percentage is unoriginal. Quoting from sources will greatly increase the percentage of unoriginal work, which is unacceptable for position paper assignments (see #2 above). High Turnitin scores will result in grade reductions. If a Turnitin score is higher than 50% unoriginal material, the highest score that paper can get will be a 50, because only half of the paper expresses your own work. 4. Make a Claim and Make a Case. A good way to write these papers is to think of these papers as a dialogue/conversation with the person or material with which you are instructed to interact. You are interacting with the author or writing and making a case for or against it, or nuancing the position in some way. Tell us what they say in a sentence or two, then why you either support, reject, or would massage the positions. Then support your claim that with Scripture (do not write out passages—see #2 and #3 above!). Also, support your view with theological citations (eschatology or other systematic theology books) and historical sources (primary or secondary sources). So, for example, if you don't believe that there is an “eschatological aspect of holiness because we are baptized into Christ's body and since He is holy, we are,” then address the verses Svigel uses to support that concept and add the ones you think gives more weight to your argument; include historical precedence and the input of other theologians. Include Historical and Theological Support. This is a requirement. Lectures often present biblical (exegetical), theological, and historical arguments to support the positions. Usually, in position papers, the historical dimension is missing. The historical aspect demonstrates awareness of how views have changed or developed, what the earliest Christians held and why, and how this factors into our understanding and application of Scripture. The majority of these sources are readily available in English and most are online. You can use the same sources, or find even more if you want to. But rooting your argument in history and interacting with other theologians, especially different theological positions, allows you to expand your dialogue partners and is a key difference between graduate level work in theology and undergraduate work. Get used to this. Students should plan to spend about 20 hours completing 3 Position Papers (about 5–7 hours of reading, reflection, writing, and editing per paper).