

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This brief list contains titles which I have found to be most helpful. It certainly does not have every good work out there, just the ones I am familiar with. I include a few notes to help you get a feel for each book.

Practical Christian Theology, Fourth Edition by Floyd Barackman (Kregel, 2012)

This is a very helpful resource. It is a mile wide but more than an inch deep in many places. It covers all the branches of systematic theology including one labelled Zoology, the doctrine of living the Christian life! Barackman taught at Word of Life for many years. This may be the best one on this list for young people.

Christian Theology, Third Edition by Millard Erickson (Baker, 2013)

I cut my theological teeth on these pages by a Southern Baptist. It is quite extensive, almost 1300 pages, but it is not difficult to read. One caution would be his anthropology. He seems to acknowledge the possibility of human-like creatures before Adam. Erickson has published some other titles useful for the Christian covering different theological matters.

Systematic Theology by Norman Geisler (Bethany House, 2011)

This work is very thorough, almost 1800 pages! Anyone who is familiar with Geisler knows he is methodical and logical. This is a good one for someone who wants to get into some details.

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem (Zondervan, 1994)

In many ways this is an outstanding volume. It is thorough (about 1250 pages), well-written, includes issues related to the Christian life, and has features which very few other systematic theology works have. Each chapter ends with personal application questions, a list of references (with page numbers) to other books on theology, a bibliography proper on volumes which address the issues in that chapter, an appropriate memory verse, and the words from one of the great hymns of the faith! Grudem holds that all the spiritual gifts are operational today. He has written two other shorter versions of his work. One is *Bible Doctrine* (about 448 pages) and the other is *Christian Beliefs* (about 144 pages). If nothing else, he will get you to think!

Integrative Theology by Gordon Lewis and Bruce Demarest (Zondervan, 2014)

The subtitle explains the title: Historical, Biblical, Systematic, Apologetic, Practical. This volume discusses theology from a number of angles – enlightening. At the time of writing both authors taught at Denver Seminary.

Understanding Christian Theology by Charles Swindoll and Roy Zuck (eds.; Thomas Nelson, 2003)

Unfortunately, this book is out-of-print, but it is well worth the effort to obtain a used copy. All of the contributors are associated with Dallas Theological Seminary (current faculty, former faculty, alum). It is broad and deep but written with such an ease of style that the reader does not get bogged down.

Basic Theology by Charles Ryrie (Moody Press, 1999)

Everyone knows what a great writer and explainer Ryrie was. For those who want an even simpler work than Barackman's, this is it. The font is larger than most academic books and it's only about 560 pages.

I cannot resist recommending three other helpful (and more concise) books:

Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, Third Edition by Daniel Treier and Walter Elwell (eds., Baker, 2017)

This reference provides careful but not too lengthy definitions of numerous theological terms.

The Moody Handbook of Theology, Revised and Expanded by Paul Enns (Moody Press, 2014)

Similar to Lewis and Demarest's *Integrative Theology*, this resource covers Biblical, systematic, historical, dogmatic (Calvinism, Arminianism, dispensationalism, etc.), and contemporary theology. It is a very nice quick reference and refresher. It sports almost 60 helpful charts.

Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine by H. Wayne House (Zondervan Publishing, 1992)

This 140-page book is an excellent quick reference. As the title suggests, it consists of numerous charts which briefly explain dozens of theological concepts. Some of the charts deal with the strengths and weaknesses of certain doctrinal positions.