

# A Recommended Theological Bibliography

by Daniel Goepfrich, ThM, DMin

## Theology (General)

Robert Lightner, *Handbook of Evangelical Theology* — great explanations of theological terms and concepts; great for undergrad

Gregg Allison, *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine* — great for grad students; survey of how doctrine developed from the 1st century to today

Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* — a great reference work

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* — a series of radio lectures in which Lewis explores the philosophical and practical things of biblical Christianity

## Bibliology

F. F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture* — a survey of how the Bible was formed and compiled

James B. Williams; Randolph Shaylor, *From the Mind of God to the Mind of Man: A Layman's Guide to How We Got Our Bible* — a walk through the development of the Bible, including recent translations

Mal Couch, *Inspiration and Inerrancy: God Has Spoken* — a superb defense of inerrancy built on the doctrine of inspiration

## Christology

Harold W. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* — solid exposition on the dates of Jesus' birth and death

Matt Mikalatos, George Barna, *Imaginary Jesus* — not a textbook but a novel-style approach to how we tend to make the Jesus we want rather than submitting to the real Jesus; a fun, but convicting, read

## Angelology

Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm* — a counterpart to *Supernatural* that Dr. Baurain mentioned; best for grad students; have to work through some things that we may not agree with but overall some sound conclusions

## **Soteriology**

C Gordon Olson, *Beyond Calvinism & Arminianism: An Inductive, Mediate Theology of Salvation* — the best, thorough defense of free grace theology, proving that neither Calvinism nor Arminianism are biblical

Grant Hawley, *Dispensationalism and Free Grace: Intimately Linked* — a small book tying dispensationalism and free grace theologies, even though many of the classic dispensationalists were Calvinist (at least to an extent)

## **Israelology**

Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology* — an expansion of Fruchtenbaum's dissertation; covers Israel's past, present, and future, showing why it should stand alone as a major doctrinal category

## **Ecclesiology**

Christopher Cone, ed., *An Introduction to the New Covenant* — a multi-author exposition on why the church is not a participant in the New Covenant; rather the NC is only for Israel and only in the Millennial Kingdom

Alexander Strauch, *Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership* — the definitive work (in my opinion) on how the local church is to be structured and governed by a plurality of qualified elders

Alexander Strauch, *Paul's Vision for the Deacons: Assisting the Elders with the Care of God's Church* — complement to *Biblical Eldership*

Karl Vaters, *The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking That Divides Us* — a book written by a small church pastor specifically for small church pastors; encouraging and challenging

Thom S. Rainer, *I am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude That Makes the Difference* — a good exposition of the biblical mandate and responsibilities of local church membership

Thom S. Rainer, Eric Geiger, *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples* — a good book to help focus on the most important job of the local church, not getting lost in too many other things

## **Eschatology**

Paul N. Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy: A Comprehensive Approach* — a classic approach to dispensational, pre-trib, pre-millennial eschatology

### **Dispensationalism**

Chris Cone, ed., *Dispensationalism: Tomorrow and Beyond* — essentially a festschrift for Ryrie and dispensationalism

Paul Miles, ed., *What is Dispensationalism?* — a series of articles/chapters by nearly 30 contributors on dispensational theology

### **Hermeneutics**

Christopher Cone, *Prolegomena on Biblical Hermeneutics and Method* — an introductory hermeneutics text

Robert L. Thomas, *Evangelical Hermeneutics: The New Versus the Old* — an excellent graduate-level text; gets pretty heavy at times

Mal Couch, *An Introduction to Classical Evangelical Hermeneutics: A Guide to the History and Practice of Biblical Interpretation* — a good hermeneutic text, maybe better for grad than undergrad

### **Evangelism / Discipleship / Christian Living**

J. Dwight Pentecost, *Design for Discipleship: Discovering God's Blueprint for the Christian Life* — probably the best book on discipleship

Robert E Coleman, *Master Plan of Evangelism & Discipleship* — a classic work; one of the best books on biblical discipleship rather than focusing on just one or two aspects

Jim Putnam, *Real-Life Discipleship* — points out the parallels between physical growth and spiritual growth; offers a process for discipleship in the local church

Daniel Goepfrich, *Biblical Discipleship: The Path for Helping People Follow Jesus* — a comprehensive discussion on salvation, discipleship, and the eternal ramifications of following (or not following) Jesus; each chapter includes study questions for personal or group reflection; patterned after Pentecost and Coleman

Garry Friesen, *Decision Making and the Will of God: A Biblical Alternative to the Traditional View* — a biblical approach to making decisions

Charles Sheldon, *In His Steps* — the book that introduced the WWJD? concept; a classic novel that challenges its readers in their own practical discipleship