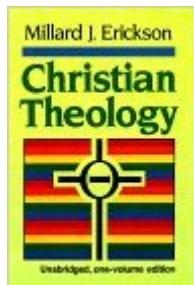


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Christian Theology



Synopsis

A new edition of leading theologian Millard Erickson's classic text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Erickson does an admirable job of presenting all sides of controversial topics in the best possible light. There are no straw men here. For instance, on predestination, he lists scores of scripture references supporting Armenian free will, and as many supporting Calvinist predestination. In most cases, he weighs in with his own take after both sides have been presented.

Millard Erickson (b. 1932) is a theologian (and ordained Baptist minister) who wrote this work between 1983-1985. It and Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* are perhaps the most popular current evangelical Systematic Theologies today; but Erickson's takes a cautious approach to "miraculous gifts today" (e.g., "it is not possible to determine with any certainty whether the contemporary charismatic phenomena are indeed gifts of the Holy Spirit"), unlike Grudem's supportive stance. Erickson subdivides the book into twelve parts: Studying God (e.g., "Theology and Its Language"); Knowing God (e.g., "God's Universal Revelation"); What God is Like (e.g., "The Goodness of God"); What God Does (e.g., "Evil and God's World: A Special Problem"); Humanity (e.g., "The Origin of Humanity"); Sin (e.g., "The Social Dimension of Sin"); The Person of Christ (e.g., "The Humanity of Christ"); The Work of Christ ("The Extent of the Atonement"); The Holy Spirit (e.g., "The Miraculous Gifts Today"); Salvation (e.g., "The

Antecedent to Salvation: Predestination"); The Church (e.g., "The Unity of the Church"); and The Last Things (e.g., "Millennial and Tribulational Views"; Erickson is Premillennial and Post-Tribulational). Obviously, one cannot summarize a 1300-page book in an review; but here are some examples of Erickson's views: As far as Free Will, he says "The position being advocated here is what B.S. Warfield regarded as the most diluted form of Calvinism... for it holds that ... God works in such a suasive way with the will of the individual that he freely makes the choice that God intends." (Pg. 359) He states, "The age-day theory fits quite well with the geological record ... (and) interpreting (the Hebrew word 'yom') as a period of indefinite length is not a forced understanding of the word, although not the most common meaning." (pg. 382) He suggests, "there is insufficient evidence for the existence of guardian angels." (pg. 445) "There is no condemnation (of a child) until one reaches the age of responsibility." (pg. 639) He notes, "It is not enough simply to believe in Jesus and accept the offer of grace; there must be a real alteration of the inner person." (pg. 938) He asserts, "Hal Lindsey's 'Late Great Planet Earth' is a noteworthy example of this type of 'eschatomania.'" (Pg. 1152) He contends, "Further, if God is to accomplish his goals in this world, he may not have been free to make man unsusceptible to endless punishment." (Pg. 1239) This hefty, detailed, yet seldom "dogmatic" volume is well worth a place in any serious theological library.

This book covers every major aspect of theology in a great deal of detail, and uses a great deal of Scripture to defend the stances Erickson takes. I don't agree entirely with his theology, but even the parts I disagreed with made me think it through more than I had before. Definitely worth reading.

Older Ed. but still good information

so so

This book was purchased for class. It was ok but I have read better books on this topic. So So.

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