

Christian Theology in 210 minutes “for Continued Reading” List

(because 210 minutes isn't enough time to cover the full depth and breadth of 2000 years of Christian thought...)

History of Christian Thought:

The First 1,000 Years: A Global History of Christianity by Robert Lewis Wilken

An incredibly thorough, yet very accessible survey of the development of historic Christian theology and thought.

The Spirit of Early Christian Thought by Robert Lewis Wilken

Slightly more demanding than *The First 1,000 Years*, this book charts the development of Christian Thought through the 7 ecumenical councils of the Church.

The Story of Christianity vols. 1&2 by Justo L. Gonzalez

This is a thorough, yet readable, survey of Christian history told over two parts.

“The Primary Sources”:

On the Incarnation by St. Athanasius

This is Christology 101.

Confessions by St. Augustine

Augustine weaves his mature theology into his own spiritual memoir and his journey of faith.

Dogmatics in Outline by Karl Barth

A bit challenging, but will give you a brief, yet robust, modern systematic theology. Other quick reads by Karl Barth, the greatest modern theologian, would be “Strange New World Within the Bible” by Karl Barth found in *The Word of God and the Word of Man*, “Protestant Theology in the 19th Century” by Karl Barth found in *The Humanity of God*, and *The Epistle to the Romans*.

Modern Issues in Theology:

She Who Is by Elizabeth Johnson

Elizabeth Johnson is a Roman Catholic theologian who wrote a book arguing for the use of feminine pronouns with respect to God and *didn't* get excommunicated for her work; so you know she gets her classic Trinitarian theology right!

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone

James Cone is a disciple of Karl Barth who seeks to apply Christology and a christocentric soteriology to racial history in the American South.

The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race by Willie James Jennings

Full disclosure: this book is as challenging as they come. However, an enterprising reader will find here a theological account of racialization as well as applying doctrines of soteriology, eschatology, and ecclesiology to a racialized American church.

The Creed by Luke Timothy Johnson

Very good meditation on the Apostle's Creed, the theology found within the Creed and its place within the life of the Church today.

The Divine Name(s) and the Holy Trinity by Kendall Soulen

Soulen does a wonderful job here of providing a survey of different ways to name the Trinity and provides categorizations for thinking about how different ways of naming function within Christian thought and the life of the church.

Jesus, Humanity, and the Trinity: A Brief Systematic Theology by Kathryn Tanner

A brief, yet robust, attempt at a Christocentric systematic theology that sees God as the giver of all good gifts.

Resident Aliens by Stanley Hauerwas and William H Willimon

A modern bombshell of a book that calls the church back to its original calling: to witness to the world what God has done in Jesus Christ.

With the Grain of the Universe: The Church's Witness and Natural Theology by Stanley Hauerwas

Hauerwas builds and offers a Christocentric natural theology.

Methodist Theology:

Responsible Grace by Randy Maddox

Simply put, the gold standard for a systematic understanding of Wesleyan theology.

Wesley and the People Called Methodists by Richard P. Heitzenrater

The history of the Methodist movement.

The Elusive Mr. Wesley by Richard P. Heitzenrater

An attempt to sketch a 360 degree picture of John Wesley

Practical Divinity: Theology in the Wesleyan Tradition

An excellent survey of the development of Wesleyan theology from Wesley to today.