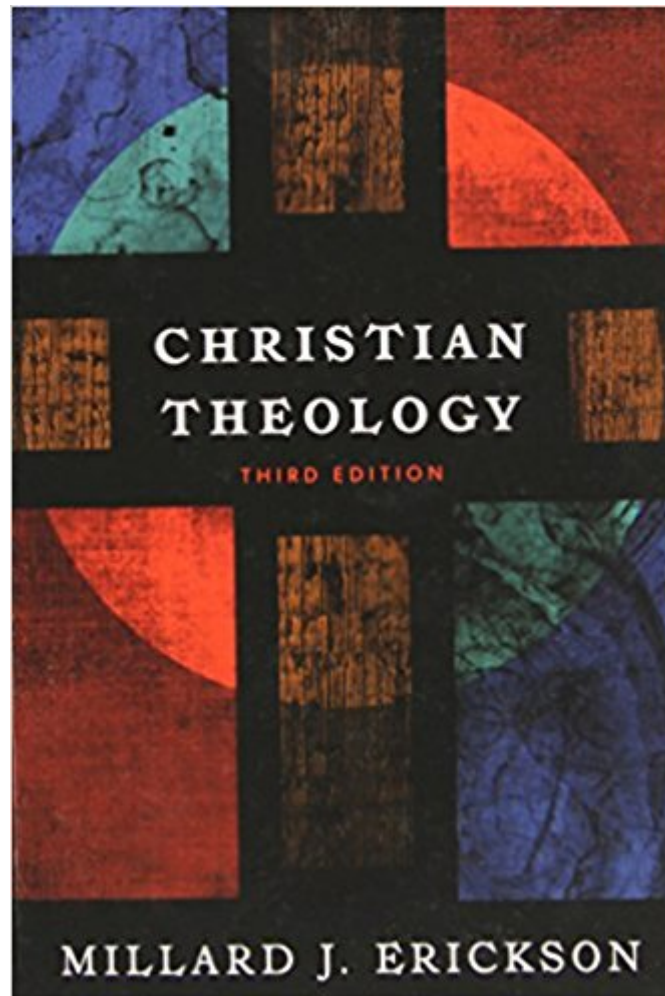




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# Christian Theology



## Synopsis

Leading evangelical scholar Millard Erickson offers a new edition of his bestselling textbook, now substantially updated and revised throughout. This edition takes into account feedback from professors and students and reflects current theological conversations, with added material on the atonement, justification, and divine foreknowledge. Erickson's comprehensive introduction is biblical, contemporary, moderate, and fair to various positions, and it applies doctrine to Christian life and ministry.

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## Customer Reviews

This influential textbook, now substantially updated and revised throughout, offers a comprehensive introduction to theology that is biblical, contemporary, moderate, and fair to various positions. The third edition takes into account feedback from professors and students and reflects current theological conversations, with added material on the atonement, justification, and divine foreknowledge. "This book is a very learned presentation of Christian doctrine on the basis of Scripture, but in continuing conversation with the tradition of the church as well as with modern philosophical and theological contributions. While affirming the divine inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, its form of argument is not fundamentalist but open and available to everyone interested in the issues of Christian doctrine. The author takes account of critical historical exegesis. His book constitutes an excellent example of the evangelical outlook on the Christian faith and a basis for dialogue with other theological positions."--Wolfhart Pannenberg, University of Munich "Christian Theology has established itself as the most widely used and most generally useful of modern

Protestant surveys of Christian truth. Robustly evangelical, essentially conservative, thoroughly contemporary, firmly Baptist, gently Calvinistic, and cautiously post-tribulationist premillennial, its fair-minded breadth and meticulous analysis of options have won it consistent praise. It is altogether a masterly piece of work."--J. I. Packer, Regent College"Millard Erickson's Christian Theology is irenic in tone while incisive in critique, readable in format while substantial in content, and always faithful to Scripture and to the service of God's church. The third edition will guide another generation through the ever-changing context in which theology must be done."--Gerry Breshears, Western Seminary, Portland"For many years I have known and honored Millard Erickson. What a consummate joy to see this third edition of his widely influential Christian Theology. The incomparable mix of a work of serious theological reflection yet such readability that a biblically literate layperson can grasp its message makes the volume special."--Paige Patterson, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas"Erickson has again given the church a clear-minded, well-stated, comprehensive expression of evangelical orthodoxy that is thoroughly informed for ministry in the twenty-first century. We are surely in his debt."--John D. Morrison, Liberty University and Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

Millard J. Erickson (PhD, Northwestern University) has served as a pastor and seminary dean and has taught at several schools, including Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Western Seminary (Portland and San Jose), and Baylor University. He has also held numerous visiting professorships, both in the United States and internationally. Erickson is the author of many books, including *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. He lives in Mounds View, Minnesota.

Great for seminary students. If not a seminary student and even for seminary students the terminology gets rather thick. Erickson has a book of definitions to compliment this one with the traditional agreed upon phrases within the study of Theology amongst world wide Theologians. One should not have a hard time finding it. Although it is a large book even more can be written. What this book does is look at the major topics in theology and the most prominent theories and who support them and who debate them. He gives a conclusion at each chapter on how to best look at the doctrine with the evidence given in Holy Scripture first, History of the church and new findings such as the work of students combing through the 1947 Dead Sea Scrolls. Much thought and work has gone into this study and probably is one of the best scholarly works done to date for the overview. Again as I said before much more could be stated and dealt with but the idea of this book is to familiarize the student with other belief and debate within the scholarly Christian realm.

I read portions of over a dozen systematic theology texts before deciding that this one is my favorite. He is insightful and deeply philosophical. The proper audience for this book would be someone who wants an academically rigorous, deep text. The reader who wants something more basic and introductory should also consider Wayne Grudem's text. Both authors are transparent and fair, so one can easily discern where he or she disagrees and still gain insight. One of the challenges of systematic theology is that the Bible is not written as a textbook, and some verses seem to oppose others. Erickson is very reluctant to "explain away" verses that seem to contradict his ideas. His careful judgments combined with exceptional clarity of writing without sacrificing depth make this my choice for a systematic theology book. However, Grudem's book is so simple and clear that you can put in less effort and still profit from it.

I just finished the Master of Religious Education at Liberty, and this is the book used for both Systematic Theology Classes at the Master's level. It is very, very thorough, and it not only presents all sides within a given perspective in systematic theology, but Erickson does offer his own evangelical perspective. There are a few items with which I don't agree; however, this book is one which every seminary student or one who wishes to make a "deep dive" into the Bible should have. GOD Bless.

Comprehensive, written in an academic style. He gives multiple alternatives, and then what he decides is the best option. In most situations, I agree. I disagree with his stand on evolution as well as his position on eschatology

A high quality treatment of a wide range of theological issues. I appreciate the way the book gives several of the prevailing perspectives on a lot of the issues and gives a healthy and unbiased check against reason and Biblical context for them. I read this book for a class at a seminary and I held onto it as I feel it would be a great book to use as a reference to stay sharp on some of the issues people may ask me questions about in my ministry career. The book's layout makes it easy to find the topic you need and skim through it for the main points, which is something I always value in this kind of a text.

The information in this book is spot on and really helps to understand Christianity (right and wrong theories, historical impacts, etc...) but can be a tough read just because of the way it is written. As

you continue to read it becomes easier, but at first I was turned off from it just because of the writing style. However I have to read it for my pastoral training, so I dealt with it.

Substance: 4/5 Readability: 4/5 Overall: 3/5 This is my second Systematic Theology text (first was Wayne Grudem's), so I will not presume to speak intelligibly on where Erickson's work fits in the grand scheme of ST. The Good: The ideas he put forth were done in a clear, proper manner. Where ideas were less complicated, Erickson used analogies and metaphors to help illustrate the point. I didn't agree with him on everything, but overall his opinions are predictable and evangelical. I knew from where he was coming and understood mostly why he believes what he does. As another reviewer put it, "Erickson is: robustly evangelical, essentially conservative and gently Calvinistic." Again, not that I agree with everything he says, but it's reassuring to read something through which you can grab a well-reasoned presentation of the author's opinion. The Bad: Erickson tended to make sharp, "assumed" statements that, I feel, cannot necessarily be assumed (opinions on heaven/hell, gifts of the Spirit, etc). When such statements occurred, there were no footnotes, explanation, or even guidance to another chapter in the book. Too often I felt I were "left hanging." The book was wholesome, well organized, and, personally, a great "second Systematic Theology text" to read. Nothing "outstanding," but nothing "horrible" either. DISCLAIMER: I only worked through Erickson's chapters on Creation, Providence, Evil, Image of God, Sin, and Christology (chps. 16-39).

First, let me say that I am a student of theology and love to study it. Second, I know a great book when I read one and though this book is great, it is massive and scholarly in its coverage it is NOT for your ordinary lay theologian. It is a read that will leave you well versed and incredibly informed, but it is not a book anyone will benefit from if you are only committed to a casual read. So . . . if you are just starting to fall in love with the study of God, pick another book, or buy this one and put it away until you are ready to take in all this incredible author has to say and challenge you with.

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