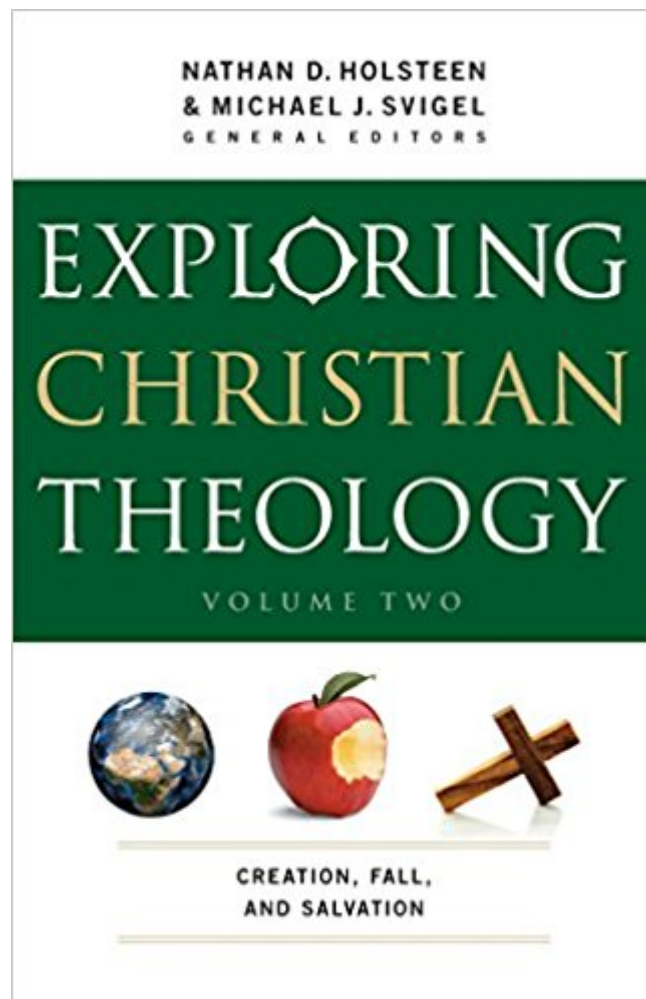




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Exploring Christian Theology: Creation, Fall, And Salvation



Synopsis

The Foundations of Theology in Everyday Language Dallas Seminary professors Nathan Holsteen and Michael Svigel are passionate about the key doctrines of Christianity. They want readers to know why they're important and why they matter. This volume includes two parts: **From Dust to Dust: Creation, Humanity, and the Fall** **Wise Unto Salvation: Gospel, Atonement, and Saving Grace** The authors explore these important topics in a concise and highly readable style that makes sense--whether you're a student of the Bible, a pastor, or someone who simply wants to know God better. For each topic you'll find:

- An introduction, overview, and review of the key points
- Several applicable Bible texts, including verses to memorize
- A quick-paced history of the doctrine
- Distortions to be aware of and avoid
- Reading lists for further study
- A glossary of theological terms

"Exploring Christian Theology is a wonderful doctrinal primer that teaches theology in a way that will engage you and cause you to reflect. . . . A great way to get acquainted with key biblical theological themes."--Darrell Bock, Senior Research Professor, Dallas Theological Seminary

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Customer Reviews

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Nathan D. Holsteen, ThM, PhD, is Associate Professor of Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he teaches all areas of systematic theology. Trained as an engineer, he is awed by systems of theology that exhibit internal coherence. Michael J. Svigel, ThM, PhD, is the Department Chair and an Associate Professor of Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He has written numerous Bible study guides, articles, and papers, and is the author of RetroChristianity. Learn more at www.retrochristianity.com.

All 3 of these volumes are very well-written for the layman as well as the theology student. I enjoyed reading them and learned a great deal. I would recommend them for anyone interested in theology.

A good summary and overview of key theological issues. Not deep but helpful. Covers a wide range of solid material.

Good summary of certain aspects of theology

Excellent!!

While this is Volume 2 in a three volume set it must be noted that this is the last volume being published. Volumes 1 and 3 have been out for a while. This project was taken on by professor's from Dallas Theological Seminary, thus the views are Protestant Conservative Evangelical. Most pastors will know that for decades the major Systematic Theology work from Dallas Seminary has been Lewis Sperry Chafer's 8 volume work. So, why a new three volume series? Well, the answer is

found in the introduction for the series, the writers are wanting you to Know God and to do that you must Know About Him. So that means that as a Christian layperson or professional you need to study Theology. But the study of Theology can seem like a daunting task for the layperson. Here is what the introduction states as to why this series of texts; "Exploring Christian Theology differs from other mini-theologies in that it strives to present a broad consensus, not a condensed systematic model of one evangelical teacher or protestant tradition.....Treat each volume as a simple primer that supplements (not supplants) more detailed treatments of theology--that complements (not competes with) intermediate and advanced works."So, what we have is an attempt to give a more readable version of a Theological Text for the layperson. This is not meant to take the place of a more systematic approach to theology, as it states it is to supplement and complement other works that your denomination might use.So, with that in mind I took up the task of reading through Volume two with the understanding that it was not a comprehensive look at the theological topics that it was going to tackle. I also liked what the author's had to say in that, "since this is not a systematic study you can pick and choose the topic you want to read without working through the text from beginning to end." That is good because most laypeople will have certain topics that they want to delve into without having to build upon them from one to the next.Volume two deals with "The Christian Story in Four Acts:" Act I -- Creation Act II -- Fall Act III -- Redemption Act IV -- RestorationEach of these topics are broken up into bite size studies that the reader can tackle and accomplish fairly easily. I particularly like their style of how they break down the four acts. The breakdown is: High - Altitude Survey Passages to Master Facts to Never Forget Dangers to Avoid Principles to Put into Practice Voices from the Past and PresentThey also give you some recommendations for further books and studies you might do from things that have been discussed in their text.Reading through this text I felt that they did an excellent job of breaking down the theological jargon in a way that a lay person will be able to understand. They have gone to great lengths to make the book readable.I would highly recommend this material for any person who wants to get to know God better and put that knowledge and relationship into more practical use in their lives.NOW, for one last bit of advice, for my Evangelical Free Church of America lay people this is a good set of books to read, but you also should purchase a copy of "Evangelical Convictions, A Theological Exposition of the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America." It is the official book to explain the complete Statement of Faith of our denomination. It is also well written and also written in a way that any layperson, pastor or theologian can understand.Enjoy learning more about God as you read through these books, and don't forget to spend time in your Bible as well.

In Exploring Christian Theology, Volume Two: Creation, Fall and Salvation, Editors Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Svigel discuss two fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith: the fall of man and salvation. The authors begin with a brief overview of creation and redemption before turning to the principle subject matter of original sin and its effects, and the salvation provided by Jesus Christ. They support their exposition with biblical passages and helpful illustrations. Designed to be helpful to Christians at any stage of their spiritual journey, Exploring Christian Theology is not an exhaustive study but a basic primer, complete with a brief explanation of each specific doctrine in its historical context. Exploring Christian Theology, Volume Two, is not a long work, but it is worthy of a slow read. In order to understand the principles explained, readers should not rush through this important book. The illustrations and charts are extremely useful, and there is a list of additional resources for further study included. For the most part, the editors explain these doctrines well. It is important to note that this volume does not argue for six-day creation, but rather presupposes it. I would have preferred more detailed explanations within their historical context instead of personal application. But Exploring Christian Theology, Volume Two is theologically sound for believers who wish to strengthen their understanding and confidence in the Christian faith. I was given a free copy from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

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