I. Church History, Theology and Philosophy Department

This volume of the Journal inaugurates a new feature, namely brief bibliographies covering areas taught within the various departments of Ashland Theological Seminary. Our first installment features works on: Hermeneutics (Dr. Colijn), Christian Theology (Drs. Colijn, Keefer, Stoffer), Historical Theology and Church History (Drs. Keefer and Stoffer), and the more limited topics of Women’s Studies (Dr. Watson) and Christian Prayer (Dr. Flora).

Hermeneutics


Offers insights from linguistics in doing biblical exegesis and theology. Addresses meaning in general, word studies, sentence analysis, discourse analysis, and nonliteral language.


Explores four models for understanding Scripture derived from the Bible’s varied forms: witnessing tradition, authoritative canon, inspired word, and experienced revelation.


Historical survey beginning with the use of the OT in the NT. Emphasizes periods in which significant new developments in hermeneutics took place.


Comprehensive introduction to exegetical and hermeneutical issues from an evangelical perspective. Contains excellent annotated bibliography of exegetical resources.


Articles by various contributors describe and demonstrate the traditional historical methods of biblical criticism as well as more contemporary literary approaches.

Annotated Bibliography

Discusses the role of Scripture in the development of theology in various ecclesiastical traditions and theological positions. Illustrates each position with a representative sermon.


Surveys recent development in biblical hermeneutics; presents a variety of approaches, including typological, "precritical," theological, literary, contextual, anthropological, and ideological.


Evangelical introduction to exegetical and hermeneutical issues informed by linguistics and other contemporary perspectives. Covers general hermeneutics, genre analysis, and contextualization.


Presents excerpts from writings on different sides of the four title issues and analyzes the hermeneutics employed by the writers. Proposes his own approach as a response.


Philosophical hermeneutics by an evangelical in dialogue with contemporary philosophies.

Christian Theology


An accessible introduction to Barth’s theology, organized as a commentary on the Apostles’ Creed.


First three volumes of a proposed seven; covers prolegomena, Scripture, and God. Reformed perspective, influenced by K. Barth. Aims to balance the Word and the Spirit in doing theology.


The most important theological work in the Reformed tradition.

This contemporary exposition of systematic theology from an evangelical perspective is distinguished by its clarity of thought. At times the Baptist and mildly Reformed perspective of the author will be apparent to the reader.


A reconceptualizing of systematic theology starting from the NT conviction that the "last things" have dawned. Moves from God's salvific acts to knowledge of God's nature. Anabaptist.


Encyclopedic outline of biblical, historical, and dogmatic perspectives on the traditional topics of systematic theology. Carefully researched and copiously documented. Baptist.


Uses integrative theme of community: the social Trinity, salvation as a restoration of community, the church as eschatological community, etc. Baptist; influenced by W. Pannenberg and sociology.


Excerpts from the writings of representative figures in the history of Christian thought.


Begins with ethics ("the common life in the body of Christ") and moves to theology ("the common and public teaching that sanctions and supports that common life"). Believers' church perspective. Third volume on "Fundamental or Philosophical Questions" forthcoming.


Clear introduction to the discipline of theology--its history, method, and topics. Intended for university students. Attempts to avoid theological and denominational bias.


Presents the "consensual theology" of the church, drawing heavily upon insights of the early centuries but using later consistent with this consensus. Methodist; ecumenical.
Annotated Bibliography


Contributors representing various theological traditions and contemporary perspectives discuss how they do theology in a modern context. Both evangelicals and nonevangelicals are included.

Specialized Theological Works


An overview of the four main views of the millennium, each written by a major proponent of the view. Each of the four contributors also critique the position of the other contributors.


A work that seeks to develop a complete understanding of the New Testament doctrine of the atonement by developing the meaning and significance of the various pictures and images used in Scripture to describe Christ’s atoning work.


A unique work that studies the biblical concept of the church by considering over one hundred images or pictures of the church found in the New Testament.

Historical Theology

Historical Theology


One of the most thorough, unbiased, and readable overviews of the history of Christian thought.

Reformation Theology


A summary of the main theological emphases of the leading figures of the Reformation: Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, and
Menno Simons.

**Anabaptism and Pietism Studies**


One of the best brief introductions to the essential features at German Lutheran Pietism.


A well researched introduction to the Anabaptist movement including descriptions of some of the main leaders and a summary of some of the key theological and practical expressions of Anabaptism.


A collection of primary source materials organized in a systematic theological fashion. Klaassen’s selections provide a very good overview of Anabaptist thought and practice.


A translation of the work that launched the Pietist movement in German Lutheranism.

**Church History**


The most popular church history used in higher education today. The author combines scholarship and a style of writing that appeals to a wide audience. His history reflects contemporary sensitivities to race, gender, and ethnicity.

**American Church History**


A comprehensive overview of the American church by a leading evangelical historian.

**Life of John Wesley**

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Ponderous and a bit costly, it is the most thorough study of Wesley for a scholarly audience.

**Philosophy**

**Christian Ethics**


Written for practitioners, pastors and counselors, it provides helpful articles on the thinkers, systems, and issues relating to ethics and pastoral care. It is a handy reference for those who do not have the leisure for extensive research on a topic of concern.


It serves well as an introduction to ethical systems and methods as well as a helpful range of ethical situations Christians face today. Written from a conservative position, it helpfully summarizes the thought of ethical thinkers who have figured in Western culture.

**Christian Apologetics**


Written from a perspective that integrates Roman Catholic and Evangelical traditions, it treats all the crucial topics in an incisive manner. Readers will appreciate the persuasive appeal of its reasoning on the crucial issues of our time.

**Women’s Studies**


In this edited one volume, four committed evangelicals, Robert Culver, Susan Foh, Walter Liefeld, Alvera Mickelsen offer their own viewpoints on women in ministry.

The work is an opportunity for voices of Hispanic women to be heard. It begins to identify the theological understandings of Hispanic women. Included is a synopsis of each chapter in Spanish.


The work offers insightful expositions of the key thorny Pauline passages. It focuses on the historical, lexical cultural and exegetical details behind Paul's words in his letters about women in the home and ministry.


A collection of essays and primary source documents which tell the stories of pioneering women in the ministries in The United Methodist Church. Women of racial and ethnic diversity from the late 18th century through today contribute.


The work is a spirituality for all women. It challenges churches to examine their treatment of women. Women are called to reclaim the wealth of their heritage of faith and exercise the fullness of their talents and gifts.


The one-volume commentary provides comments on each book of the Bible with gender-sensitive scholarship for a broad audience. The work demonstrates how women's perspectives affect the interpretation of biblical texts.


Using as a key Luke 8:1-3, the work rediscovers Mary Magdalene and many other women who comprised an essential component in Jesus' ministry and in the early church.


In an accessible format, the work poses dozens of questions Christians are as king about the role of women in the church and world from Biblical times to the present.

Annotated Bibliography

The work is a landmark of emerging African-American womanist theology. The author finds in the Biblical figure Hagar a prototype for the struggle of African-American women from slavery to the present.

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

A. W. Tozer once remarked that life is too short to spend time reading good books--one must read the best books. In teaching a seminary course on prayer, I have assembled a long bibliography of good books for student use. The titles listed here represent the cream of that collection, the seeming best of the multitude that are available.

A second word might be added to Tozer's: one cannot (indeed should not) try to read all of even the finest books. If they are truly the best, a few will suffice through repeated readings over the years to nurture one toward the maturity desired of faithful servants. For in the end, the goal is not to read books about prayer, but to pray.

What follows is a broad-ranging bibliography representing a diverse selection of material on Christian prayer. I have tried to identify correct sources for all items, but with rapid changes in the publishing industry errors are inevitable. And some items are out of print, affording a fine excuse to search the shelves of the nearest used book store.

Need help in where to begin? You might try the entries by Richard Foster, Margaret Magdalen, and Douglas Steere. Those excellent books will steer you toward many others.

Student-friends have helped, directly and indirectly, over several years in assembling this bibliography. Special thanks go to Mrs. Carolyn Cooksey, Dr. Frank Marlett, Rev. Debbie K. Timmons, and Fr. Michael Ziebarth.


A treasure indeed, this is a collection of more than 1000 prayers with introductions and indices. Probably the best work of its kind. Highly recommended.


A morning-and-evening book for one month of personal devotions. Although now rather dated in language, the prayers remain beautiful and powerful. Worth pondering and sharing.


A short, practical work by one of this generation's outstanding Ortho-
dox writers. The central chapter concerns "Going Inward." See also Archbishop Anthony's *Living Prayer*.


The classic Episcopal collection of prayer materials for private and public use. There is nothing else in English quite like it. Highly recommended.


Igumen (Abbot) Chariton spent a lifetime collecting the material published here from the Russian and Greek traditions of prayer. It is a chief source of knowledge for the Orthodox heritage.


A nationally known preacher of the last generation shares his very personal story. Good insights, moving language, and many references to literature on prayer. Worthwhile. See also Day's final work, *The Captivating Presence* (1971).


A simple, attractive introduction to a personal prayer phrase or breath prayer. Worthwhile. See also the author's other books beginning with *The Hunger of the Heart* (1983).


A well-informed, warmly written introduction to prayer in transformation, intimacy, and ministry. Possibly the best general work in this generation. Highly recommended.


One of the best books from a century ago.

Annotated Bibliography

According to Evelyn Underhill, this is "one of the best short expositions of the essence of prayer which has ever been written."


This tiny gem is an introduction to contemplative prayer through a widely used ancient form. Includes fifty themes for prayer employing 500 biblical texts. Recommended.


Considered by many to be a near-classic analysis from the early 20th century.


An excellent historical introduction to classics of Christian devotion, with footnotes by pastoral psychologist Wayne E. Oates. Highly recommended. See also Hinson's A Serious Call to a Contemplative Life-Style.


This little gem surveys the entire heritage of Christian devotion in only 150 pages. It is broadly conceived, carefully organized, and clearly written with timeline, glossary, and indexes. Almost impossible to praise too much, it is highly recommended.


A well-written discussion of prayer as more than monologue. Worthwhile. See also her Open to God.


Perhaps the best recent work on centering prayer or contemplative prayer. More advanced than Pennington's introduction (below). Recommended. See also Keating's earlier works such as Invitation to Love and Open Mind, Open Heart (1992).


"The most important single book on the theology and psychology behind the experience of Christian meditation" (Richard Foster).

Laubach, Frank C. Channels of Spiritual Power. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H.

Summarizes the prayer teaching of a noted missionary statesman honored by the United Nations for service in teaching literacy. Worthwhile. See also his Prayer: The Mightest Force in the World, Game with Minutes, and Letters by a Modern Mystic.


An exposition of the Lord's Prayer which goes beyond usual expectations. This brief work is highly informed and capable of informing. The Anglican author is well versed in Eastern Orthodoxy. Recommended.


A fictional correspondence, this is Lewis's last book. Worthwhile.


A hundred pages of lean, spare prose by America's most famous 20th-century monk, an informed and gifted writer. Often cited. Nearly all of Merton's many works are still in print and available.


A pioneering work which attempts to identify "different prayer forms for differing personality types" using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Worthwhile.


A 19th-century spiritual leader expounds aspects of Jesus' teaching on intercession. Often cited. Murray wrote many other titles on prayer, most of them still available.
Annotated Bibliography


Meditative chapters on how 4th-century writers can speak to modern ministry about solitude, silence, and prayer. Recommended. See also Nouwen’s many other books; for example, *Pray to Live* (1972).


A modern version of an ancient prayer form which allows us to open ourselves for the Spirit to pray within us. The standard work on the subject.


A collection of texts written in the 4th-15th centuries by masters of the Orthodox tradition. In the Eastern churches, the most influential written work outside the Bible.


An easily read treatment containing an excellent section on imagery in prayer. Also has a first-rate annotated bibliography. Worthwhile.


Thought by some experts to be one of the finest comprehensive works ever produced. A classic description and analysis.


Prayer-essays by one of this century’s greatest theologians. A surprise for those who find his other writing difficult. Very worthwhile.


Practical methods for healing grief caused by the universal experience of transition and loss. Worthwhile.


A beautiful, thoughtful little book which enlarges understanding of what prayer can be and should be. Highly recommended. Steere’s other works include *On Beginning from Within*, *On Listening to Another*, and *Together in Solitude*.


The famed 16th-century Spanish Carmelite describes the progress of the soul to God through prayer. A classic available in many editions.

A standard work on the prayer life and teaching of our Lord. Often cited.

Although anonymous and undated, this simple book has started or inspired many on the journey of prayer. Recommended.

An easy, graceful entry into the Christian East which includes a wealth of quotations from Orthodox spiritual masters. A helpful biographical glossary of authors and sources concludes the book. Very worthwhile.

A church historian's meticulously documented collection of material almost impossible to find elsewhere. A treasure of faith and courage. The biographical descriptions of contributors (more than 20 pages) are alone worth the price of the book.

Autobiography of an unnamed peasant in 19th-century Russia who sets out to learn what it means to pray without ceasing and how he does so while struggling to survive. Brought the Jesus Prayer to public attention in the West.

A substantial treatment. Worth consulting.

A gifted current writer gently invites and informs the pilgrimage from pain to wholeness by way of meditative prayer. Other titles are *Prayer and Our Bodies* and *Prayer, Stress, and Our Inner Wounds*. Worthwhile.