



A Quarterly Journal for Church Leadership
Volume 7 • Number 2 • SPRING 1998

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

John Armstrong

- Bavinck, Herman. *The Doctrine of God*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1977. Bavinck (1854-1921), was professor at the Free University in Amsterdam. He offers a solid defense of classical theism which incorporates many good points related to God as Father.
- Baxter, J. Sidlow. *The God You Should Know*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1993. Baxter entertains some unusual ideas but always points the reader to *Christ alone*. Contains two excellent chapters on "The Fatherhood of God."
- Beisner, E. Calvin. *God in Three Persons*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale, 1984. Deals mostly with the doctrine of the Trinity and thus includes some helpful material on God as Father.
- *Bloesch, Donald G. *God the Almighty*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995. Volume Three in the ongoing *magnum opus*, "Christian Foundations." This is contemporary theology at its very best. Bloesch, always sensitive to serious orthodoxy, avoids rationalism on the one hand, and process and innovative theologies on the other.
- Bray, Gerald. *The Doctrine of God*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1993. This is the first volume in the series, "Contours of Christian Theology," and is the best modern defense of classical theism written by an evangelical author.

- Bridges, Jerry. *Trusting God*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1988. A simple, practical, helpful treatment that encourages us to trust God the almighty as a loving and faithful sovereign.
- Charnock, Stephen. *The Existence and Attributes of God*. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock, 1977. The classic Puritan treatment of the doctrine of God. Massive in scope, and often excessively wordy, this volume has been used with great profit to encourage believers to rediscover the centrality of God.
- Clark, Gordon H. *The Trinity*. Jefferson, Maryland: The Trinity Foundation, 1985. Clark, one of the leading evangelical rationalists of our time, defends the doctrine but relies too heavily upon philosophical arguments and so-called "logic."
- Erickson, Millard J. *God in Three Persons*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1995. A more helpful treatment of the doctrine than that of the aforementioned Gordon Clark. Erickson tackles the important questions regarding the Trinity and the relationship of the Father to both Son and Spirit.
- Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1994. Another volume in the series "Contours of Christian Theology." Helm is a philosopher who knows the Scriptures well and writes well.
- Henry, Carl F. H. *Notes on the Doctrine of God*. Boston: W.A. Wilde, 1948. One of the first books written by Carl Henry, this is still a useful little volume if you can find a copy.
- MacArthur, John, Jr. *The Love of God*. Dallas: Word, 1996. A biblical study which demonstrates that the Father's heart is one of love for all people, especially for His own. A good corrective to the emphasis of newer hyper-Calvinism.

- Macleod, Donald. *Behold Your God*. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 1995. Macleod writes, "It is impossible to honour God as we ought, unless we know Him as He is." Macleod's book is a remarkably clear and helpful discussion of God. Includes material on God as Father.
- *Packer, James I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1973. *The twentieth century classic on the doctrine of God. A book that should be carefully read by every serious Christian who wants to know, understand, and worship the Father.*
- Pinnock, Clark and Robert Brow. *Unbounded Love*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1994. One of the most discussed volumes produced by "evangelical" (?) theologians in recent years. This book demonstrates just how far evangelicals have actually drifted from the biblical doctrine of God as both Father and almighty God.
- Pinnock, Clark, etc. *The Openness of God: A Biblical Challenge to the Traditional Understanding of God*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1994. The "challenge" presented here is really to the Protestant Reformation as well as the ancient church fathers. The authors argue that God is "limited" in such a way as to never control what comes to pass or to know the future itself. This is a blatant denial of all that has generally been called "evangelical" and comes quite close to process theology at many points.
- Plumer, William. *Jehovah-Jireh: A Treatise on Providence*. Harrisonburg, Virginia: Sprinkle Publications, 1993. A useful older Reformed work, recently reprinted.
- Richardson, Cyril C. *The Doctrine of the Trinity*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. A little book, now out of print, that is useful in clarifying and explaining the doctrine of God

as it relates to tri-unity. Includes helpful material on each person in the divine Trinity.

- *Smail, Thomas A. *The Forgotten Father*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1980. One of the most important recent books on the subject, now seemingly out of print. Highly regarded.
- Sproul, R. C. *One Holy Passion: The Consuming Thirst to Know God*. Nashville: Nelson, 1987. A clear presentation of the person of God.
- *Sproul, R. C. *The Holiness of God*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale, 1998, revised edition. A classic of popular treatments that reads splendidly and appeals to both the heart and mind.
- Storms, C. Samuel. *The Grandeur of God: A Theological and Devotional Study of the Divine Attributes*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1984. Clear Reformed writing at its best.
- Strauss, Lehman. *The First Person*. Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux, 1967. A popular treatment that is part of a series on each member of the Trinity. Useful as devotional material.
- Torrance, Thomas. *Trinitarian Perspectives: Toward Doctrinal Agreement*. Edinburg: T & T Clark, 1994. Torrance is one of the foremost modern defenders of Trinitarian theology working within a wider ecumenical circle of scholarship.
- Tozer, A. W. *The Attributes of God: A Journey Into the Father's Heart*. Camp Hill, Pennsylvania: Christian Publications, 1997. Sermons preached by the late Tozer, an evangelical who kept a healthy "mystical" element to his thinking and thus avoided some of the philosophical pitfalls of other popular treatments.

- *Tozer, A. W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1961. Read this little book along with Packer's *Knowing God* and you will have the very best modern popular treatments of the Father.

*Highly Recommended