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A Select Annotated Bibliography

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Bowman, Robert M. Jr. *Orthodoxy and Heresy*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992. A good, popular, simple layman's overview of the issues.

Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. Clearly one of the most important such studies made by an evangelical theologian. Bromiley is wide-ranging and always fair.

*Brown, Harold O. J. *Heresies: The Image of Christ in the Mirror of Heresy and Orthodoxy from the Apostles to the Present*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1984. Why is Christianity so productive of heresies? Brown believes that the answer is simple: Christians claim to follow a message that is absolutely true. This is a readable, useful and highly recommended single volume work.

*Chesterton, G. K. *Orthodoxy*. Chesterton, a non-theologian Roman Catholic, provides in this gem, perhaps the finest apologetic for the place of orthodoxy we have in print. A true classic that all evangelicals should read.

Hultgren, Arland J. *The Rise of Normative Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994. Hultgren answers Walter Bauer's popular thesis in *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Earliest Christianity* (e.g., that heresy preceded orthodoxy in the development of doctrine in the early Church) by demonstrating that there were diverse trajectories from the beginning and there was a wide stream of "normative Christianity" present in the earliest records of doctrinal dispute.

Hultgren, Arland J. and Steven A. Haggmark. *The Earliest Christian Heretics: Readings from Their Opponents*. Min-

neapolis: Fortress, 1996. A compendium of well-chosen early Christian writings directed against a wide assortment of heretics (e.g., Marcion, Montanus, and the Adoptionists), especially the Gnostics. This is a genuinely handy resource for leaders.

Leith, John H., editor. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present.* Louisville, Kentucky: John Knox, third edition, 1983. Here one finds all the major theological creeds of the historic Christian community. This is a highly useful text and a good introductory tool for serious readers who might also pursue Philip Schaff's three-volume *Creeds of Christendom* (Baker).

*McGrath, Alister E. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 1998. Designed as a textbook, the author in fact provides a readable and useful tool for all serious Christians. After a very good introduction, McGrath provides case studies which reveal the issues frequently debated by orthodox theologians.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 1994. A work of both depth and clarity. McGrath is a clear guide who treats issues and individuals with remarkable fairness.

Neve, J. L. *A History of Christian Thought* (2 volumes). Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1946. This was the standard text in many seminaries until the 1990s. It is still a useful resource. It was revised by Otto Heick under the same title, and reissued by Fortress Press in 1965. Both now out of print.

Oden, Thomas C. *After Modernity . . . What?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990. Originally written to break ranks with liberal theology, this revision offers serious evangelicals a critique of modernity that helps them keep theological orthodoxy in its proper place.

*Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Vindication of Tradition.* New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1984. Few books have been as helpful to me in the search to better understand the role of tradition and the place of orthodoxy than this little book.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Development of Christian Doctrine: Some Historical Prolegomena.* New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1969. This cogent introductory work uses three case histories to show how particular doctrines brought about division in the Church.

*Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition* (5 volumes). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1971-1989. This magisterial set provides simply the finest and clearest overview available today of the development of the Christian faith and doctrine over two thousand years. Every Christian leader should make this set a priority.

Penzel, Klaus, editor. *Philip Schaff: Historian and Ambassador of the Universal Church—Selected Writings.* Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1991. Perhaps no nineteenth-century theologian made a greater contribution to the recovery of orthodoxy joined with a view of historic catholicity than the German Reformed writer Philip Schaff. This is a wonderful compilation of important work by Schaff.

Sell, Alan R. F. *Aspects of Christian Integrity.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990. Professor Sell, a philosopher-theologian with a deep interest in historical thought, looks at how integrity, meaning wholeness and honesty, is involved in discovering and propagating orthodoxy. A good, irenic, Reformed treatment.

Thielicke, Helmut. *I Believe: The Christian's Creed.* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1968, OP. A marvelous readable sermonic treatment of the Apostles Creed and the nature of orthodoxy.

*Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999. Thomas Oden sees this book as a development of his

After Modernity (see above) which is now "significantly [being] extended" by Webber's thesis. Webber believes the Church needs an anciently-rooted faith and a forward-looking evangelicalism. Here I believe is a *general* outline of where the Church could discover a meaningful paradigm for true reformation.

* Highly Recommended