



Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith

Wayne A. Grudem , Jeff Purswell (Editor)

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How do we know the Bible is God's Word? What is sin and where did it come from? How is Jesus fully God and fully man? What are spiritual gifts? When and how will Christ return? If you've asked questions like these, then "systematic theology" is no abstract term. It's an approach to finding answers every Christian needs to know. Bible Doctrine takes a highly commended upper-level textbook on systematic theology and makes it accessible to the average reader. Abridged from Wayne Grudem's award-winning Systematic Theology, Bible Doctrine covers the same essentials of the faith, giving you a firm grasp on seven key topics: The Doctrine of the Word of God The Doctrine of God The Doctrine of Man The Doctrine of Christ The Doctrine of the Application of Redemption The Doctrine of the Church The Doctrine of the Future Like Systematic Theology, this book is marked by its clarity, its strong scriptural emphasis, its thoroughness in scope and detail, and its treatment of such timely topics as spiritual warfare and the gifts of the Spirit. But you don't need to have had several years of Bible school to reap the full benefits of Bible Doctrine. It's easy to understand--and it's packed with solid, biblical answers to your most important questions.

Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith Details

Date : Published July 12th 1999 by Zondervan (first published June 29th 1999)

ISBN : 9780310222330

Author : Wayne A. Grudem , Jeff Purswell (Editor)

Format : Hardcover 528 pages

Genre : Religion, Theology, Christian, Reference, Christianity, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith for online ebook

Erik says

Solid study of the essential teachings of the Christian Faith. While the author is coming at these teachings from the Reformed point of view, it isn't required for the reader to hold to or agree with the authors viewpoint in order to benefit from the wealth of topics covered in this book. The Biblical verses when referenced are used appropriately and with the correct context in view. This was used in a study group, and it spurred many good discussions to help us learn the essential doctrines of Christianity. Recommended for group study.

Doug Pierce says

Great book!

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn about our faith in a easy to read format

Mike E. says

I utilized the book as a textbook for GATEWAY, an alternative to seminary for pastors and ministry leaders.

<http://www.efca.org/reachnational/efc...>

This book is an abridgment of Grudem's "Systematic Theology." For the person who wants something less comprehensive and detailed than a full-blown systematic, this is a good choice. Grudem is reformed, complementarian, charismatic, a historic premillennialist. He presents a variety of views on a given doctrine, but then argues (respectfully) for his own position showing the weaknesses of opposing viewpoints. His training in logic/philosophy is evident throughout.

His language is clear and this book avoids complicated and unnecessary theological jargon.

This is a reference work that probably most people would not read cover-to-cover.

At the end of each chapter he includes key terms, review questions, questions for personal application, and verses to memorize. This is helpful for classroom settings.

The other book we used, "Evangelical Convictions" is not listed through Goodreads but can be found here:

<http://www.nsresources.com/browse.cfm...>

Paul says

Just finished reading through Grudem and discussing it month by month with a group of young guys from my church. I don't agree with Grudem on all points eg the continuance of revelatory gifts or his premillennial view. And I'm surprised to see so much prominence given to the gifts of the spirit and so little given to the fruit of the Spirit and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. However I have found it very accessible and readable as a basic systematic theology. It was helpful.

Ted says

Helpful, albeit dry. A good introduction into a systematic and practical understanding of a biblical Christian faith.

Brandon Keel says

Used to teach an introduction to theology within a Sunday School setting.

I like this version a little better than Grudem's full Systematic, as I think he was helped by the brevity and edits. This is a great resource to wade yourself or guide others into the sea of theology. Grudem's strengths are in his ability to be concise without losing clarity, and in his fair summaries and engagement of alternative positions (himself a premillennialist, Grudem actually solidified my amillennial leanings in his survey of eschatology!). This isn't my favorite systematic, but it is probably the one I would hand someone who asked me for an introduction to theology. Another plus: it's very easy to outline for the purpose of teaching from it.

Seth Mcdevitt says

I liked Grudem's systematic theology better. This was, on its own, a useful reference. I'll probably keep this one at home and the other in the office. Decent text book.

Erin says

This took awhile to get through, but I was amazed by the amount of information I learned. You can read the Bible all you want, but it's an entirely different story when you understand all of the themes and deeper meanings that it conveys. This book did an excellent job of opening my eyes to these ideas.

Patti Greene says

Great reference book. I will be referring back to this book frequently.

Ruben says

I think, as Christians, we should all be "ready in season and out of season" and ready to give an answer for what we believe and why. This book, which I have heard many times as his "cliff notes" version of his other work Systematic Theology, is clear and easy to understand and at the same time challenging and provokes VERY deep thinking. If someone who is not Christian reads this, I would think they would have a clearer understanding about what we believe. Grudem starts from beginning to end, from the authority of Scripture to eschatology (study of the end times). What I like the most about this book and Grudem's writing style is that he backs everything up with Bible references that a person can look up at their leisure, or read straight of the page itself. He anticipates the hard questions that people ask regarding Christianity and answers them clearly and completely. He doesn't leave any point of view unspoken for. Everyone should read this at least once.

Amanda Allen says

Probably something I would grab if I had 10 minutes to grab my belongings and escape my house that was on fire. Essential.

Rachel Schultz says

Useful book but had to take a star off for what I felt was an uncharitable summary of the paedobaptist position

Butch says

Abridged version of Grudem's awesome Systematic Theology. If you've never read a systematic theology, you will probably be blown away by what you learn about how awesome our God is.

Stephen Escalera says

In Bible Doctrine, a condensed version of his longer Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem provides an excellent resource for study groups, Sunday School classes or individual study. When I first purchased this book to use in teaching a youth Sunday School class, I was a little hesitant as most Bible doctrine books I had seen either oversimplified things or was so difficult to understand it made teaching from it almost impossible. However, Grudem's writing style here was simple and quite easy to understand, yet at the same time did not sacrifice key elements of doctrine in order to obtain that simplicity.

Grudem covers what he views as seven key topics of Christianity: The Doctrines of the Word of God, God, Man, Christ and the Holy Spirit, Application of Redemption, the Church, and the Future. Each is divided up into several chapters that read very much like a class outline. There are review questions, application questions, special terms and Scripture memory passages at the end of each chapter.

What I especially appreciate about Grudem is the way in which he presents varying viewpoints on issues that

have presented some disagreement. Because this book seems designed for classroom use, space does not allow him to dive into all the nuances of each argument, yet he still manages to present most, if not all sides quite fairly, presenting Scriptural arguments used to support each. While he divulges which view he holds to, he does it in such a way as to encourage the reader to further study the issue and decide for himself.

For example, while discussing the topic of Creation under the Doctrine of God, he briefly touches on the fact that many evangelicals disagree on the age of the earth. He presents arguments for both an old and a young earth, with Scriptural support and interpretation for each. His conclusion was that while "Scripture seems to be more easily understood to suggest (but not to require) a young earth view.... It should be said at this point that, with the information we now have, it is not at all easy to decide this question with certainty. The possibility must be left open that God has chosen not to give us enough information to come to a clear decision on this question and the real test of faithfulness to him may be the degree to which we can act charitably toward those who in good conscience and full belief in God's Word hold to a different position on this matter." (p.139)

It is with this wisdom that Grudem approaches many of the topics and one of the main reasons I would highly recommend this book, especially for beginners of theological study. It's ease of use and understandability make it a valuable addition to any bookshelf.

Holly Peters says

Must read for everyone!

Excellent book for a class. Very detailed and provides great discussion. I completed this in an 8 month course with my church.
