

Recommended books for your theological library

Upon enrolment in the *PTC* course Moore College will supply you with a Booklist of recommended books. Please bear in mind that they are not required reading in order to pass the *PTC*. Rather they are given as recommendations in subject areas in which you choose to do further reading and research. It is reasonable to assume that perhaps the majority of those who enroll in this program hope to exercise some form of ministry of the Word long term. In that event, you will want to gradually build a basic theological library for both your studies and ministry. This is an important (and expensive!) long term investment in your ministry, and we want to offer some guidance in your book choices. There will be some overlap with the list supplied by Moore College.¹

Given here is a guide for people wishing gradually to build their theological library for study and ministry purposes.

Bibles

NIV Study Bible (New International Version)

Still a widely-used Bible in churches and for personal use. The Study Bible edition contains a lot of helpful background information, tables, diagrams, maps and comment.

NRSV (New Revised Standard Version)

An essentially literal translation that uses inclusive language.

ESV (English Standard Version)

An essentially literal translation growing out of the RSV that uses inclusive language selectively.

General Titles

New Bible Dictionary

New Bible Commentary (fourth edition, 1994)

A commentary on every book of the Bible in one volume. An excellent first chapter by D A Carson dealing with the dual nature of the Bible: the Words of God through the words of human beings, the canon of Scripture, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and how to rightly interpret the Bible. Another excellent chapter on by R T France on 'Reading the Gospels' that covers topics such as 'what is a Gospel?', the similarities and differences between the four Gospels.

New Dictionary of Biblical Theology (IVP, 2000)

An excellent aid to understanding the parts and themes of the Bible in relation to the whole. Among some very helpful articles are The Canon of Scripture, Scripture, Biblical history, Exegesis and hermeneutics, unity and diversity of Scripture, Relationship of the Old Testament and New Testament.

Lion Handbook of the Bible

Very helpful background to Old and New Testament. Contains lots of photographs, diagrams, charts and timelines to aid understanding of the biblical context. E.g. charts integrating Old Testament narrative, and prophetic writings with the wider historical context of the ancient Near East.

¹ Further recommended reading will also be provided with each of the diocesan-based units of the program.

Four-volume series

Dictionary of New Testament Background

Sets out the wealth of Jewish and Greco-Roman background that should inform our reading and understanding of the New Testament and early Christianity.

Dictionary of Jesus & the Gospels

In-depth treatment of select topics ranging from cross-sectional themes (such as faith, law, Sabbath) to methods of interpretation, key events in the life of Jesus to each of the four Gospels as a whole, to preaching from the Gospels today.

Dictionary of Paul & his Letters

In-depth articles on Pauline theological themes (such as law, resurrection and Son of God), broad theological topics (such as Christology, eschatology and the death of Christ), methods of interpretation, background topics (such as apocalypticism, Hellenism and Qumran), other subjects (such as Paul and his interpreters, the centre of Paul's theology), and articles devoted to each of the Pauline letters, to hermeneutics and to preaching Paul today.

Dictionary of the Later New Testament & its Developments

Articles on the book of Acts, the general epistles of Peter, James, Jude and John, and the books of Hebrews and Revelation, and preaching from these books. Extended coverage of developments in early Christianity through AD 150, including the writings of the apostolic fathers and the continuation and development of orthodox Christianity. Also articles on the Christian pseudepigraphal writings, Gnosticism, and Judaism post AD 70.

New Testament – General

Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey (second edition, 2005).

Very helpful for doing any work in any NT book. Presented in a very readable and user-friendly format. Excellent chapters on 'Why Study the NT?', 'The World and Identity of the Earliest Church', 'The Modern Study of the NT', in addition to a survey of every NT book.

The Message of the New Testament, by Mark Dever

Surveys the historical context, organization, and theology of each NT book in light of God's OT promises, showing the message of the NT as one of hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Is the New Testament History? (Revised Edition, 2003), by Paul Barnett.

This book is something of a classic, covering questions such as: were the NT writers eyewitnesses, what do non-Christian writers tell us about Jesus, have the original writings, travelled unaltered, across twenty-one centuries?

Old Testament – General

Encountering the Old Testament: a Christian Survey (1999)

A very helpful survey of the Old Testament, presented in a very readable and user-friendly format. Lots of pictures, graphs, and tables. An excellent first chapter on 'What is the OT and why study it', covering the formation of the OT canon, its inspiration, transmission and interpretation.

An Introduction to the Old Testament, by Raymond Dillard & Tremper Longman III

An introduction to each book of the Old Testament in its biblical and cultural context.

The Message of the Old Testament, by Mark Dever (2006)

A collection of over 100 of Mark's sermons on the OT that functions as a magnificent overview of the OT, demonstrating the 'big picture' of the majesty of God and the wonder of his promises, and showing how they perfectly anticipate and are fulfilled in the NT testimony of Jesus Christ (960 pages!)

On reading & interpreting the Bible

How to Read the Bible for all its Worth (Third Edition, 2003), by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

Covering everything from translation concerns to different genres (literature types) of biblical writing. In clear, simple language, it helps you accurately understand and interpret the different parts of the Bible – their meaning for ancient audiences and their implications for you today.

New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors (Revised Edition, 1993), by Gordon Fee

A comprehensive guide to the exegesis process, investigating the meaning of the biblical text.

Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors (Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged, 1984), by Douglas Stuart

A detailed step-by-step guide for exegeting an Old Testament text.

The God Who is There: Finding Your Place in God's Story, by D. A. Carson (Baker Books 2010)

A survey of the whole Bible in fourteen chapters showing how each part is linked and how they all converge in Jesus. A companion leader's guide is also available to help use the book in small groups.

Gospel and Kingdom: A Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament, by Graeme Goldsworthy

A classic landmark text that aims to help the Christian read the Bible as a living whole, recognizing its unity in diversity and its progressively unfolding message of God's Kingdom and King – Jesus.

Theology - General

Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief, by B Milne (Second Edition, 1998)

An excellent introduction to the great themes of the Bible.

Pocket guide to Christian beliefs by I. Howard Marshall

A very helpful brief outline of the fundamentals of Christian belief, grounded in scripture.

Christian Theology: an introduction by Alister E. McGrath

A comprehensive introduction to Christian doctrine. Includes an excellent glossary of theological terms.

Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs, by J I Packer (1993)

As the title suggests, concise bite-sized chapters on the nature of the Bible, God as Creator, God as Redeemer, End things.

Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine, by Wayne Grudem (1994)

Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion (Two volumes, edited by John T. McNeill, translated by Ford Lewis Battles)

Theology – Christology

The Cross of Christ: with studyguide, by John Stott (20th anniversary edition, 2006)

A classic exposition of the significance of Christ's cross that answers common objections against biblical teaching on the atonement in four parts: Approaching the cross, The heart of the cross, The achievement of the cross, and Living under the cross.

Understanding Jesus by Alister McGrath

The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross, by Leon Morris (Third Revised Edition)

Another classic of biblical scholarship, explaining the apostolic teaching on concepts that will always remain central to the Christian faith – words such as 'redeem', 'covenant', 'propitiate', 'reconcile', and 'justify', against the background of the Old Testament, the everyday language of the first century setting and rabbinical Judaism.

Pierced for our Transgressions: Rediscovering the glory of penal substitution (Steve Jeffery, Mike Ovey, Andrew Sach, IVP, 2007)

A fresh articulation and affirmation of penal substitution and engagement with over twenty specific objections to this doctrine.

The promise of His coming by David Williams

Comprehensive study of the work of Christ, including the second coming. Integrates the Old Testament prophecies about the Son of Man with the incarnation, the resurrection, and the anticipated return of Christ. Includes helpful study questions.

Theology – Trinity

Understanding the Trinity by Alister McGrath

A clear and concise explanation of the doctrine of the Trinity. McGrath starts from Biblical models of God and shows how the church came to understand Trinity as the only way of adequately describing the God of scripture.

Theology – Pauline

Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free, by FF Bruce.

Another classic text by a renowned biblical scholar. Examines the life and theology of Paul – main themes in Pauline thought, set in their historical background and illustrated from his letters. Among important subjects discussed are the Mosaic Law, the flesh and the spirit, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the life to come.

Paul, the Law and Justification, by Colin Kruse

Using inductive exegesis, Kruse examines the subject of the law and justification in each of Paul's letters then attempts a synthesis of his teaching on the subject.

Theology and culture

Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends (eds., Kevin J Vanhoozer, C A Anderson, M J Sleasman, Baker Academic Press, 2007)

An innovative book that helps Christians think theologically about our cultural environment and respond faithfully as Christian disciples. Firstly a Method is given for reading culture theologically, then essays assessing and analyzing cultural trends and suggesting Christians' response as 'cultural agents'

– trends dealt with include the good life according to the supermarket checkout, busyness, blogging and designer funerals.

What Christians really believe and why by Stanley Grenz

Examines the desire for meaning in the modern world, and shows how Christianity provides answers for today's questions.

Jesus

The Two Faces of Jesus, by Paul Barnett

Paul was Anglican Bishop of North Sydney. He is visiting fellow in ancient history at Macquarie University, Sydney, research professor at Regent College, Vancouver, and author of numerous books and commentaries. In this book, Paul answers the fashionable presentation of Jesus as no more than a first century rabbi and prophet, by arguing from historical evidence and the apostolic writings, that behind the public face of Jesus, the first century Jew, is the private filial face – the face of the Son of God.

The early church in its Greco-Roman setting

Jesus & the Rise of Early Christianity: A History of New Testament Times, by Paul Barnett

A comprehensive survey of New Testament history that engages with contemporary scholarship and argues that the historical and risen Jesus was the driving force of the early Christian history.

The progress of Christianity

The Spreading Flame: The Rise and Progress of Christianity from its First Beginnings to the Conversion of the English, by FF Bruce

An introduction to Christianity by Alister E. McGrath

A comprehensive overview of the development of Christianity from Biblical times to the present.

The Story of the Church (Second and enlarged edition), A M Renwick & A M Harman

A handy and concise summary of church history.

Commentaries

Complete set of Tyndale Bible Commentaries

Complete set of Bible Speaks Today Bible Commentaries

The Servant King: Reading Mark Today (Anglican Information Office, 2000), by Paul Barnett

Useful for the PTC unit – 'New Testament 1' – and for teaching and preaching on Mark's Gospel.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts, Then and Now (Revised & reprinted in 1999), by Max Turner

A clear scholarly consideration of the Holy Spirit that is rooted in Scripture and relates to aspects of contemporary theology, comparing Luke, John and Paul's teaching on the Holy Spirit to the experiences of today's churches of healings, tongue speaking, prophecy, and spiritual gifts generally.

The Giving Gift by Tom Smail

The Church

The Living Church: Convictions of a lifelong pastor, by John Stott (IVP, 2007)

Stott explores the biblical marks of authentic, living church, and urges our churches to be 'radically conservative'; that is, conserving what Scripture plainly requires, but radical in its engagement with culture.

The Provocative Church, by Graeme Tomlin

Argues for the local church to be a community of people who demonstrate what it means to live under God's gracious rule, cultivating a healthy community of grace that provokes the interest and involvement of those outside the community.

Total Church: A radical reshaping around gospel and community, by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis (IVP 2007)

A challenging and provocative book that argues for two key principles to shape church – gospel and community. The authors are part of The Crowded House church in the UK and plead for Spirit-inspired imagination to reconfigure church and mission around the gospel word and the gospel community.

Ministry

How to Speak at Special Events (Christian Focus, 2007)

An excellent resource. A collection of articles on every aspect of the process of understanding a passage of Scripture, and of preparing a Bible talk, sermon, bible study, occasional talks for funerals and weddings and more.

Please! No more boring sermons: Preaching for Australians – Contemporary Insights and Practical Aspects (ed. Keith Waller, Acorn Press, 2007)

A collection of articles by highly credentialed Australian preachers covering topics such as the importance of preaching, the preparation for preaching, preaching a series, occasional preaching, preaching OT narrative, preaching evangelistically, sample sermons including one on suffering.

Setting hearts on fire: A guide to giving evangelistic talks, by John Chapman (Matthias Media, 1999).
This book is the fruit of John's 40 years experience as an Australian evangelist. Here he passes on the skills and passion of understanding the Word accurately and explaining it clearly. A step by step guide on preparing and delivering a talk that clearly explains the gospel.

Leading better Bible studies: Essential skills for effective small groups, by Karen & Rod Morris (Aquila Press, 1997)

An excellent comprehensive guide for Bible study leadership, combining adult education insights, biblical principles, over twenty different methods for Bible study, and helping groups through the stages of their life.

Know and Tell the Gospel, by John Chapman (4th ed. Matthias Media, 2005)

Something of a classic by Australian Anglican evangelist and bible teacher, John Chapman. The book articulates the gospel, explores from the Bible why we must do evangelism, who should be doing it, and offers practical help on training ourselves and others.

A Pastoral Handbook for Anglicans: Guidelines for pastoral ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (ed. Charles Sherlock, Acorn Press, 2001)

Includes guidelines for Christian initiation – baptism, confirmation, thanksgiving for a child, guidelines for the conduct and pastoral care of marriages, and guidelines for the preparation and conduct of funerals.

Living with you, living with me: building relational health into God's family, by Kel Willis (CGM Publishing, 2004) *Kel ministers to Australian church leaders and to churches in conflict resolution. This book seeks to apply the gospel to relationships in church life and includes conflict and its causes, restoring peace, forgiveness and the challenge of change.*

Christian Coaching: Helping others turn potential into reality, by Gary Collins (Navpress, 2001) *Helps you learn the characteristics of an effective coach, how to build them into your life, and how to coach and lead others with servant leadership.*

How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil, by Don Carson
A biblical and pastoral treatment of suffering and evil under God's sovereignty that helps Christians prepare for life's difficulties. Includes solid study questions for groups.

Spirit of a Nation: The Story of Australia's Christian Heritage, by Stuart Piggin (Strand Publishing, 2004) *Reveals the untold story of how Christianity has decisively shaped our national identity and values.*

Leadership on the Front Foot, by Zachary Veron (APA 2009)
This book by an Australian Anglican leader outlines 23 principles to inspire and encourage church leaders, to lead on the front foot – proactively and strategically, with confidence and initiative, in order to create missional churches. Cover endorsement from our Missioner Bishop, Ross Nicholson: 'Leadership on the Front Foot bristles with a powerful blend of wisdom, experience and clarity of vision.'

Going the Distance: How to Stay Fit for a Lifetime of Ministry, by Peter Brain (Matthias Media 2004) *Drawing on decades of biblical reflection and experience, Peter Brain (Bishop of Armidale, NSW) explains how to keep fit mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually for the long-haul. This book is for anyone engaged in Christian ministry, whether lay or ordained.*

The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift that Changes Everything, by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne (Matthias Media 2009)

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