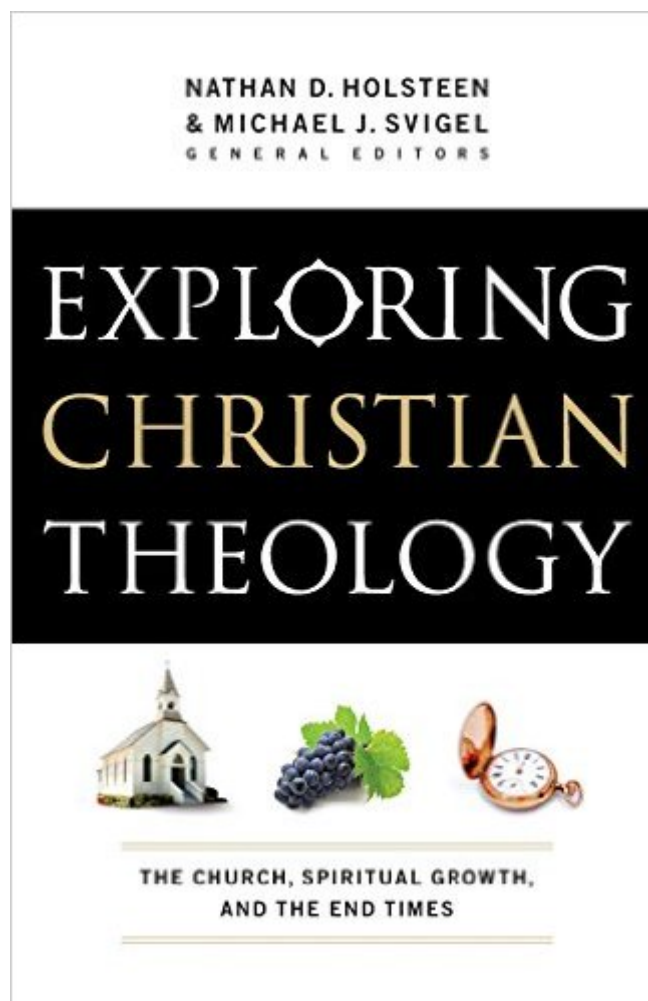


The book was found

# Exploring Christian Theology: The Church, Spiritual Growth, And The End Times



## Synopsis

Popular Dallas Theological Seminary professors make basic theology accessible for everyone, including key doctrines on the church, spiritual growth, and the end times.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Bethany House Publishers; annotated edition edition (January 21, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764211293

ISBN-13: 978-0764211294

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #405,261 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #241 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Ecclesiology](#) #649 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Eschatology](#) #9063 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology](#)

## Customer Reviews

"For some people, the word doctrine summons yawns of tedium, shudders of trepidation, or frowns of suspicion. Dogmatic preachers exasperate them, feuding denominations weary them, and droning scholars bore them. When people hear theology, the condition sometimes worsens. They picture massive tomes packed with technical discussions, less-than-crucial data, and incomprehensible footnotes - unusable information to distract them from God rather than drawing them nearer. Most people seeking to grow in their faith want practical principles, not theoretical concepts. They want to know God, not just know about Him. Yet the fact is that we can't experience real spiritual growth without solid spiritual truth. We can't know the true God without knowing God truly." (9) Studying theology can be a real source of joy and spiritual growth. Yet for many, particularly in America today, studying theology is mundane and not worth an investment. "Just give me that good old time religion." As the above quote suggests, the general editors of the series and the author of the book *Exploring Christian Theology: The Church, Spiritual Growth, and the End Times* (Bethany, 2014) seek to pen a book that provides a thorough survey of theological doctrines complete with biblical exegesis, historical developments, and practical application. The *Exploring Christian Theology* is a series published by Bethany House that seeks to introduce not just the nuts

and bolts of theology, but also its importance. As a pastor I could not be more thrilled to have the opportunity to review one of its volumes. In this volume, Drs. Nathan Holsteen and Michael Svigel tackle the doctrines of ecclesiology and sanctification (Dr. Holsteen) and Eschatology (Dr. Svigel).

This is not a typical theology book: it is written for a popular audience in a fun and accessible style while also presenting major theological issues within their historical contexts. It has two sections: the first addressing ecclesiology (the study of the church), and the second featuring eschatology (the study of the end times). The title "Christian Theology" may connote a larger range of theologies, so I want to emphasize that ecclesiology and eschatology are the primary focuses; other doctrinal theologies (say, the discussion of the Trinity, or of the work of the Holy Spirit, and so forth) are not discussed in depth as they are beyond the intended scope. Also, the application of the theologies at hand are highlighted more so than the theologies themselves, which is what makes this text unique and special. The first section I particularly enjoyed. It is concise, engaging, and draws examples from pop culture in order to bring application and relevance to each subject. The examples are appropriate for the intended audience (lay-persons who want to know a bit of theology), and I think the authors have done a great job of sharing an unbiased perspective and encouraging involvement and appreciation within and for the church body. The section on the end times could have provided a more thorough overview of the major positions, and also could have discussed the implications of each eschatological position. I did not enjoy this section as much, although the writing is still very accessible, and the overall message is positive (though a bit biased toward Dispensational Premillennialism). I appreciate the authors' focus on the big picture rather than on the details. The historical chapter within this section is also very good.

I was sent a copy of Exploring Christian Theology: The Church, Spiritual Growth and the End Times to review. Having read other theology books I was prepared for slanted views, undefined terms, and assumptions. I was unprepared for how eminently readable these books are. Yes, they are two books in one. The first is "Created in Christ Jesus: Church, Churches, and the Christian Life". The second is "When He Returns: Resurrection, Judgment, and the Restoration. While they are organized similarly, they are very different in tone and subject matter so I will examine them separately. "Created in Christ Jesus" by Nathan D. Holsteen is like sitting at my friend's dinner table. The dessert is digesting and we are sipping our glasses of wine or cups of coffee. Now that we are warm and comfortably well fed, I might ask "what do different churches believe about the church in history and what the Bible tells us?" My friend, an expert in

theology and church history, would reply by conversing on a level I could understand, using analogies from film (The Bourne Identity) and books (The Cat in the Hat) to illustrate and firmly plant in my mind the current scholarship about the church and major differences. As he spoke, it would become clear to me what I believed and why, and why others might be persuaded to believe differently about these matters. My friend and now spiritual mentor would suggest some short Bible passages to learn and would make sure that I understood the both the dangers that threaten a church's vitality and simple principals to remember so I could help my own church grow.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Exploring Christian Theology: The Church, Spiritual Growth, and the End Times  
The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse: Recognizing and Escaping Spiritual Manipulation and False Spiritual Authority  
Within the Church  
Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence For Every Believer (Commitment To Spiritual Growth)  
Church History, Volume One: From Christ to the Pre-Reformation: The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context  
Exploring the World of Chemistry: From Ancient Metals to High-Speed Computers (Exploring Series) (Exploring (New Leaf Press))  
Jacob Or Esau...Which Brother Are You?: A Study of Spiritual Israel and Spiritual Edom of the End Days Through the Type and Antitype of Jacob and Esau in the Genesis Account  
The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission (Biblical Theology for Life)  
The End of America - The Role of Islam in the End Times and Biblical Warnings to Flee America  
Exploring Christian Theology: Revelation, Scripture, and the Triune God  
Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classic Themes: A Project of The Workgroup On Constructive Christian Theology  
Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again  
Who Runs the Church?: 4 Views on Church Government (Counterpoints: Church Life)  
The Bible, the Church, and Authority: The Canon of the Christian Bible in History and Theology (Michael Glazier Books)  
Biblical Prophecy: Perspectives for Christian Theology, Discipleship, and Ministry (Interpretation: Resources for the Use of Scripture in the Church)  
SCARS: Christian Fiction  
End-Times Prophecy Thriller (The Omega Series Book 1)  
TRIAL BY FIRE: Christian Fiction  
End-Times Prophecy Thriller (The Omega Series Book 2)  
Christian Warrior Mindset: Spiritual Strength for Challenging Times  
From Times Square to Timbuktu: The Post-Christian West Meets the Non-Western Church  
Christian Coloring Cards: Beautiful Blessings and Psalms to Color and Share: A Spiritual & Inspirational Christian Coloring Book for Adults with ... Coloring Books for Adults) (Volume 1)  
Growth Hormones and Growth Factors in Acromegaly and Beyond: 4th International Workshop on "Highlights in Basic and Clinical Neuroendocrinology", Athens, November 2005: Proceedings

