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## Morgan's "Christian theology: The Biblical story and our faith" (book review)

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# Book Reviews

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Morgan, C. W. (2020). *Christian theology: The Biblical story and our faith*. Nashville: B&H Academic. 610 pp. \$49.99. ISBN 9781433651021

*Christian Theology: The Biblical Story and Our Faith* is an introductory theology textbook that uniquely addresses those topics regularly covered in a work of systematic theology. In this work, Dr. Christopher W. Morgan, professor of theology and dean of the School of Christian Ministries at California Baptist University, endeavors to provide a primer on theology that follows the Bible's story line. Writing from an Evangelical perspective, the author's intended audience is Evangelical and the work seeks to reveal how the doctrines within the story of Scripture impact the believer's life.

Morgan's focus on the biblical story line is key to providing an accessible introductory text. Both the structure and vocabulary contribute to his successfully providing such a work. Twelve chapters cover the essential topics one would expect in an introductory theology textbook (revelation, theology proper, Christology, the Trinity, ecclesiology, eschatology, etc.). However, Morgan adeptly weaves the narrative of Scripture throughout these chapters, revealing, more clearly than similar works, that these topics are not easily compartmentalized but form key aspects of the unified story of the Bible. At the beginning of each chapter "Objectives" and "Outline" sections prepare the reader for what the chapter contains and addresses. These sections also enable readers to use this book effectively as a reference work. Simple language accompanies clear structure that helps define key terms for the reader new to the field of theology. For example, rather than using the heading "Regeneration" Morgan uses "We Are Alive in Christ" (p. 2).

Throughout the text, two unique excursions offer readers a broader perspective on covered doctrines. Morgan includes excursions labeled, "Voices from Church History" and "Voices from the Global Church." The latter is a particularly strong addition. It introduces readers to voices not often included in theology textbooks published in North America. One reads the perspective of Christians from 10 different countries located in Africa, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean.

The textbook is well-supported and cites solid academic work. However, sources tend to come from a Western Evangelical perspective. A stronger work would include interaction with sources from other theological traditions. Such inclusion would

serve readers by encouraging interaction with alternative perspectives. Inclusion of these viewpoints would better serve the work's purpose as a primer.

Clear structure, simple language, and a continual focus on the biblical story line makes *Christian Theology* a strong contribution to introductory works in theology. *Christian Theology* succeeds in its purpose as a useful resource for college and seminary professors teaching introductory theology courses. Its value spreads beyond this narrow group however. It is also useful for local church leaders engaging in discipleship and all Evangelical Christians desiring a stronger grasp of biblical doctrine, how doctrine is communicated through the unified story of Scripture, and how practically to live out these doctrinal truths.

**Reviewer**

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