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Bird's "What Christians ought to believe: An introduction to Christian doctrine through the Apostle's Creed" (Book Review)

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In their conclusion the authors discuss vocation, various types of relationships and stewardship. With regard to vocation they conclude that a person has not just one vocation but many (citizen, neighbor, husband, father, and pastor) and that all have the “same great purpose: to do good to others and bring glory to God” (p. 122).

This book is more practical than scholarly in nature and would be most helpful for new believers in understanding their relationship with Christ and how to practically live a fruitful and godly life. The visuals are fairly simplistic but can provide an additional perspective on the content.

Reviewer

Linda Poston, Nyack College

Bird, M. F. (2016). *What Christians ought to believe: An introduction to Christian doctrine through the Apostle's Creed*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. \$24.99. ISBN 9780310520924.

Anyone who has read anything written by Michael Bird (lecturer in theology at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia) knows that he writes in a distinct voice: clever and relevant, accessible and direct, occasionally verging on corniness. But anyone who has read anything by Michael Bird also knows that he can be trusted to teach the historic evangelical faith with warmth, candor, and fidelity. This book is no exception.

Proceeding through the lines of the Apostle's Creed one by one, Bird explains their import for orthodox Christian belief, using a variety of illustrations and demonstrating why orthodox truth is *this* and not *that*. He also makes the crucial case for the legitimate circularity in the relationship between canon and creed. The apostolic teachings of and about Christ, fleetly enscripturated within the lifetimes of the apostles, framed the contours of the creed, while “the guidelines for determining which books were canonical were those that accorded with the apostolic gospel found in both the rule of faith and the church's creeds” (p. 36).

On a supremely practical note, Bird provides recommended reading at the end of each chapter. Most chapters correlate to sections in Bird's *Evangelical Theology* textbook, so *What Christians Ought to Believe* could be used as an introductory text for the larger work.

Reviewer

Mark Tubbs, Pacific Life Bible College