



Theology: The Basics

By Alister E. McGrath

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The second edition of this book, written by internationally-acclaimed theologian and author Alister E. McGrath, has been completely updated in response to feedback from readers. It retains the clarity and accessibility that made the first edition so popular, whilst expanding its coverage of a range of issues.

- Includes a major new chapter on sacraments and new sections on core topics, including the problem of suffering, the theology of sin, concepts of heaven, and views of the millennium
- Uses the Apostle's Creed as a framework to introduce readers to key theological issues, such as God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, faith, creation, salvation, atonement, religious history and heaven
- Contains within each chapter an overview of one of these themes, presents relevant biblical passages, and summarizes the contribution of one major theologian
- Written by one of the world's leading theologians for anyone taking a first short course in Christian theology
- Can be used alongside McGrath's *Theology: The Basic Readings* for a complete overview of the field

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Theology: The Basics By Alister E. McGrath Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #916727 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-06-05
- Released on: 2013-06-05
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Why Study Theology? Insights from author Alister E. McGrath



Author Alister E. McGrath

There are a number of reasons why it's both important and enriching to study theology and here I have listed what I think are three of the most important.

Firstly, studying theology is about making sense of some of the great debates and themes of history. It is impossible to study the religious art of the Middle Ages, the great literature of the Renaissance, the history of the sixteenth century, or the novels of J. R. R. Tolkien without knowing something about theology. To study theology is to pass through a gateway which offers an enhanced vision of human thought and history. It's like a lens that helps bring things into focus.

Secondly, theology enables us to see things through the eyes of others, so that we can gain fresh perspectives on some of the great questions of faith. One of the leading themes of C. S. Lewis's late work *An Experiment in Criticism* (1961) is that reading literature enables us to see with the eyes of others, deepening and sometimes challenging our own ideas. To read Augustine, Athanasius, Thomas Aquinas or Karl Barth is to have our eyes opened to other ways of seeing things. We may not agree with them, but their insights help us forge and enrich our own approaches.

Thirdly, studying theology brings new depth and vitality to faith. When the novelist Evelyn Waugh discovered Christianity in 1930, he spoke of beginning the "delicious process of exploring it limitlessly." Theology is about mapping the landscape of faith, discovering its landmarks, appreciating its inner logic, and experiencing its beauty and richness.



The Triumph of Saint Thomas Aquinas, painting by Benozzo de Gozzoli, ca. 1420-97, tempera. Musée de Louvre, Paris. The Art Archive / Musée de Louvre, Paris/Gianni Dagli Otti



William Blake's *Ancient of Days*, 1794, relief etching with watercolor, 23.3 x 16.8 cm. British Museum, London. AKG Images/Erich Lessing



C.S. Lewis. Getty Images

Review

"McGrath's approach is creedal and biblical. The chapters are lucid, engaging, and thought-provoking in so far as they serve as gateways into a complex (if not at times convoluted) field of study." (*Religious Studies Review*, March 2009)

"The publisher's blurb reports that the first edition was 'an international best seller' ... It deserves this success. Students need such a clearly presented, sure-footed account of the theological basics." (*Theological Book Review*, 2008)

Review

"With trademark lucidity, McGrath explores the fundamentals of Christian belief through the voices of its most revered theologians. From the groundwork of the Apostles' Creed, the text builds in measured steps upon its own foundations. This new edition will surely be welcomed by educators and seekers across a broad theological landscape."

—**Deborah Halter**, Loyola University New Orleans

"With new and expanded chapters, this second edition of *Theology: The Basics* manages to improve on the remarkable achievement of the first. Concise, accurate, and insightful, it's a wonderful introduction to the heart of Christianity."

—**Bradley Nystrom**, California State University

"Alister McGrath does not disappoint. This text provides for students, scholars and laity an unparalleled jewel that will define Christian theology for decades to come. An engaging read."

—**Noel Leo Erskine**, Emory University

"This attractive introduction is concise without engaging in caricature, accessible without being pedantic and historically informed without losing sight of contemporary discussions. Perhaps what is most striking is that

it provides very clear instruction while inviting students to make their own discoveries and draw their own conclusions. The text is generously supported with excerpts from classic theological works, and offers thought-provoking questions for student discussion. In this way, McGrath engages his readers in the very sort of ongoing theological dialogue the work surveys."

–**Steven Guthrie**, Belmont University

"The wisdom of a fine theologian and the savvy of an excellent teacher are distilled in this valuable book. It will be esteemed by teachers and students alike, for it is hard to imagine a better companion for beginning the journey of theology."

–**M. Douglas Meeks**, Vanderbilt University

Users Review

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Sheri Furlong:

The book Theology: The Basics can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why then must we leave the best thing like a book Theology: The Basics? A number of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you may give for each other; you can share all of these. Book Theology: The Basics has simple shape however, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by open and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

Christine Clute:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book Theology: The Basics it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Jeannine Ricks:

The book untitled Theology: The Basics contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the girl idea with easy technique. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice study.

Jere Araujo:

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