

The Gospel And Van Pelt Library

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One of my deepest wishes for you is that your studies will become an expression of worship so that you will see God's hand at work in your academic life.

There are lots of ways this can happen. One is so simple that it is often overlooked: you frequently have the ability to choose your research topics in a way that will allow you to consult edifying books. Since you have to do research anyway, why not take the opportunity to find out what fellow believers who have attained expertise in your area of inquiry have to say?

This is a list of books that might be helpful to you as you seek to think about all of life in light of your faith. All books are in the Van Pelt stacks unless otherwise indicated. They are presented in three categories: books that might help you on papers, books that you might find personally beneficial, and books that will help you understand the Bible better.

Aaagh – Too Many Books!

If this list is overwhelming, start with these:

Is the faith true? Check out N. T. Wright, Richard Bauckham, Larry Hurtado and Alvin Plantinga.

Humanities or Liberal Arts questions? Check out Taylor, Wolterstorff and Stark.

Science/Faith? Check out Numbers, Harrison, Morris, McGrath, Schloss, and Polkinghorne.

Homosexuality? Check out Robert Gagnon

Books That Might Help You On Papers

These books will stimulate you to integrate your studies with your faith, particularly your studies in humanities and other fuzzy classes. Most of these are academic works written by Christians (although not all are evangelicals). You will not (and should not) agree with everything within them simply because you share the authors' faith.

Barr, Stephen. A professor of particle physics at the University of Delaware.
Modern Physics and Ancient Faith - **BL265 .P4 B37 2003**

Bauckham, Richard. A research professor at Cambridge, Bauckham offers a strong defense of the fundamental reliability of the gospels.
Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels As Eyewitness Testimony - **BT303.2 .B36 2006**

Beckwith, Roger. Was the president of the California Graduate School of Theology. This book contains a wealth of data on why certain books are in the Bible and others are not.
The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church And Its Background In Early Judaism - **BS1135 .B43 1985**

Berger, Peter. A professor at Boston University, Berger is one of the most important living sociologists.
The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion. **BL60 .B42 1967**
The Precarious Vision: A Sociologist Looks At Social Fictions and Christian Faith. **LIBRA .201 B457**
The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge. **BD175 .B4 1967**
A Far Glory: The Quest For Faith In An Age of Credulity. **BV4637 .B38 1992**

Brams, Steven. Not a Christian, but has written some flawed and fascinating books blending game theory and theology.
Biblical Games: A Strategic Analysis of Stories in the Old Testament - **BS1171.2 .B73 1982**
Superior Beings. If They Exist, How Would We Know?: Game-Theoretic Implications of Omnipotence, Omniscience, Immortality, and Incomprehensibility - **BT130 .B69 1983**

Brooke, John. Former Oxford prof, now retired.
Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives - **BL245 .B77 1991**
Heterodoxy in Early Modern Science and Religion - **BL240.3 .H48 2005**

Clouser, Roy. A professor at the College of New Jersey, Clouser has written an important work on how all our beliefs (even mathematical theories) are ultimately theological. Read it.
The Myth of Religious Neutrality: An Essay on the Hidden Role of Religious Belief in Theories. **BL240.3 .C56 2005**

Gagnon, Robert. Gagnon is a professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This book is the definitive work on the subject – he leaves no stone unturned and no argument unaddressed.
The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics - **BS680 .H67 G34 2001**

Gilkes, Cheryl. A professor at Colby college and an ordained Baptist pastor.
If It Wasn't For the Women: Black Women's Experience and Womanist Culture in Church and Community. **BR563 .N4 G54 2001**

Gingerich, Owen. A professor astronomy and of the history of science at Harvard.
God's Universe - **BL240.3 .G56 2006**

Hatch, Nathan. President of Wake Forest University.
The Democratization of American Christianity. **BR525 .H37 1989**

Hauerwas, Stanley. Professor at Duke. Widely-cited.
The Peaceable Kingdom : A Primer in Christian Ethics. **BJ1251 .H327 1983**
Truthfulness And Tragedy : Further Investigations in Christian Ethics. **BJ1251.H33**
Against The Nations : War and Survival in a Liberal Society. **BJ1251 .H3248 1985**
Suffering Presence : Theological Reflections on Medicine, the Mentally Handicapped, and the Church. **R725.5 .H38 1986**
Unleashing The Scripture : Freeing the Bible from Captivity to America. **BR115 .P7 H365 1993**
Dispatches From The Front : Theological Engagements with the Secular. **BT738 .H32 1994**
In Good Company : the Church as Polis. **BV600.2 .H364 1995**
Christians Among The Virtues : Theological Conversations with Ancient and Modern Ethics. **BJ1012 .H347 1997**
Wilderness Wanderings : Probing Twentieth-Century Theology and Philosophy. **BT28 .H333 1997**
A Better Hope : Resources for a Church Confronting Capitalism, Democracy, and Postmodernity. **BJ1275 .H36 2000**
Performing The Faith : Bonhoeffer and the Practice of Nonviolence. **BX4827 .B57 H35 2004**

Harrison, Peter. Oxford professor of science and religion.
The Bible, Protestantism, and the Rise of Natural Science. **BS650 .H37
1998**

Hurtado, Larry. One of the very best scholars on early Christian history. Read these books if you've been hearing theories that somehow the later church revised its theology to retroactively make Jesus divine. It's absolute piffle, as Hurtado shows. He teaches at the University of Edinburgh.
The Earliest Christian Artifacts: Manuscripts and Christian Origins - **BR62 .H87 2006.**
Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity - **BT198 .H87 2003**
How On Earth Did Jesus Become a God? Historical Questions About Earliest Devotion To Jesus **BT198 .H86 2005.**

Johnston, Robert. A professor at Fuller Theological Seminary who has a lot of say about movies.
Reel Spirituality: Theology and Film in Dialogue. **PN1995.5 .J59 2000**
Reframing Theology and Film: New Focus For An Emerging Discipline. **PN1995.5 .R43 2007**

Kostenberger, Andreas. A professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. A prolific author, he has other books in the library, but they tend to be commentaries or otherwise exegetical.
The Heresy Of Orthodoxy : How Contemporary Culture's Fascination with Diversity has Reshaped our Understanding of Early Christianity. **BT1317 .K67 2010**

Lindsay, D. Michael. A very bright young sociologist who portrays evangelicals sympathetically. He is the president of Gordon College. Recommended reading if you are at all ambitious.
Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite - **BR1642 .U5 L56 2007**

Martin, David. An Anglican priest and a professor emeritus at the London School of Economics. This book was published by the UK division of Oxford University Press, which I assume is why Stanford only got it online. Oxford UK books are crazy expensive.
Does Christianity Cause War? - **BT 736.2 .M377 1997**

McGrath, Alister. An Anglican priest with two earned doctorates (one in molecular biophysics and one in theology) has many, many more books than these (including some notable ones on the Reformation). But these will get you started.
Christian Theology: An Introduction - **BT65 .M34 2001.**
Historical Theology: An Introduction To The History of Christian Thought - **BT21.2 .M17 1998**
The Reenchantment of Nature: The Denial of Religion and the Ecological Crisis - **BT695.5 .M444 2002**

The Order of Things: Explorations In Scientific Theology - **BT75.3 .M335 2006**

The Open Secret: A New Vision For Natural Theology - **BL200 .M35 2008**

A Fine-Tuned Universe: The Quest for God in Science and Theology - **BL183 .M34 2009**

Darwinism and the Divine: Evolutionary Thought and Natural Theology - **BL183 .M335 2011**

Morris, Simon Conway. A Cambridge paleontologist.

Life's Solution: Inevitable Humans in a Lonely Universe. **QH360.5 .C66 2003**

Noll, Mark, A professor at Notre Dame, Noll is one of the most important historians of the evangelical world.

God and Race in American Politics: A Short History. **E185 .N65 2008**

The New Shape of World Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith. **BR515 .N743 2009**

America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln: **BT30 .U6 N65 2002**

The Civil War as a Theological Crisis. **E468.9 .N65 2006**

Numbers, Ronald. A professor of the history of science at UW – Madison, Numbers has edited a serious book with a breezy title.

Galileo Goes To Jail and Other Myths About Science and Religion. **Q126.8 .G35 2009**

Plantinga, Alvin. A professor at Notre Dame, Plantinga is the man who many other philosophers consider to have defeated the argument from evil. Seriously. He's a big deal. He's written many more books than I have listed here – these are the three people most commonly point to as his defining works.

God and Other Minds: A Study of the Rational Justification of Belief in God - **BT102 .P55 1967**

God, Freedom, and Evil - **BT102.P56 1977**

Warranted Christian Belief - **BT1102 .P57 2000**

Polkinghorne, John. He was a professor of mathematical physics at Cambridge before he resigned his post to become an Anglican priest.

The Faith of a Physicist: Reflections of a Bottom-Up Thinker - **BT999 .P65 1994**

Beyond Science: The Wider Human Context - **Q175 .P834 1996**

Belief in God in an Age of Science - **BL241 .P56 1998**

Science and the Trinity: The Christian Encounter With Reality - **BL240.3 .P65 2004**

Exploring Reality: The Intertwining of Science and Religion - **BL240.3 .P64 2005**

Theology in the Context of Science - **BL240.3 .P65 2009**

Sanneh, Lamin. A Yale professor and a convert from Islam to Christianity, he is fascinated by missionary work and its impact on culture. He's got some very positive things to say about the impact of missionary work on indigenous cultures around the world.

Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture - **BV2063 .S23 2009**

Disciples of All Nations: Pillars of World Christianity - **BR481 .S26 2008**

Sayers, Dorothy. One of the first women to graduate from Oxford, Sayers was a renowned mystery writer, poet, playwright, translator and Christian intellectual.

The Mind of the Maker - **B100 .S3 1987**

Are Women Human? - **HQ1154.S27**

Unpopular Opinions: Twenty-One Essays - **PR6037 .A95 U57 1947**

The Poetry of Search and the Poetry of Statement - **824 .SA99**

Creed Or Chaos? - **BT15.S36 1949**

Christian Letters to a Post-Christian World - **BT15 .S27 1969**

Schloss, Jeff. A professor of evolutionary biology at Westmont College. I met him once and he mentioned that he got saved through Chi Alpha (back in the 80s if I recall correctly). Nifty.

Evolution and Ethics: Human Morality in Biological and Religious

Perspective - **BJ1311 .E95 2004** (with Philip Clayton)

The Believing Primate: Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Reflections on the Origin of Religion - **BL430 .B45 2009**

Schnabel, Eckhard. You can learn a ridiculous amount about the historical context of the New Testament from these books. Want to know what Ephesus was like when Paul ministered there? Check this out. Want to know how many villages were in Galilee when Jesus sent the disciples out 2 by 2? Schnabel tells you, and also estimates how long it would take to visit them all.

Early Christian Mission: Jesus and the Twelve - **BR165 .S34513 2004 V.1**

Early Christian Mission: Paul and the Early Church - **BR165 .S4513 2004 V.2**

Smith, Christian. A sociologist at Notre Dame, Smith is one of the best observers of religion in America.

Christian America? What Evangelicals Really Want - **BR1642 .U5 S623 2000**

Divided By Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America - **BT734.2 .E48 2000** (with Michael Emerson)

Moral, Believing Animals: Human Personhood and Culture - **BD450 .S555 2003**

Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers - **BL625.47 .S63 2005**

Sommerville, C. John. A historian at the University of Florida.

The Decline of the Secular University - **LC383 .S66 2006**

Religion In The National Agenda: What We Mean By Religious, Spiritual,

Secular - **BL51 .S62188 2009**

Stark, Rodney. These books follow a pattern – examine the contemporary consensus of historians and then reexamine the evidence using sociological models to see if it holds up. Frequently it does not and Stark is often able to demonstrate convincingly that the academy has major blind spots when it comes to the Church throughout history. His scholarship is uneven, but at his best he is simply brilliant. He got his Ph.D. at Berkeley, and so was hardly socialized to be sympathetic to the church. Stark was not a believer when he began his research on the history of Christianity and is only now a believer in a very loose sense. Read these if you're being bombarded with the message that the Church has been an instrument of oppression and violence throughout history.

The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History - **BR166 .S75 1997**

One True God: The Historical Consequences of Monotheism -

BL221 .S75 2001

For the Glory of God: How Monotheism Led To Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts, and The End of Slavery - **BL221 .S747 2003**

The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led To Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success - **BR115 .C5 S63 2005**

God's Battalions: The Case For the Crusades - **D157 .S736 2009**

Storkey, Elaine. Most recently a research fellow at Oxford, she has now moved on to advocacy work emphasizing relief and development aid and stopping violence against women.

Created or Constructed: The Great Gender Debate. **HQ1075 .S76 2001**

Swinburne, Richard. An emeritus professor of philosophy at Oxford, he has written many influential works.

The Coherence of Theism. **BT130 .S94 1993**

Providence and the Problem of Evil. **BT135 .S95 1998**

The Resurrection of God Incarnate. **BT480 .S95 2003**

The Existence of God. **BT103 .S95 2004**

Faith and Reason. **BT50 .S96**

Is There A God? **BT102 .S96 2010**

Was Jesus God? **BT220 .S95 2008**

Taylor, Charles. These are some of the most important works of contemporary philosophy and they are written by a thoroughly convinced Christian.

Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity - **BD450 .T266 1989**

Vanhoozer, Kevin. A professor at Wheaton. This book rebuts a lot of contemporary nonsense about how texts can mean whatever you want them to. He spends a lot of time interacting with Derrida, Fish, and Rorty.
Is There Meaning In This Text? The Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Literary Knowledge. **BS476 .V34 2009**

Vitz, Paul. Professor of psychology at New York University.
Psychology As Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship. **BF51.V58 1994**

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. A professor at Yale, Wolterstorff has written extensively on his faith and how it intersects with art, political philosophy, education, and whatever else interests him at the moment. He's one of those people who seem to be good at everything.
Divine Discourse – Philosophical Reflections On The Claim God Speaks -
BT180.W67 W65 1995
Justice: Rights and Wrongs - **BR115 .J8 W65 2008**
Works and Worlds of Art - **BH39 .W65**

Wright, N. T. This work (together called *Christian Origins and the Question of God* and part of an anticipated six-volume series) is a magisterial interpretation of the gospels as well as a robust defense of the historical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. His doctorate is from Oxford and he until his retirement served as a bishop in the Anglican Church.
The Resurrection of the Son of God - **BS2398 .W75 1992 V.3**

Books You May Find Personally Helpful

These books tend to be non-academic books written by Christians with academic credentials. I suppose they might prove helpful on papers, but they are more likely to be personally enriching.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. His book on community makes me cry. It's a magnificent study of the nature of true Christian community. Also, Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who was involved in a nearly-successful plot to assassinate Adolph Hitler. Really.
Life Together - **BV4503 .B622**

Chesterton, G.K. One of the great Christian thinkers of the previous generation. Exerted a huge influence on Lewis.
Orthodoxy - **BR121 .C5 1924**

Hart, David Bentley. Hart has taught at Duke and at the University of Virginia. His essays are a delight to read.
The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth - **BT55 .H37 2003**
Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies -
BR162.3 .H37 2009

Jacobs, Alan. He's a professor at Wheaton. You have probably never heard of this guy. Read him anyway.
A Theology of Reading: The Hermeneutics of Love - **PN98 .R44 J33 2001**
A Visit to Vanity Fair: Moral Essays on the Present Age - **BR115 .C8 J33 2001**

Lewis, C. S. Read him.

Mere Christianity - **BT77 .L348 1987**

The Screwtape Letters - **BR125 .L67 2001**

Miracles - **BT97 .L43 1947**

Reflections on the Psalms - **BS1433 .L4 1958**

The Weight of Glory - **BR123 .L48**

The Great Divorce - **T239 L585**

The Abolition of Man - **LB41 .L665 1947**

Moreland, J. P. A professor at Biola University, Moreland is very helpful when it comes to thinking about the reasonability of the Christian faith.

The Recalcitrant Imago Dei: Human Persons and the Failure of Naturalism **B828.2 .M673 2009**

Nicholi, Armand. A Harvard professor and fellow Christian, this is the book form of a class he teaches at Harvard.

The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex and the Meaning of Life. **BX5199 .L53 N534 2002**

Books That Will Help You Understand The Bible

Van Pelt Library has an adequate collection of commentaries. A commentary is a scholarly work that thoroughly explains one book of the Bible. Gordon Wenham's excellent commentary on Genesis is at **BS491.2 .W67 Vol 1 and Vol 2** and Robert Mounce's commentary on Revelation is at **BS2825.3.M69 1998**. Other commentaries will be mostly between those two call numbers.

Commentaries vary greatly in quality. When you browse the web, you should go to **bestcommentaries.com** while you select your volumes. If not, you should consult the *New Testament Commentary Survey* by D. A. Carson (**BS2341.2 .C33 2001**).