

## ENDORSEMENTS



### **Holiness** *A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Theology*

October 17, 2023 | \$45, 380 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0230-8

The command to “be holy” is one of Christian life’s most challenging and misunderstood commands. Three scholars from the Wesleyan tradition constructively argue for a “neo-Holiness” that encourages the pursuit of Christian perfection while incorporating historic understandings of grace and the work of the Holy Spirit.

## Holiness and the Wesleyan Tradition

“Doesn’t holiness mean that God stands in judgment over us because of our sin? Ayars, Bounds, and Friedeman answer that God’s holiness and graciousness are inextricably linked. By providing a careful survey of how holiness is understood both in the Old and New Testaments and by orthodox theologians from different eras and denominational backgrounds, the authors point us to a holy God who invites us to come as we are so that we can become like him. This book both uplifts and challenges us to accept this invitation by leaving a life of mediocrity and compromise to embrace a life of holiness.”

**Mark R. Teasdale**, E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

“John Wesley was convinced that God had raised up the Methodists to ‘spread scriptural holiness throughout the land.’ In many modern expressions of Christianity, a concern for holiness has been neglected—not only within evangelicalism generally but also within much of the Methodist tradition. This book seeks to recapture the vision of the Wesleys, showing that the doctrine is grounded in Scripture as well as the deep and broad Christian tradition. It will be a blessing to both fellow Wesleyans and Reformed Christians who will find much with which they can heartily agree.”

**Thomas H. McCall**, Tennent Professor of Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary

“With careful attention to the biblical, historical, and doctrinal material, Ayars, Bounds, and Friedeman make a powerful case for recovering the importance of holiness as a real possibility in the Christian life. Although the authors are confessionally Wesleyan, this book reaches across traditions, inviting all to reflect on this crucial matter.”

**David Firth**, tutor in Old Testament at Trinity College Bristol

“This readable, concise, and scholarly book on Christian sanctification is a ‘three-in-one’ approach, including contributions from biblical, historical, and systematic theology. The earlier chapters present a strong case that the Wesleyan approach to this doctrine has solid foundations in Scripture and the historic teachings of the church. The systematic chapters present an informative account of variations within the Wesleyan tradition. This is necessary reading for all within the tradition and a helpful primer for all pastors, teachers, and laity across the church.”

**Thomas A. Noble**, professor of theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary

“This is a most welcome book. Its great strength is in its comprehensiveness. It shows how the Bible lays the foundation, how the church has built on that foundation over its history, and then how we can think about the concept in ways that are philosophically and theologically sound. The final section on the theology of holiness is especially to be commended; Bounds has done a great service in making the subject both comprehensible and compelling. Both those who do believe in holiness and those who don’t should read this book. Both will be helped.”

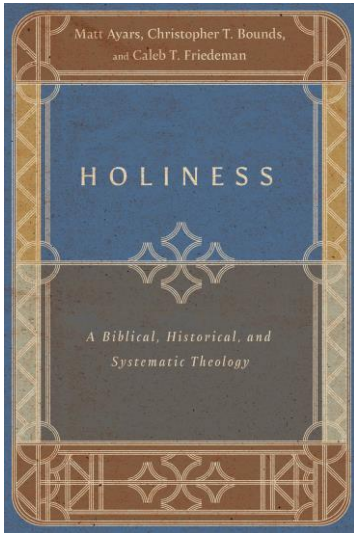
**John Oswalt**, visiting distinguished professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary



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“The heart and soul of all good Wesleyan theology, the doctrine of holiness, has been neglected for too long. This new work by a team of established Wesleyan scholars is a monumental first step toward a recovery of holiness not only as a doctrine but also as a way of life. A must-read for all who hunger and thirst for God.”

**Jason E. Vickers**, William J. Abraham Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies at Baylor University



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