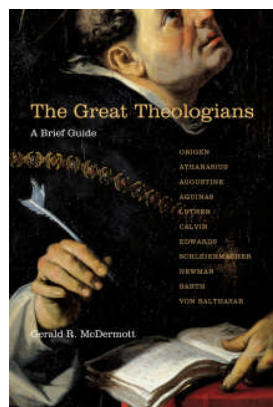


## BOOK DETAILS



*The Great Theologians:  
A Brief Guide*

210 pages, paperback,  
978-0-8308-3875-2, \$20.00

**Available March 2010**

# A Brief Guide to the Theologians that Influenced the Course of Christianity

After preaching a sermon that referenced Saint Augustine and Martin Luther, Gerald R. McDermott faced a familiar question:

Is there any way I can get a handy introduction to these theologians you and the other pastors talk about all the time? I wish I could go to seminary, but that's impossible. And I am afraid I won't understand a big textbook. All I want is a little handbook to give me the basics of each of these great theologians.

Like this church member, many Christians wish to learn the basics of the great theologians, yet don't have the time or opportunity to take formal classes or read dozens of sizable and arguably intimidating books. Finally, here is a concise and accessible introduction to some of the church's greatest theologians that any Christian can enjoy. Challenging but not overwhelming. Provocative but not frustrating. And not too long.

The table of contents offers a quick look at who the theologians are:

- Origen: Oft-Reviled but "The Greatest Teacher After the Apostles"
- Athanasius: The Black Monk Who Saved the Faith
- Augustine: The Most Influential Theologian Ever
- Thomas Aquinas: *The Teacher of the Catholic Church*
- Martin Luther: The Monk Who Rose Up Against Heaven and Earth
- John Calvin: Greatest Theologian of the Reformed Tradition
- Jonathan Edwards: America's Theologian
- Friedrich Schleiermacher: Father of Liberal Theology
- John Henry Newman: Anglican Theologian Who Swam the Tiber
- Karl Barth: Most Influential Twentieth-Century Theologian
- Hans Urs von Balthasar: Stellar Catholic Theologian of the Twentieth Century

From Origen to Barth, McDermott offers a brief introduction to eleven of the church's most influential minds. In the process he offers a glimpse into two thousand years of church history and thought. For each figure, McDermott provides a biographical sketch and a short selection of the theologian's work. He also explains the themes distinct to each thinker and how the theologian has impacted the church. He suggests lessons to be learned, offers questions for discussion and provides a list of resources should the reader desire to learn more. All this in language that is accessible to any thoughtful Christian.