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Confession is not always confession of sins, but the praise of God is poured forth in the devotion of confession. The former mourneth, the latter rejoiceth; the former showeth the wound to the physician, the latter giveth thanks for health.

ST. AUGUSTINE, PSALMS

What is the faith of the church reformed according to God's Word? More recent catechetical literature begins with the question, Who is God? Or more often, Who is man? Or perhaps with the question of truth. *The Heidelberg Catechism* does not seem to know these questions. It begins by asking, "What is your only comfort, in life and in death?"

KARL BARTH, *LEARNING JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM*, (123)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

T. M. Moore and John Armstrong

- Barclay, William. *The Apostles' Creed*. Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999. A popular overview that has merit for introductory purposes.
- Barth, Karl. *Learning Jesus Christ through the Heidelberg Catechism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964. Two essays by the great theologian that provide both commentary and evaluation of the catechism. Very readable and Christ centered.
- Beeke, Joel R. and Sinclair Ferguson, editors. *Reformed Confessions Harmonized*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. The editors have rendered a valuable service to the community of Reformed Christians by tying together the common threads of our doctrinal distinctives. This book could be an excellent tool for promoting greater unity among the various Reformed communities.
- Bray, Gerald. *Creeds, Councils and Christ*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1984. A most useful and careful book that establishes the role and importance of confession(s) among the earliest believers.
- Ecumenical Creeds & Reformed Confessions*. Grand Rapids: Board of Publications of the Christian Reformed Church, 1979. For Reformed believers the great value of this little book is the way it clearly allows the reader to see the connection between the *Apostles'*, *Nicene*, and *Athanasian Creeds*, and the *Heidelberg Catechism*, *Belgic*

- Confession, and the Canons of Dordt*. An outline harmony of these Reformed standards is included.
- Fairweather, Eugene R., editor. *A Scholastic Miscellany: Anselm to Ockham*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1956. Any understanding of systematic theology and the great confessions of faith begins in late-medieval scholasticism. This concise volume traces the development of the theological foundations of our current understanding of the system of doctrine. If the seeds of modern creeds and confessions are in the work of the Fathers of the church, many of these documents are the fertilizer and water that helped bring them to flower.
- George, Timothy and Denise George, editors. *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996. A great overview for Baptists, demonstrating that they clearly were a confessional movement historically.
- Hillerbrand, Hans J., editor. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation* (4 volumes). New York: Oxford, 1996. Articles on confessions and catechisms abound; e.g. *Augsburg Confession, Helvetic Confession, Confessio Bohemica, and Confessio Gallicana*. Also contains Denis R. Janz excellent entry on "Catechisms." No serious study of the development of Protestant confessions and catechisms should be without this wonderful set.
- Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Creeds*. Longman Publishing Group, 1981. Kelly's work is a classic in helping the reader to understand the background, necessity, and content of the first creeds of the church.
- Leith, John H. *Assembly at Westminster: Reformed Theology in the Making*. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1973. Leith's helpful history of the Westminster Assembly (1643-48) gives us a good look at how the creeds of the church were hammered out in discussion and debate.

- Leith, John H., editor. *Creeds of the Churches*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982. Leith provides an extremely valuable one-volume work that traces the history and development of Christian creeds from the Bible to the late twentieth century. Many confessions are excerpted only, but the number of entries makes this an important tool in understanding the history and place of creeds and confessions in the church.
- Luther, Martin. *The Schmalkald Articles*. Translated by William R. Russell. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1995. A short statement of faith that played a significant role in the early Reformation.
- Luther, Martin. *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*. St. Louis: Concordia, 1991 edition. One of the best Reformation catechisms which is still useful. Non-Lutherans will also profit from it.
- McGrath, Alister E. *I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed*. Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1998. A well written popular overview that pastors and lay readers can both derive benefit.
- McGrath, Alister E., editor. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Basil Blackwell, 1995. Designed as a companion to McGrath's volume, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, this work contains some 280 entries from various seminal texts from church history, including portions of creeds and catechisms.
- Miller, Samuel. *The Utility and Importance of Creeds and Confessions*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publications, 1830 (reprinted, Greenville: A Press, 1987). Miller, among the founding fathers of American Presbyterianism, confronts the classic objections to creedalism and chops the legs out from under each. His little volume is a powerful apologetic for the role of creeds and confessions in the church and the life of faith.

- Noll, Mark A. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*. Vancouver: Regent College, 1997. A profitable resource for all students of the Reformation.
- Ozment, Stephen E. *The Reformation in the Cities: The Appeal of Protestantism to Sixteenth-Century Germany and Switzerland*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980 reprint. Perhaps the best modern overview of its kind. It demonstrates very clearly the role that confession of faith had in the Reformation movement.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *The Apostles' Creed in Light of Today's Questions*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2000. Pannenberg is a modern theologian who should not be read without both discernment and care but this is a profitable little volume.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Vindication of Tradition*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984. For the reader who has doubts about the important role of tradition—which the creeds of the church embody—in the life of faith, this 1983 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities should put those to rest. We all operate out of one tradition or another; the creeds and confessions of the church are helpful in allowing us both to identify and scrutinize that tradition.
- Rushdoony, Rousas J. *The Foundations of Social Order: Studies in the Creeds and Councils of the Early Church*. Fairfax, Virginia, Thoburn Press, 1968. Rushdoony shows the social, cultural, and political implications of the Christian creeds perhaps as well as any modern writer. He helps the reader to see why firm creeds, resolutely held, can have world-changing implications.
- Sayers, Dorothy L. *Creed or Chaos?* Manchester, New Hampshire: Sophia Institute Press, 2000. Argues cogently that without creed the result for faith and life will be confusion and chaos.

- Schaff, Philip, editor. *The Creeds of Christendom* (3 volumes). Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1990. First published in 1931, this trilogy remains an important source for understanding the scope and content of the creeds of the church. Volume 1 provides the history and significance of the creeds. Volume 2 looks at the Latin and Greek creeds (original texts included). The final volume focuses on the evangelical Protestant creeds, many of which are discussed in this issue of *Reformation and Revival Journal*.
- Smith, Morton H. *Harmony of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms*. Greenville: Southern Presbyterian Press, 1997. Smith, perhaps the dean of Southern Presbyterian theologians, provides an extremely helpful tool for understanding and using the *Westminster Standards*, complete with brief introduction and Biblical references. His work is based on an earlier work by James B. Green of Columbia Theological Seminary.
- Stevenson, J. *Creeds, Councils and Controversies: Documents illustrating the history of the Church AD 337-461*. (New edition revised by W. H. C. Frend) London: SPCK, 1989. This is the best brief compendium of relevant materials from the period when the church first began to hammer out its foundational doctrines—of Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Trinity. Indispensable for an understanding of the many and various contributors to this important process and the historical setting within which they worked.
- Turner, James. *Without God, Without Creed*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985. Turner's account, which cannot be described as friendly to Christian faith, describes the gradual decline of America from a creed-based to an essentially atheistic society. Turner provides a sober lesson in what happens when the members of

the Christian community allow their historic convictions to slip.

Wiles, Maurice and Mark Santer. *Documents in Early Christian Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. The great value of this little book is that it presents significant documentary material from the first five centuries of the church, arranged according the headings of systematic theology, thus allowing the reader to have a look at the patristic foundations of the historic creeds.