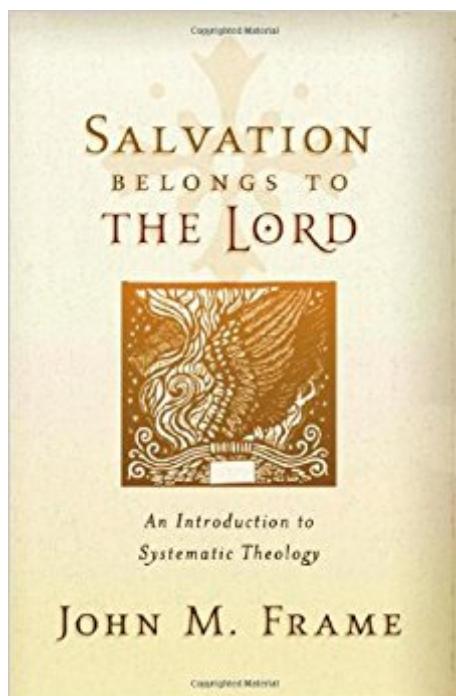The book was found

Salvation Belongs To The Lord: An Introduction To Systematic Theology

Synopsis

Beginning students of theology and church leaders looking for a theological refresher or teaching tool will welcome this remarkably clear introduction to the doctrines of Scripture. In an almost conversational style, Salvation Belongs to the Lord explores all the major biblical truths, explains key terms of systematic theology, and reflects on their implications and connections under the lordship of Christ.

Book Information

Paperback: 382 pages

Publisher: P & R Publishing (June 19, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596380187

ISBN-13: 978-1596380189

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars   26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #153,383 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #126 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Systematic   #173 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Salvation Theory   #3430 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology

Customer Reviews

"John Frame is not only one of the most productive theologians of our day, he is also one of the most lucid. Deceptively so, for behind every sentence in this extraordinary volume lies deep reflection. It is at once vigorously orthodox and sweetly pastoral. We can be grateful for such a powerful and clear exposition of the whole range of theology." --William Edgar, professor, Westminster Theological Seminary, author of Truth in All Its Glory

I've read a couple of "systematic theology for the beginner" type books now, and this is definitely one of the better ones. Where asÃ Â Putting Amazing Back into GracelÃ Â kind of dragged on, SBTtL was enjoyable to read from start to finish. When people describe this as "engaging" and "pastoral," they are exactly right. This is like the wisest older man in your church sitting down for an informal chat through all the major doctrines of the Bible.Not that he doesn't go deep, or cover controversial topics. He covers everything: God, the Bible, man, sin, covenants, Jesus Christ, the

Holy Spirit, and then election, faith/repentance, justification, sanctification, perseverance, the church, the sacraments, heaven/hell, and eschatology. I love that he spells out some of the various views of some of these things, explains which he sees as most Biblical, and does so without having to ridicule opposing views. There is certainly a time and place for that, but his irenic tone in this book was a breath of fresh air.The thread that holds it all together is the Lordship of God. He traces out most doctrines in terms of triads, 3 aspects of each doctrine that when viewed together, present a full and balanced view of the doctrine. I was surprised that the book had TWO main sections, instead of three :-)I would definitely recommend this to anyone wanting to start studying systematic theology. It's very readable, very enjoyable, your mind will be stretched, and your heart will worship, as you grow in the knowledge of God.

I am only half way through this book and it has taught me so much about Jesus and God that I haven't found anywhere else.Sure, I read the Bible, but this book categorizes topics and provides references from the Bible to back each of them up. It has provided conclusions I wouldn't have necessarily came to by myself just reading the Bible. For example, he has a full chapter on what the Trinity is, if and when it is mentioned in the Bible, and how we should approach it. Another example is the endless references to Jesus as Lord and how you may not notice the shift being using that word to describe him as opposed to God, and vice versus, and what that actually means.What I also like about this book is that the author will present a variety of opinions on some topics and explain why they may or may not make actual sense to put your faith in. Sometimes he may even say that interpretation is left open-ended. This leaves me feeling like the author is not trying to force his opinion on me but is objectively offering up the facts for me to digest.

I once heard Elliot Grudem say that John Frame is so smart that Chuck Norris wears John Frame underwear. It is true: Frame is to systematic theology what Chuck Norris is to catching drug smugglers in Texas - namely, badass.Salvation Belongs to the Lord began as a series of introductory lectures Frame recorded for the Institute of Theological Studies. Much briefer (and broader) than Frame's multi-volume Lordship series, this book is meant as a short introduction to the major doctrines of the Christian faith. Frame has a sharp mind, is extremely succinct in his treatment of ideas, and roots everything in his understanding of Scripture.Dr. Frame is unashamedly reformed in his understanding, but because all his arguments are rooted in Scriptural exegesis, the book is valuable even for those who don't share his reformed leanings. Frame is also extremely irenic, and clearly confesses which points of doctrine he sees as crucial, and others that he is not

willing to fight about. His temperament and tone should give him an audience with those who disagree with him.Those who know Frame's work will recognize his "tri-perspectival" categories working their way into every chapter. Frame looks at every topic or issue through three lenses: normative, situational, and existential. "When you ask directly what God's revelation says, you are using the normative perspective... When you ask about God's world, trying to understand situations we get into, I call that the situational perspective... Then when you ask about yourself, when you seek to know yourself, you are seeking to know from what I call the existential perspective." (77) This is a helpful pedagogical tool, especially as he invites us to think through the life and work of Jesus with the lens of prophet (normative), priest (existential) and king (situational).Dr. Frame suggests this book is written for the layman but with enough academic rigor to be treated as a college or seminary text. It's a tough line to tread. For those who don't read a lot of theology, it may seem a little difficult at first, but still worth your time and reflection. For seminarians and others studying theology, it will be a nice refresher, and helpful in pushing you to boil concepts down in order to better explain them to others. A great application for this book would be for the training of elders and deacons in the local church.I highly recommend it.

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