Kim Alexander

Resource Guide 5: History of Christianity and Science Selected and Annotated

Bibliography

This guide consists of selected resources that will assist the reader in grappling with this broad topic. Resources are categorized according to era and topic. Select sources are annotated.

**General Treatments and Surveys.** The following sources published by The Johns Hopkins University Press present chronological as well as topical studies of the relationship of Christianity and the sciences throughout church history.


**Works Exploring the Relationship between Faith and Science.** Note in particular the work of Ronald L. Numbers who has written prolifically in this area and has edited numerous volumes addressing these myths and misconceptions. Several of these are quite accessible for the reader with less proficiency in the sciences (denoted by *).


This volume engages fewer science and religion or faith topics than does the 2009 volume. There are, however, chapters that deal with topics, especially related to Darwin, which have import.


Articles, Chapters, and Monographs Exploring Specific Eras and Topics


Demos, John. Circles and Lines: The Shape of Early America. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004. This small volume is a collection of three addresses presented at the William E. Massey Lectures sponsored by Harvard University’s History of American Civilization Program. Though not dealing specifically with the “hard sciences,” Demos illustrates how a circular view of life, governed by the cycles of nature (seasons, the sun and moon, the life cycle) governed worldview and religious life prior to the industrial age following the American Revolution.


Healing, Healthcare and Medicine


______________. Testing Prayer: Science and Healing. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012. This important work provides a careful study of empirical research evaluating the effectiveness of prayer on healing, especially as engaged in by Pentecostals and Charismatics.


Madden, Deborah, ed. *'Inward & Outward Health': John Wesley’s Holistic Concept of Medical Science, the Environment and Holy Living.* London: Epworth, 2008.


This survey provides a good overview of theologies and practices of healing over the history of the Christian church. Of particular importance are Chs. 6 (“Christianity and the Global Development of Scientific Medicine”) and 7 (“Christian Healing in the Shadow of Modern Technology”)

**Science and the Missionary Enterprise**


**The Creation-Evolution Debate in the 20th c.**


This article, though dated, provides a comprehensive survey of responses and published reactions to the debate on the part of those in the Holiness and Pentecostal trajectory. Three important findings of this study: 1. Holiness and Pentecostal adherents may be categorized as more pro-creation than anti-evolution; 2. Wesleyan Holiness and Pentecostal responses argued more from experience than inerrancy of Scripture; 3. There was a diversity of responses for much of the 20th c. with room for other options than a young earth.