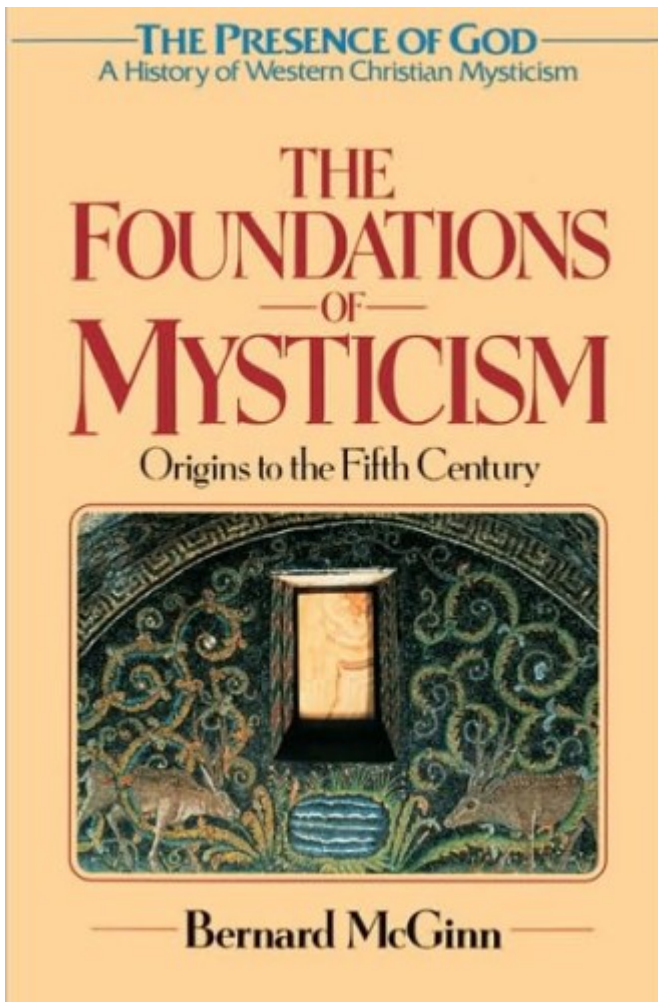


Lawrence S. Cunningham: 5 picks

selected by [Lawrence S. Cunningham](#) in the [October 19, 2010](#) issue

In Review



The Foundations of Mysticism

By Bernard McGinn

Crossroad

— THE PRESENCE OF GOD —
A History of Western Christian Mysticism

THE
GROWTH
— OF —
MYSTICISM

Gregory the Great through
the 12th Century



— Bernard McGinn —

The Growth of Mysticism

By Bernard McGinn

Crossroad

— THE PRESENCE OF GOD —
A History of Western Christian Mysticism

THE
FLOWERING
— OF —
MYSTICISM

Men and Women in the
New Mysticism — 1200-1350



— Bernard McGinn —

The Flowering of Mysticism

By Bernard McGinn

Crossroad

— THE PRESENCE OF GOD —

A History of Western Christian Mysticism

THE
HARVEST
— OF —
MYSTICISM
IN MEDIEVAL
GERMANY

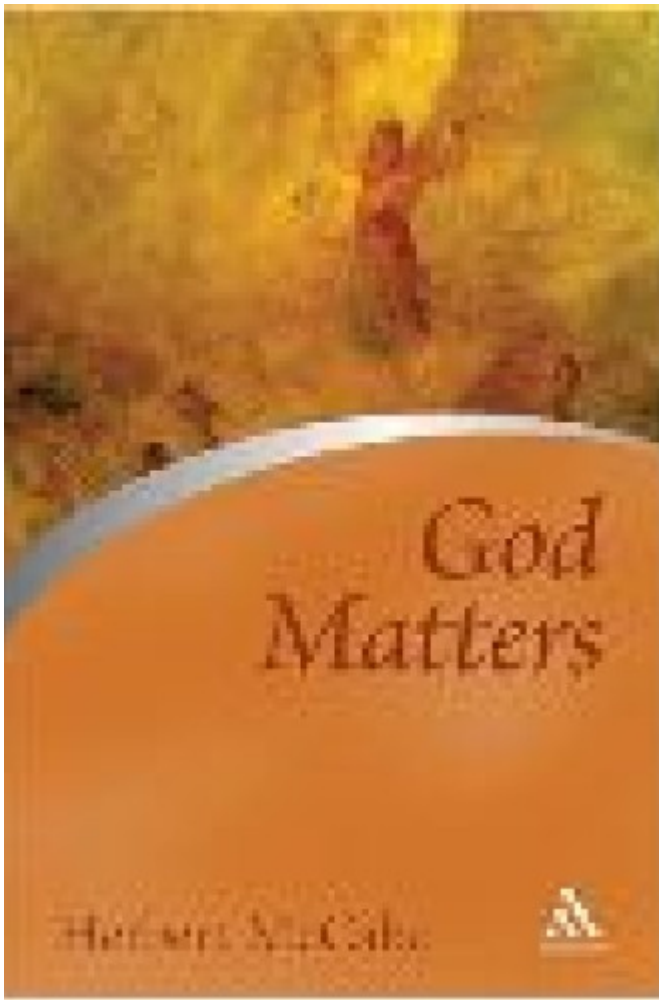


— Bernard McGinn —

The Harvest of Mysticism in Medieval Germany

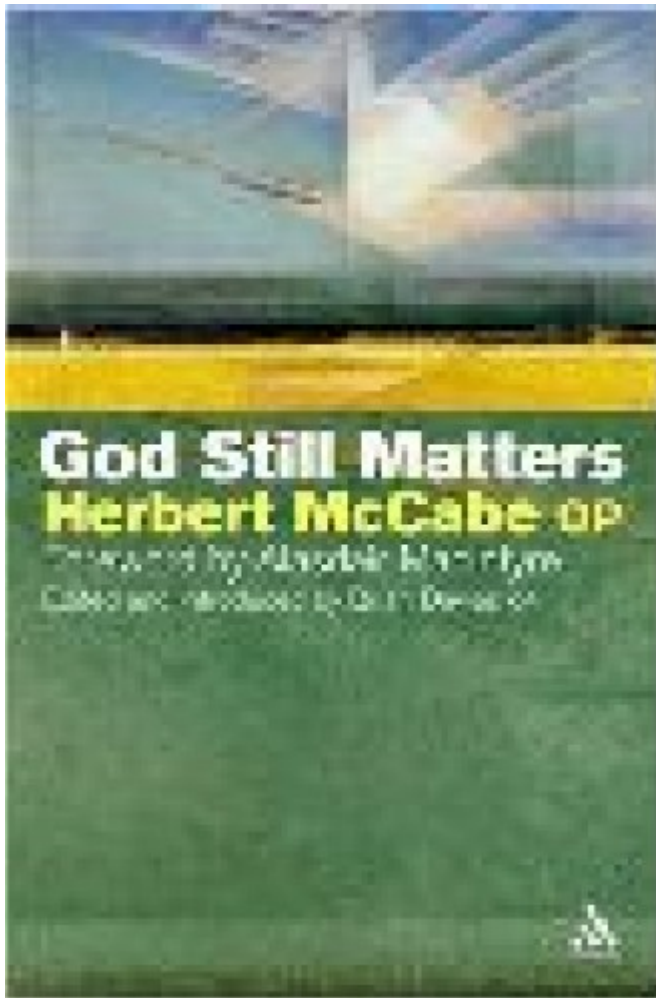
By Bernard McGinn

Crossroad



God Matters

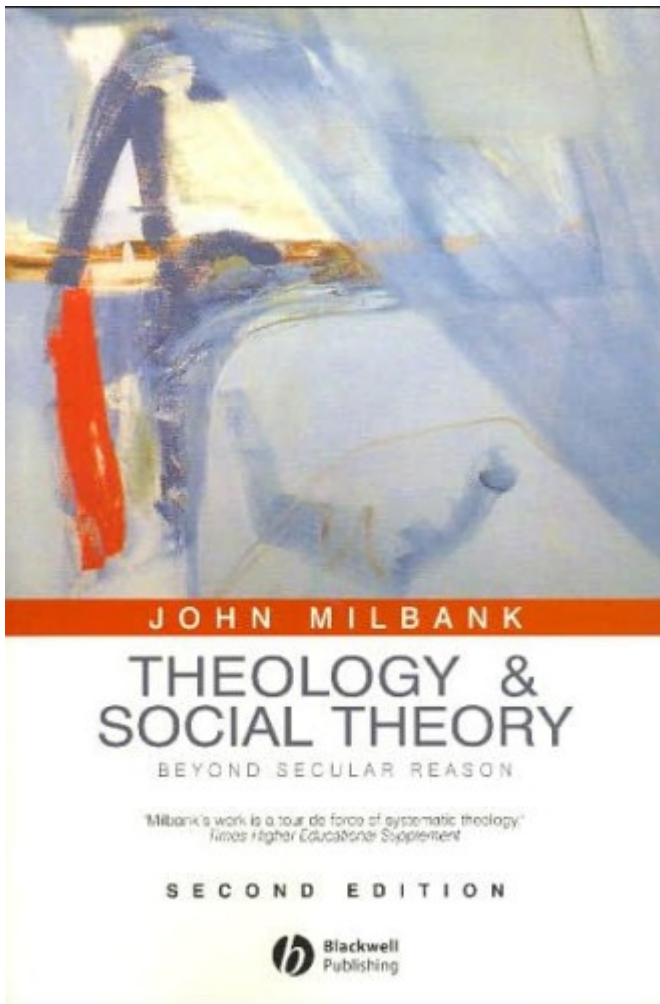
Herbert McCabe
Continuum



God Still Matters

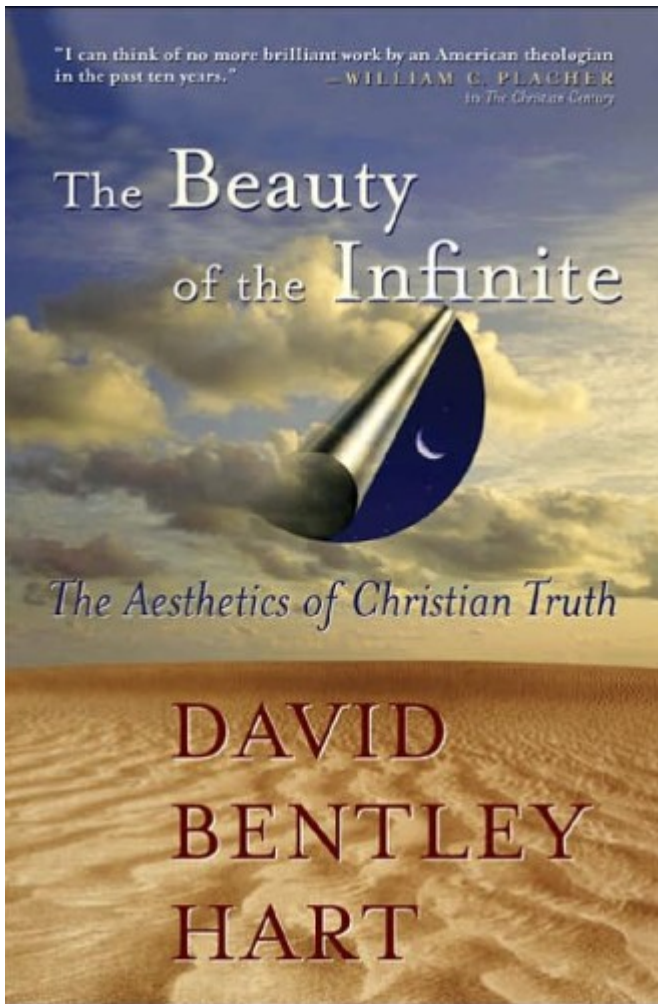
Herbert McCabe

Continuum



Theology and Social Theory

By John Milbank
Wiley-Blackwell



The Beauty of the Infinite

By David Bentley Hart
Eerdmans

Bernard McGinn, *The Presence of God: A History of Western Christian Mysticism*. In terms of sheer scholarship, this series is the most important contribution to the field of theology in the past quarter century. McGinn takes readers from the biblical materials through the Western tradition to detect the ways in which classical spiritual texts give evidence of the experience of the presence of God. With four volumes in print and a fifth to come, McGinn's magisterial work is stunning in its sophisticated methodology and its close reading of texts. Both historical in approach and profoundly theological in presupposition, these volumes constitute a classic work that will not soon be overtaken.

Herbert McCabe, *God Matters* and *God Still Matters*. The late English Dominican Herbert McCabe was the most original Catholic thinker of the past generation. He is not known well enough on this side of the Atlantic. The essays collected in these two volumes reveal a deeply learned, quite witty and penetrating thinker who, like the Gospel householder, brings forth old things and new. McCabe was primarily an essayist, profoundly influenced by his encounter with Aquinas and Wittgenstein. These volumes reflect his conviction that God is not a Being but the Source of all being, revealed to us most perfectly in love.

John Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason*. Milbank's critique of the objectivity of the social sciences is telling even if his construal of, especially, ecclesiology is pontifically stated and less than persuasively argued. Milbank is intimately linked to the movement known as radical orthodoxy, which has at the very least energized a vigorous discussion within Christian theology.

David Bentley Hart, *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth*. I was much taken by this Orthodox theologian who shows beautifully that the Christian tradition *ab oriente* has profound resources for proclaiming the beauty, power and person of Christ. Densely written (and unnecessarily prickly in places), Hart's book is a read well worth the effort.

See more theologians' [top picks](#).