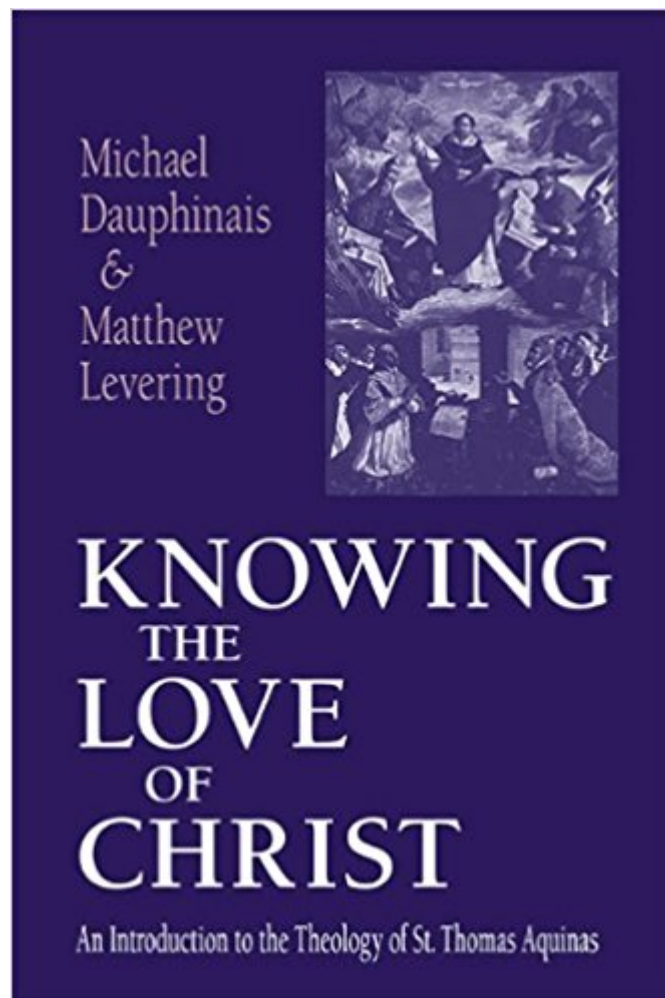




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Knowing The Love Of Christ: An Introduction To The Theology Of St. Thomas Aquinas



Synopsis

Knowing the Love of Christ provides a thorough introduction to the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas in accessible language. As a complement to the many short introductions to St. Thomas's philosophy, this book fills a gap in the literature on Thomas—a comprehensive introduction to his thought written by theologians. With enthusiasm and insight, Michael Dauphinais and Matthew Levering make available the vast theology of Thomas Aquinas. Focusing upon the Summa Theologiae, Dauphinais and Levering illumine the profoundly biblical foundations of Thomas's powerful vision of reality. Drawing upon their own experience, the authors guide readers into grappling with the fresh and penetrating insights of St. Thomas. Students at all stages of theological education will find this book an enriching introduction to the mysteries of the Christian faith. “Dauphinais and Levering capture the teaching of Thomas with thoroughness, lucidity, and completeness. I find this book an extraordinary accomplishment.”

—Romanus Cessario, O.P., St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Massachusetts

“The beginner often finds St. Thomas Aquinas daunting. Dauphinais and Levering have done a masterful job of presenting the major themes of Thomas's thought in a clear, concise, and yet faithful fashion. Anyone wanting to begin to study Thomas could not find a better starting point than this book. An added blessing is that the book will lead the reader to a deeper love and appreciation of the Christian Gospel. Aquinas himself would heartily approve.”

—Thomas G. Weinandy, O.F.M., Cap., University of Oxford

“The strength of this book is to give an overview of Aquinas's theological developments in prose that is accessible to nearly everyone. It is a remarkable piece of work.”

—David B. Burrell, C.S.C., University of Notre Dame

“One of St. Thomas's many prodigies was his ability to speak, at once, as a biblical theologian and a dogmatic theologian. He is the exemplar in both fields. I know of no other introductory text that presents Thomas's dual genius so richly, so clearly, and in a way that is accessible to ordinary lay Catholics and undergraduates.”

—Scott Hahn, Franciscan University of Steubenville

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Customer Reviews

“[A] remarkable achievement.... This is an excellent introduction to the major themes in the writings of Thomas Aquinas, but it is more than that. It is an interpretation that helps to bring the contemporary reader back to the deepest spiritual intentions of the Master.”

(Interpretation)“This book offers us an easily accessible and well-crafted treatment of the major topics in theology, worthy of any bedside table. And as an introduction to Aquinas’s theology, the book uncovers, for both expert and novice alike, the biblical roots of his thought, which have often gone unnoticed by modern readers. . . . Dauphinais and Levering successfully introduce the reader to the spiritual and biblical dimensions of the Summa, and, as a result, convincingly demonstrate its contemplative character and that of its author.” (Toronto Journal of Theology)“Michael Dauphinais and Matthew Levering have written an introduction to the theology of St. Thomas that is genuinely useful. Written in ordinary prose, without the clutter of scholarly apparatus, it is more than a merely pious or catechetical summary.” (First Things)“A compact summary . . . useful not only to beginners but to scholars already familiar with St. Thomas.” (Nova et Vetera)

Michael Dauphinais is associate professor of theology and dean of faculty at Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Florida. Matthew Levering is professor of theology at the University of Dayton. He has published numerous books, including *Christ’s Fulfillment of Torah and Temple: Salvation According to Thomas Aquinas* (2002) and *Participatory Biblical Exegesis: A Theology of Biblical Interpretation* (2008), both published by the University of Notre Dame Press.

The authors wrote a very insightful book on the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas. It is meant to be an introduction to his work but do not be fooled. It is not light reading so I would advise the reader to take their time and read it in "chunks." It appears to be written in a prayerful spirit and their insights

are so beautiful that it may cause the reader to pause and pray themselves. Hopefully, it will lead the reader to study St. Thomas further and directly. One would do well to also read the small book by Jean-Pierre Torrel, O.P. entitled "Aquinas's Summa: Background, Structure, and Reception." However, in my opinion, I believe the authors are not merely presenting an introduction to the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas. They are also sharing their interpretation and development of some of his thought. This is not a bad thing; in fact, it is a good thing but it is difficult to discern which is St. Thomas and which is the authors' development.

Are you confused about the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas? Does the mere mention of the word "theology" leave you colder than January in New England? Then check out Dauphinais and Levering's great introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas! They've written a clear and lucid precis that will get the reader interested in the challenging yet rewarding work of reading the corpus of St. Thomas' writings.

This book does a wonderful job of introducing Christ to the lay person who may be weak with theology definitions.

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