

Literature Review

Caribbean Theology

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IC 603: Doing Theology in Context

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Books

Havea, Jione, Cruz, and Davidson. *People and Land: Decolonizing Theologies*. Fortress

Academic, 2020.

- This book discusses how empirical rule and control enslaved individuals and robbed them of their lands and resources. It also addressed the impact of their actions.
- The historical presence of slavery in Africa, the Caribbean, as well as other areas are presented in this book.
- The truths and lies about colonization are discussed in the book.
- I found it interesting how historical political and religious factors attributed to and still impact the treatment of people, their minds, their land and their future are discussed.
- One extracted quote I noted was - "For centuries Christianity has justified land grab of empire across the world while destroying collective identities of peoples." – (pg. 129)

Jennings, Willie James. *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*. Michigan: William B.

Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2020.

- This book addresses the theological education that centers on a Western cultural perspective.
- The author discusses the need for understanding the connection between God and those around us.
- The author highlighted the difference between what is being taught and what transpired in the real world.
- The hope for a cultural shift and impacted communities which might occur as a result of significant changes in theological education were also discussed.
- One extracted quote – "Whiteness invites us to imagine that we become visible to ourselves and others only through its narration of our lives." (pg. 137)

Erskine, Noel Leo. *Decolonizing Theology: A Caribbean Perspective*. New Jersey: Africa World

Press, 1998.

- The historically complex aspect of Afro-Christianity in the Caribbean was discussed in this book.
- A critical assessment of the Caribbean Church was discussed.
- Liberation from both secular and spiritual perspectives was presented and discussed.
- The struggle for freedom, justice, and identity of Black people in the Caribbean or of Caribbean descent was presented.
- An extracted quote that impacted me was, "It becomes apparent not only that Caribbean theology must talk about God and people in history, but that it must go beyond Black religion in making a connection between Christian hope and freedom in history." – 169

Knight, Franklin, and Teresita Martínez-Vergne. *Contemporary Caribbean Cultures and*

Societies in a Global Context. North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

- The Caribbean as one of the most completely globalized regions in the world was presented.
- The plundering of people, products, and possessions by various European influences was mentioned in the book.
- The inequitable distribution of resources with or on behalf of indigenous or others was also presented.
- Some of the challenges to Caribbean economies of scale as a result of globalization was mentioned.
- The Caribbean heritage of the people was also presented.

Gossai, Hemchand. *Religion, Culture, And Tradition In The Caribbean*. New York: St. Martin's

Press, 2000.

- The Bible as the most widely read and influential book in the Caribbean was discussed.
- The struggle of people's groups in the Caribbean to find meaning and purpose for their existence was presented.

- The author discussed the Bible with significant focus on the colonial Caribbean experience.
- Both the enduring faith of the people and connecting Biblical theology were explored by the author.

Committee, Jamaica Peace, Beruff, Figueroa, Greene, International Peace Research Association,

University of the West Indies (Mona, and Jamaica Peace Committee. *Conflict, Peace and*

Development in the Caribbean. New York, United States: Macmillan Publishers, 1991.

- The author focused on the political, economic, and global sectors of the Caribbean.
- Diplomacy and development of the Caribbean region including land and resources were discussed.

Hopkins, Dwight. *Black Faith and Public Talk: Critical Essays on James H. Cone's Black*

Theology and Black Power. New York: Orbis Books, 2018.

- The author examined the economic, political, cultural and theological overview as it pertains to Black faith and theology.
- Racism, struggle for freedom, and preserving human identity are a few of the topics which were discussed in this book.
- Black leadership and the promotion of religious freedom was talked about.

Hixson, J. *Getting the Gospel Wrong: The Evangelical Crisis No One Is Talking About*.

Minnesota: Grace Gospel Press, 2013.

- The author presented the view that evangelical churches in the postmodernism era are possibly presenting an unclear message regarding the good news of salvation.
- One of the emphases of the book was to ensure individuals understood what is saving faith and its relativity to unsaved individuals.
- Some of the unchanging Biblical standards were presented by the author.
- The Biblical truths and the necessity to resolve uncertainties about God and the gospel message were included in the author's discussion.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Illustrated.

Michigan: Baker Academic, 2009.

- The church needs to have a global Christ-centered understanding and applicability when it comes to worship of God.
- Key worship traditions and practices should be incorporated into how today's worship is shaped and fostered.

Opstal, Sandra Maria van, and Mark Labberton. *The Next Worship: Glorifying God in a*

Diverse World. Illinois: Inter Varsity Press, 2016.

- There are people from all around the world in our communities and this should be reflected in how we worship.
- Intercultural exchange should be promoted in our worship times.
- Multicultural worship is to be encouraged or supported to produce diverse worship experiences.
- God invites all people from all places around the world to praise and worship Him.

Articles from peer reviewed journals

Chevannes, Barry. "Towards an Afro-Caribbean Theology: Principles for the Indigenisation of

Christianity in the Caribbean." *Caribbean Quarterly* 37, no. 1 (February 28, 1991).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00086495.1991.11829494>.

- The author presented the view that the Church has failed to address the real issues facing the poor in society.
- The author also discussed the lack of a significant population of poor individuals attending and becoming members of the Church. This is despite significant community outreach by different sources.

Kirton, Allan. "Current Trends in Caribbean Theology and the Role of the Church." *Caribbean*

Quarterly 37, no. 1 (February 28, 1991): 98–107.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00086495.1991.11829498>.

- As presented in the article, theology is to be a reflection of Who God is, as well as what God has done and is doing.
- There is a necessary relationship to exist between our connection to God and our connection to those around us.
- The concept of "doing theology" is that we are all to share in promoting it and viewing it as everyone's business.

Reddie, Anthony G. "Doing It Our Way: Caribbean Theology, Contextualisation and Cricket."

Black Theology, April 14, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14769948.2018.1460552>.

- This article provided critical reflections on the process of giving context to the Christian faith in the Caribbean.
- Presented in this article are discussion points in regards to Caribbean theology as a faith-based perspective.
- The author discussed about Christianity and the disenfranchised people of the Caribbean.
- Postcolonialism and its residual impact even to current history was emphasized.

Miller, Michael. "He Said I Was Out of Pocket: On Being a Caribbean Contextual Theologian in

a Non-Caribbean Context." *Black Theology* 9, no. 2 (June 9, 2011): 223–45.

<https://doi.org/10.1558/blth.v9i2.223>.

- The author presented a personal perspective of the struggle as a Caribbean, contextual theologian, operating outside of that region.
- Attempts made to promote Caribbean theology in the United States were also discussed.
- Fostered in the Caribbean context is a pursuit of developing and cultivating insights into Caribbean Theological ideas.

Podcasts

"S2 Ep1035: The Gospel Is Political: Dr. Patrick Schreiner," December 19, 2022.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/73VHILHkKT522vimMPkHCK>.

- According to the presenter, there are political aspects as we explore the history of the gospel.
- I extracted that the Church has been and continues to be a political community.
- I noted that following Jesus Christ at times means we have to exhibit being committed to God and seeking to be separate from others.

Kojo Nyame. "Contextualizing Christianity in the Caribbean," June 20, 2014. Accessed February

2, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqkw24njULI>.

- Christianity in the Caribbean is discussed in this video.
- Challenges which are facing Caribbean Christianity were presented.
- Contextualizing Caribbean Christianity was presented by the organizer.
- Emphasizing the Missiological significance even for our present time was presented.

Caribbean Cricket Podcast. "Caribbean Identity in the West Indian Cricket Context," June 14,

2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2eNILz4mcl>.

Discussed in this podcast were two main questions:

- Is the West Indies a failed construct?
- Is there any such thing as a true Caribbean identity?