

Anderson, *A Journey through Christian Theology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Fortress Press, 2010

*Term Paper Topics for use with: Anderson/Diesslin, A Journey Through Christian Theology, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Fortress Press, 2010)*

**PART ONE:**

1. *The Docetists Challenge to the Early Church: Responses by Ignatius of Antioch and Irenaeus of Lyons.*
2. *The Encounter/Interaction of Christian faith with the Hellenistic world*
3. *Justin Martyr's Intellectualization of Christianity: the Logos-doctrine*
4. *Irenaeus' "Theory of Recapitulation"*
5. *The "Apokatastasis" doctrine of Origen of Alexandria*

**PART TWO:**

6. *The Arian Issue: A Challenge to the Church's Understanding of Jesus of Nazareth and his "co-equality" with God*
7. *The role of the doctrine of the "Homo-ousios" in the Creeds of Nicea and Constantinople*
8. *The Role of Athanasius in response to the "Arian" crisis*

**PART THREE:**

9. *Basil of Caesarea's concept of the Holy Spirit*
10. *Basil of Caesarea's understanding of how we "know" God*
11. *Gregory of Nazianzus' understanding of God the So*
12. *An Analysis of Gregory of Nyssa's defense of The Trinity*

**PART FOUR:**

13. *The Rise of "Monophysitism"—an examination of the thought of Athanasius, Apollinaris of Laodicea, and Cyril of Alexandria*
14. *The School of Antioch: the Christologies of Theodore of Mopsuestia and Nestorius*
15. *The Council of Chalcedon and its Definition: the Compromise Solution*

*16. The Role of Leo the Great in the Chalcedonian Settlement*

**PART FIVE:**

*17. Augustine on Predestination, Free-Will and Grace*

*18. Augustine's response to the "problem of evil"*

*19. An examination of Augustine's theological anthropology*

*20. The theological "methodology" of Pseudo-Dionysius: "The Via Negativa"*

**PART SIX:**

*21. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper or Holy Eucharist: the "real" or "symbolic" presence of Christ: the views of Paschasius Radbertus and Ratramnus of Corbie*

**PART SEVEN:**

*22. The Rise of the "Corpus Christianum"—the development and power of the church in the Middle Ages*

*23. Anselm's theological principle: fides quaerens intellectum, its use and value for Christian theology*

*24. An analysis of Anselm's Ontological Argument for the existence of God—strengths and weaknesses—contemporary uses, e.g. Karl Barth*

*25. Abelard's doctrine of the Atonement*

*26. The mystical-Neoplatonic approach to theology in the thought of St. Bonaventure*

*27. The "Summa" of St. Thomas Aquinas*

*28. The Arguments for the existence of God—an a posteriori approach*

*29. St. Thomas on the Eucharist*

*30. The Radical theology of Johannes Meister Eckhardt: Was he really a pantheist?*

*31. Johannes Meister Eckhardt's "Mysticism"*

32. *Is Hildegard of Bingen the female equivalent to St. Thomas?*
33. *The Mystical thought of Julian of Norwich and Catherine of Siena: an analysis*
34. *Thomas a Kempis and his masterpiece: Imitatio Christi. Is Thomas an anti-intellectual or simply a man of deep faith and conviction?*

**PART EIGHT:**

35. *The classical humanism of Desiderius Erasmus and its impact on the Protestant Reformation*
36. *Erasmus as a “Satirist”—an examination of his “In Praise of Folly”*
37. *An examination of the impact and influence of Luther’s three major treatises: An Open Letter to the Christian Nobility, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, and Concerning Human Liberty*
38. *Luther’s doctrine of Justification by Faith, an examination and critique*
39. *Zwingli versus Luther: a classical humanist and a scholastic theologian*
40. *Zwingli and Luther on “The Lord’s Supper”*
41. *Martin Bucer: The Conciliar theologian*
42. *Philipp Melancthon: The Architect of Lutheranism*
43. *John Calvin: Classical Humanist, educator, and leader of the “reformed theological tradition”*
44. *John Calvin’s theological anthropology, understanding of the freedom of the will and predestination*
45. *The Radical Reformers: the Anabaptists—their view of baptism*
46. *Hubmaier on the Lord’s Supper*
47. *Johannes (Hans) Denck on Free Will*

**PART NINE:**

48. *The Council of Trent: A Catholic Retort to the Protestant Doctrine of Justification by Faith, alone*
49. *The Tridentine doctrine of “faith and works”*

*50. The Tridentine position on the Eucharist and the presence of Christ*

**PART TEN:**

*51. Theology in the wake of “The Enlightenment”*

*52. The Impact and Influence on theological thinking in light of Kant’s Critiques*

*53. Schleiermacher and his defense of religious thought: “Speeches: On Religion to its Cultured Despisers”*

*54. An analysis of Schleiermacher’s Christology*

*55. Schleiermacher and the development of modern, liberal Protestant thought*

*56. Ludwig Feuerbach’s critique of Christianity: Hegel’s method turned upside down*

*57. The role of “myth” in theology: the insights and criticisms of David F. Strauss*

*58. Christian Existentialism: the thought of Soren Kierkegaard*

*59. Kierkegaard’s “Attack upon ‘Christendom’.”*

*60. Albrecht Ritschl’s “ethical” approach to theology*

**PART ELEVEN:**

*61. Harnack’s touchstone for liberal theology as seen in his “What is Christianity”—the essence of liberal Protestantism*

*62. The idea of “awe” and “mystery” recovered in theology: the thought of Rudolf Otto*

*63. The “non-rational” approach to theology: Rudolf Otto*

*64. The union of science and religion in the thought of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

*65. An examination of the “Omega Point” in the thought of Teilhard*

*66. Teilhard: heretic or defender of the faith?*

*67. The New Testament and Mythology: the thought of Rudolf Bultmann*

*68. Living “authentically”—the meaning of the existential theology of Bultmann*

*69. Is Karl Barth a Christo-monist?*

*70. Karl Barth's revolutionary challenge as seen in his Commentary on Romans*

*71. on What is Karl Barth's understanding of the term: "The Word of God"?*

*72. Paul Tillich's "Method of Correlation"*

*73. A Discussion of Paul Tillich's Understanding of Faith as Ultimate Concern*

*74. Reinhold Niebuhr as the champion of "Neo-Orthodoxy"*

*75. Rahner's optimistic theology and its impact on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Catholicism—especially at the Second Vatican Council*

*76. Bonhoeffer's new vocabulary: Religionless Christianity, the world 'come of age,' cheap grace or costly grace? A discussion of the meaning and impact on theology*

**PART TWELVE:**

*77. Hans Küng: the modern reformer of Roman Catholicism: an appraisal of his work*

*78. Liberation theology: political, feminist, and racial views*

*79. The Ecological religious views of Sallie McFague*

*80. Two Contemporary Ecclesial Views on the Modern World: Vatican II and The Presbyterian Confession of 1967—a brief comparison and critique*