

**PRACTICAL THEOLOGY**  
**On earth as it is in Heaven**  
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The symbol gives rise to thought, not other way round. We are interpreters.

Beware method and 'how to' books which are control methods – just become more receptive. This is *Phronesis* or 'practical wisdom', a way of life, an art.

First act of hermeneutics is Listening. Memory carries seeds of future.

(ch3)

Torah is continuous rolling scroll, impossible to close.

Christian scripture open on lectern.

Midrash is Faith seeking Understanding.

Theology should be concerned with God's concerns rather than with God – God says, when you want to know my name/essence, I answer 'I just am'.

(ch4)

Martin Buber: "All real living is meeting" "Spirit is not in the I but between I and Thou."

Gadamer: expect the unexpected answer.

The Margin is where the reader interacts with text – the marginal is where meaning takes place. (p70)

Illich – 'study' Latin means friendliness, sympathy, interest.

(Ch 5)

knowledge tempts us to think we can act securely

'The deed is the distillation of the self.' Heschel (*Who is Man?*)

Greek man is rational being; Biblical man is a commanded being. (H p107)

Rabbis seek the ethics of the text. We do before we understand so that we can understand more deeply.

(Ch 6)

Struggles more with disbelief in Man than God.

(Ch7)

Survivor's question: what right do I have to live, to be? We have to be.

(Ch9)

Culture is a way of 'tilling life' and bringing forth a world that is rich in human significance. (p159)

Jacques Derrida: *this is my starting-point: no meaning can be determined out of context, but no context permits saturation*" ("Living On", in Bloom et al., *Deconstruction and Criticism*, 81). 'Out of context' means misunderstood, but there is something other than or 'more than' which escapes context – open to a world of transcendence. Cultures are 'webs of significance' says Geertz.

(Ch10)

I have come for 'those who are sick' (Matt 9:12)

"The beggar on the street is not asking for a handout; the beggar is asking why we have stolen so much." (p184)

Our notions of justice are offended by acts of generosity – 'Vineyard' scandal.

Acts of charity, are not Band-Aids but signs of God's goodness in the world.

(Ch11)

Aristotle philosophises out of awe. (David Tracy's 'analogical imagination')

Hegel and Marx out of dissatisfaction, (DT's 'dialectical imagination')

says Duncan Forrester.