

Thomas C. Oden, author of *A Change of Heart: A Personal and Theological Memoir*

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"Tom Oden is one of the most remarkable Christians of our time. This is the story of how he has lived through, contributed to and helped to overthrow several revolutions during his long and fruitful life. . . . Oden shows us the meaning of grace in a human life – grace that shatters in order to restore and bring joy. Those of us who know and love this great theologian will be delighted to read the story of his pilgrimage thus far. The whole church will be blessed by it."

– **Timothy George**, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School of Samford University and general editor of the Reformation Commentary on Scripture

"One of the Most Remarkable Christians"

Thomas C. Oden is the general editor of the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture and the Ancient Christian Doctrine series as well as the author of *Classic Christianity*, a revision of his three-volume systematic theology. He is currently the director of the Center for Early African Christianity at Eastern University in Pennsylvania.

Oden served as the Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology and Ethics at Drew University in New Jersey from 1980 until his retirement in 2004. He is currently faculty emeritus. Oden has a BA from the University of Oklahoma (1953), a BD from Southern Methodist University (1956), and earned his MA (1958) and PhD from Yale University (1960), as well as a doctor of letters from Asbury College (1990).

Oden had a long teaching career, which included positions at Yale University, Southern Methodist University, Phillips University, Texas Medical School, Princeton Theological Seminary, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the School of Theology at Claremont, the General Theological Seminary and Drew University. He also held positions at Ruprecht Karl University in Heidelberg, Germany, the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, and Moscow State University.

A prolific writer, Oden has written and edited books, articles, essays, and speeches on such topics as church and the world, church controversies, evangelicalism, Kierkegaard, the Methodist church, church discipline, John Wesley, postmodernism and others.

Throughout his career, Oden also served in many professional and political organizations, including the American Theological Society, American Academy of Religion, Phi Beta Kappa, American Society for Christian Ethics, Rotary Club, Americans for Democratic Action, World Federalist Movement and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples. He observed the Vatican Council II (1965), participated in the White House Conference on Urban Initiatives (1985), peace walks, demonstrations, and many other religious and political conferences.

Oden is active in the Confessing Movement in America, particularly within the United Methodist Church. He suggests that Christians need to rely upon the wisdom of the historical church, particularly the early church, rather than on modern scholarship and theology and says his mission is "to begin to prepare the postmodern Christian community for its third millennium by returning again to the careful study and respectful following of the central tradition of classical Christianity."

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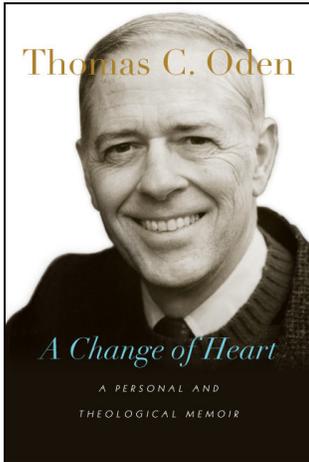


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“The pages of this book fly by on the winds of Oden the wordsmith.”

“If ever a theologian should provide a memoir of his journey, Tom Oden is the one. *A Change of Heart* is the record of that phenomenal sojourn intersecting the lives of countless theologians and religious leaders. And as readers of the relentless Oden would expect, the pages of this book fly by on the winds of Oden the wordsmith. This is the montage of a master artist.”

—**Paige Patterson**, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

“Tom Oden is one of the most remarkable Christians of our time. This is the story of how he has lived through, contributed to and helped to overthrow several revolutions during his long and fruitful life. Deeply rooted in Wesleyan spiritual traditions, Oden shows us the meaning of grace in a human life—grace that shatters in order to restore and bring joy. Those of us who know and love this great theologian will be delighted to read the story of his pilgrimage thus far. The whole church will be blessed by it.”

—**Timothy George**, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School of Samford University and general editor of the *Reformation Commentary on Scripture*

“Tom Oden’s *A Change of Heart* chronicles his own odyssey through modernity back home to the fathers he never knew—until he read them, prayed with them and learned the riches of the timeless faith at their feet. This book invites readers to join him in this odyssey. As one who has been privileged to travel the last part with him, I can truly say they will not be disappointed in the journey Tom Oden is inviting them to undertake with him.”

—**Joel C. Elowsky**, associate professor of history, Concordia Seminary St. Louis; research director, Center for Early African Christianity

“In this memoir Tom Oden explores his theological career with specific reference to his transition from Christian liberalism to evangelical Christianity. In the process he describes the many theological issues that dominated his era, focusing on the World Council of Churches as a lightning rod. Oden’s view that theology should not be at the whim of every passing fashion, or that current affairs should not be the litmus test, deserves careful consideration even by those who disagree with him. Oden offers a touching description of the passing of his wife after a bout with cancer. The book is a record of an important theological voice of his generation, one that brings to focus the wide-ranging religious influences of the day.”

—**Lamin Sanneh**, D. Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity, Yale Divinity School

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“In a century when intellectuals abandoned the Christian faith in droves, one intellectual had the courage to embrace it. A movement liberal at forty, at eighty Tom Oden had become the champion of the classic Christian consensus. *A Change of Heart* tells the story of one of the twentieth century’s most courageous intellectual and spiritual journeys.”

—**Roberta Green Ahmanson**