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Trueman's "Grace alone: Salvation as a gift of God" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Trueman, C.R. (2017). *Grace alone: Salvation as a gift of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 261 pp. \$21.00. ISBN 9780310515760

Grace Alone by Carl Trueman, a professor of church history at Westminster Theological Seminary and a pastor in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, is part of the 5 Solas Series. This is a new series of books published for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Here Trueman has done a masterful job explaining the history of *sola gratia*, or the doctrine of grace alone. He also shows how the doctrine plays itself out in the life of the church and in the life of the individual Christian. The book begins by examining the doctrine in Scripture, and then walks through the history of the doctrine in the church. As one might expect, since Trueman is a professor of history at a seminary in the Reformed tradition this section is one of the book's strengths. Anyone interested in getting a survey of how the doctrine of grace alone has been taught in the church would do well to read the middle section of this book. The normal suspects are covered: Augustine, Luther, and Calvin. Surprisingly to this reviewer so too is Thomas Aquinas; the section on Aquinas is particularly illuminating. Part two of the book looks at how the doctrine plays itself out in the church, particularly the reading and preaching of the Word of God, and the administration of the sacraments. Trueman then looks at the relationship between God's grace and prayer. The conclusion of the book is a ten-point summary of what a "Grace-Along Church" looks like. Pastors and church leaders would do well to consider these. This book is written from a Calvinistic perspective; however, people from other traditions will find much of benefit in this book despite some disagreement with the full explication of the doctrine. This is a good book for an adult study at church, and it would make a good resource for an undergraduate theology class. It is scholarly without being difficult. This is a book that is well worth adding to any collection.

Reviewer

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