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Wright's "Let the gospels preach the gospel" (book review)

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Book Reviews



C. J. H. (2017). *Let the gospels preach the gospel*. Carlisle, UK: Langham Preaching Resources. 110pp. \$12.49. ISBN 9781783681426

Let the Gospels Preach the Gospel is a short collection of sermons preached by author Christopher L. Wright on events leading to the cross. Wright presents at least one sermon from each of the four Gospels, explaining that each Gospel writer shares the story in a unique way and the value of allowing their individual perspectives to shine through. He concludes the book with a chapter of personal commentary on sermon preparation.

Wright's sermons are beautifully written and packed with quality content. His background study, exegesis and illustrations will benefit every reader. The text in the book is nearly an exact transcript of the original audio recordings of the sermons, which are available for free at www.allsouls.org. Although the sermons hold merit individually, the book fails to make any connections between them nor does Wright come to a unifying conclusion. After reading the title, readers may be disappointed that there is no discussion of precisely what it means to let the gospels preach the gospel. Wright explains in his preface that each gospel writer has an important and unique perspective. Details of each perspective are subtly scattered throughout the sermons, but a prevailing discussion of the perspectives is absent. Readers are left to come to their own conclusions regarding how each perspective is unique, why they are important, and how they should influence the way we read the gospels.

The strength of this book lies its final chapter, on sermon preparation. Wright provides a detailed and helpful outline for preparing sermons, followed by his notes relating to how he prepared each of the sermons included in the book. The back cover description may be misrepresentative but the content of *Let the Gospels Preach the Gospel* is still highly valuable. Wright's personable writing style communicates very complex ideas in an easy to understand way. Readers will wish Wright had included more discussion of how and why to let the gospels preach the gospel but his sermons are wonderful examples of this idea in action. Because the sermons are paired with his preparation instructions and notes, this book is a unique and helpful resource for preachers.

Reviewer

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