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Mohler's "NIV grace & truth study Bible" (book review)

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Book Review



Mohler R. A. (2021). *NIV grace & truth study Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2121pp. \$49.99. ISBN 9780310447122

This is an NIV Bible (2011). In the introduction it states the audience is “evangelical, Reformed, and complementarian.” The general editor of this Bible is the president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. All the editors graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a majority of the commentators have a Baptist background. Doctrine appears to be important in this commentary. Dr. Köstenberger who espouses complementarianism was chosen to write the commentary for Timothy. He is one of the authors of *Women in the Church: An Interpretation and Application of 1 Timothy 2:9-15*, the thesis is that Paul did not want women to have authority or teach over men in church. It is an incredible study Bible. Only one of the authors (all males) does not have a doctorate and most if not all, have done some type of writing (blogs, articles, books). The commentary could be a book in itself. The commentary focuses on the passages that fit within the grace of God and/or Biblical truth theme. An example would be Christ (Grace, Gal 3:28) which is mentioned in Genesis (page 7). To stay within the two themes and probably to save space, some of the verses are left out and some are interpreted as a passage. It is written with the Biblical scholarship expected from such esteemed authors (pastors and scholars) at the same time it is written in a manner that almost anyone can understand without a strong emotional element. The commentary is a mix of scholarship, colloquialisms (i.e., “his true colors” – pg. 6), and observations holding to the traditions and doctrines of their audience mentioned above. The mixture makes a flowing text that takes some time to read due to the detail of facts. Each book has an introduction of two or more pages. Each page has a column in the middle with a lot of cross references. To indicate the verse the cross reference is referencing, these verses are in a light gold color which is hard to see in certain types of lighting. This color is also used for chapter headings and numbers but not verses. This Bible also has a NIV concordance (1984) created by John R. Kohlenberger and has over 36,000 scripture references. The Bible also has 14 maps. Zondervan has published a lot of different versions of this study Bible including leather covers, Spanish versions, and large print. My version has red print when Jesus is speaking. The audience is the lay person that wants to delve into the Bible for the first time or who has some knowledge and wants to go deeper. It does have doctrine infused into the commentary so it has a bias. I would say for a Bible college or seminary that is evangelical, Reformed, and complementarian it may be something to add to

the collection. For one who is well studied in the Bible, this will probably not fit your needs.

Reviewer

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