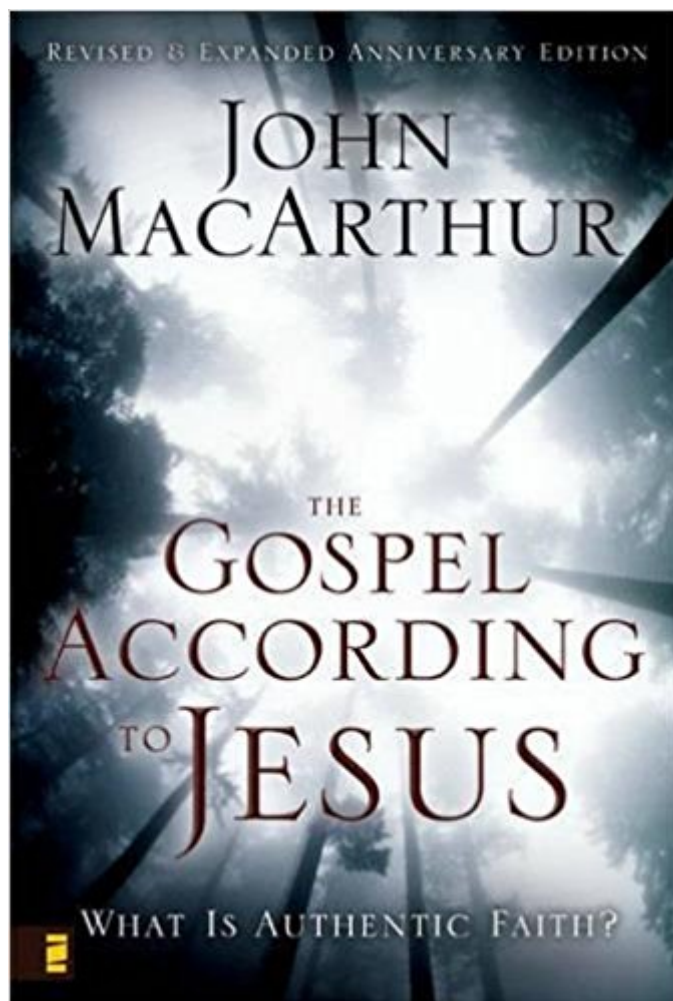


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The Gospel According To Jesus: What Is Authentic Faith?



Synopsis

The first edition of *The Gospel According to Jesus* won wide acclaim in confronting the “easy-believism” that has characterized some aspects of evangelical Christianity. Over the past 50 years, a handful of books have become true classics, revered world-wide for their crystal-clear presentation of the Gospel and lauded for their contribution to the Christian faith. These extraordinary books are read, re-read, and discussed in churches, Bible study groups, and homes everywhere. John MacArthur’s *The Gospel According to Jesus* is one of those books. In *The Gospel According to Jesus*, MacArthur tackles the idea of “easy believism,” challenging Christians to re-evaluate their commitment to Christ by examining their fruits. MacArthur asks, “What does it really mean to be saved?” He urges readers to understand that their conversion was more than a mere point in time, that, by definition, it includes a lifetime of obediently walking with Jesus as Lord. This 20th anniversary edition of MacArthur’s provocative, Scripture-based book contains one new chapter and is further revised to provide Christians in the 21st century a fresh perspective on the intrinsic relationship between faith and works, clearly revealing Why Jesus is both Savior and Lord to all who believe.

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Customer Reviews

The first edition of *The Gospel According to Jesus* won wide acclaim in confronting the ‘easy-believism’ that has characterized some aspects of evangelical Christianity. Over the past 50 years, a handful of books have become true classics, revered world-wide for their crystal-clear

presentation of the Gospel and lauded for their contribution to the Christian faith. These extraordinary books are read, re-read, and discussed in churches, Bible study groups, and homes everywhere. John MacArthur's *The Gospel According to Jesus* is one of those books. In *The Gospel According to Jesus*, MacArthur tackles the idea of 'easy believism,' challenging Christians to re-evaluate their commitment to Christ by examining their fruits. MacArthur asks, 'What does it really mean to be saved?' He urges readers to understand that their conversion was more than a mere point in time, that, by definition, it includes a lifetime of obediently walking with Jesus as Lord. This 20th anniversary edition of MacArthur's provocative, Scripture-based book contains one new chapter and is further revised to provide Christians in the 21st century a fresh perspective on the intrinsic relationship between faith and works, clearly revealing Why Jesus is both Savior and Lord to all who believe.

John MacArthur has served as the pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, since 1969. His ministry of expository preaching is unparalleled in its breadth and influence. In more than four decades of ministry from the same pulpit, he has preached verse by verse through the entire New Testament (and several key sections of the Old Testament). He is president of the Master's University and Seminary and can be heard daily on the Grace to You radio broadcast (carried on hundreds of radio stations worldwide). He has authored a number of bestselling books, including *Twelve Ordinary Men*, and *One Perfect Life*. For more details about John MacArthur and his Bible-teaching resources, contact Grace to You at 800-55-GRACE or gty.org.

As with all of his books, teaching or writing, Dr. Mac writes and speaks in a straightforward and helpful style. The issue of Lordship salvation has been a brewing topic for a long time. Dr. MacArthur once again clearly states what the scripture teaches concerning this issue. He writes from a clear concern for the souls and lives of those for whom Christ died and with warning for those who would teach or embrace a false assurance or hope that does not produce the evident fruit of a changed life. He presses the Gospel and its call to a surrendered life to Christ as Lord. This is what Scripture clearly teaches throughout its pages and that is the truth we must desperately grasp and hold to for true assurance of salvation in these perilous times. We are "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God." And His Word demands our full surrender and continued surrender to the resurrected Lord Jesus.

I read this book as a paperback some 20/25 years ago when I was young man going to a Baptist Church. I've just recently re-read this book in its updated version on Kindle after being a member of the Orthodox Church for some 14 years. Yep, you guessed it; I've made a move from Western Church to Eastern Church and attempt to use the best of both in my life. The problem that this book relates to seems to me to be a particularly Protestant problem. Whilst there is a Protestant affirmation of the whole Bible being the Word of God, nonetheless, there is a propensity for highlighting various verses that support one's theological disposition, and so, making some parts of the Bible, "more important", than others. This leads to some strange occurrences, such as, in an environment of Protestant , Solo Scriptura, you may find in a church service that the Bible is read for 4 min and that the sermon goes for about 40 min. Symbolically this may lead one to assume that the word of the Minister/Pastor/Reverend whatever, is ten times more important than the Word of God. The modern Protestant tradition has also seemingly lost connexion with the historical life of the Church and seems to float (drift) in reference to its contemporary self other than reference to the historical Church Fathers, by whom I mean Clement, Ignatius, Justin Martyr etc. In the Orthodox Church Jesus is verbally referred to as, God, Lord, Master and Saviour in our various liturgies and church services. Unlike the Protestant world, the Orthodox world is rich in symbolism and Jesus is visually portrayed by the use of icons. Many Orthodox Churches have a major icon, that of Jesus Christ Pantocrator. This is a BIG image of Jesus Christ up on the ceiling or very close to the ceiling portraying him as, "Lord of All", looking down on His people. We also have a prayer that has survived through the millennia called the Jesus prayer. This prayer simply says, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner", (if you are a Christian you too can use this prayer). Another prayer translated from the Greek but in reference to Christ, " O Saviour, save us". As you can see from these several examples the balance of "Jesus as Lord" and "Jesus as Saviour" are lived as one, verbally, visually, ideologically and in prayer. To separate these two characteristics of Christ to the Orthodox Christian mind is totally, "out of Church". The Christian movement throughout the entirety of its history has suffered from doctrinal errors in some way, shape or form. Much theological study is actually a study of various errors along the way as opposed to the orthodox understanding. MacArthur has done a really good job of addressing the particular theological error that he is concerned about. His use of biblical narrative and explanation of meaning is superb but as long as picking and choosing (that's what "heresy" means) prevails the line of the song, "a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest" will tend to be evident. The orthodox Church will always exist in harmony with God's will. EPH 1:15-23

Oh how I wish every human being would read this book. It created so many emotions within me - examining my own life as Scripture commands, but also feeling great sorrow for those who never possess. They profess and believe obedience is an option. Matthew 7 is a very somber warning to all.

Those of you familiar with John MacArthur's writing/preaching will find this book useful, and predictable, as a Biblical summary of much that the Modern Church is allowing to fall by the wayside in the interest of compromising with the World. This anniversary edition is updated from the original, and is worth the extra outlay, over against the original text. I purchased this for a friend who is temporarily in England, to give as a gift to a Chaplain who is sliding down the slippery slope of accommodating the World. You know, as a sort of reminder of, perhaps, that an outdated definition of Chaplain is being forgotten. Whether you are seeking an exposition of Biblical Christianity for the purposes of clarification (or vilification, for that matter), you will find Biblical references for the Doctrines put forth... The work here is not the OPINION of Dr. MacArthur, it is, rather, tied tightly to Biblical truth, that is, the Truth of God Almighty. From these perspectives, This book is highly recommended.

John MacArthur digs deep into what is meant by Lordship Salvation and dismantles "easy believism". Whichever side of the issue you lean toward, this book is a way to challenge yourself as a Christian. As Christians we are to examine ourselves to see that we are in the faith. This book is a good way to examine if your soteriology is scriptural. If you are a non-believer then you might consider this book as an introduction to what it should mean to be a Christian and what it means for someone to be saved. If you know a Christian that "lives like Hell" then you might suggest this book to them. The Kindle version receives only four stars because the Kindle formatting is a halfhearted effort at best. It seems to be the case that no serious effort is made to edit Kindle versions of books to meet the needs of the format and fix the transition from physical formats. This book has numerous places where words are left with spaces or hyphens in them from line breaks. End of chapter footnotes are run right up against the chapter text. And of course this version does not include page numbers... again. The Kindle has been a great boon to lazy publishers but a minor curse to readers. I wonder if it would do any good to ask for half my money back for a half edited book?

Great book, made me think of many things I had not considered before about the Lordship of Jesus.

I liked the way MacArthur took a number of situations in the Bible where Jesus was presented with the opportunity to share how to get eternal life, and showed how Jesus did not make it easy. Jesus wanted people to repent of their sin, and then come under his lordship. It isn't enough to believe, as James says, "Even the demons believe and tremble".

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