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Wholeheartedness Plain Jane Mysteries Five hundred years after Martin Luther and his Ninety-Five Theses ushered in the

November, 03 2024

Reformation. bestselling author and controversial bishop and teacher John Shelby Spong delivers twelve forwardthinking theses to spark a new reformation to reinvigorate Christianity and ensure dogma. To keep its future. At the beginning of the sixteenth century, Christianity was in crisis—a state of conflict that gave birth to the Reformation in 1517. Enduring for more than 200 years, Luther's movement was then followed by a "revolutionary time of human knowledge." Yet these advances in our thinking had little impact on Christians ' adherence to doctrine—which has led the faith to a critical understanding of God. point once again. Bible With its revolutionary scholar and Episcopal

bishop John Shelby Spong contends that there is mounting pressure among Christians for a radically new kind of Christianity—a faith deeply connected to the human experience instead of outdated Christianity vital, he urges modern Christians to update their faith in light of these advances in our knowledge, and to challenge the rigid and problematic Church teachings that emerged world? In with the Reformation. There is a disconnect, he argues, between the language of traditional worship and the language of the twenty- reshape their faith. As first century. Bridging this divide requires us to rethink and reformulate our basic resistance to the

authority of the Church in the sixteenth century, Spong sees in Luther 's movement a model for today 's discontented Christians. In fact, the questions they raise resonate with those contemplated by our ancestors. Does the idea of God still have meaning? Can we still follow historic creeds with integrity? Are not such claims as an infallible Pope or an inerrant Bible ridiculous in today 's Unbelievable, Spong outlines twelve "theses" to help today 's believers more deeply contemplate and an educator, clergyman, and writer who has devoted his life to his faith, Spong has enlightened Christians and challenged them to

explore their beliefs in new and meaningful ways. In this, his final book, he continues that rigorous tradition. once again offering a revisionist approach that strengthens Christianity and secures its relevance for $\ensuremath{\text{with}}\ \ensuremath{\text{her}}$ generations to come. Foreclosed Harper Collins Native is about. identity, sou 1-searching, and the never-journey, ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin

Curtice offersculture in a a unique perspective on these topics. In this book, she shows how reconnecting Potawatomi identity both informs and challenges her faith. Curtice draws on her personal poetry, imagery, and stories of the Potawatomi people to address themes at the forefront of today's discussions of faith and

positive and constructive way. She encourages us to embrace our own origins and to share and listen to each other's stories so we can build a more inclusive and diverse future. Each of our stories matters for the church to be truly whole. As Curtice shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her

Indigenous heritage, she reveals that a vibrant spirituality has its origins in identity, belonging, and a sense of place. **Immortal** Diamond Wm. B. **Eerdmans Publishing** Mitzy Neuhaus is the top selling Realtor in Portland, but even her office is dead in this economy. Foreclosed is the word no homeowner wants to hear and Mitzy is determined to save the incredible

mansion on her street from that fate. But with the homeowner desperate to keep Mitzy away from his property and Alonzo, the dangerously hot rival investor trying to snatch it out from under about the Jewish her. Mitzv knows she has to work fast, or the economy won't be the only thing dead... Christianity's Dangerous Idea **HarperCollins** The book of Daniel is a literary rich and complex story known for its apocalyptic style. Written in both Hebrew and Aramaic, the book begins with stories

of Daniel and three Jewish young men Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) who are exiles among the remnant from Judea in Babylon in sixth century b.c.e. It ends with Daniel's visions and dreams community that offer comfort and encouragement as they endure persecution and hope for deliverance into God's kingdom. Newsom's commentary offers a fresh study of Daniel in its historical context. Newsom further analyzes Daniel from literary and theological perspectives. With her expert

commentary, Newsom's study will University in be the definitive commentary on Daniel for many years to come. The Old Testament Library provides fresh and authoritative treatments of important aspects of Westminster John **Old Testament** study through commentaries and general surveys. The contributors are scholars of international standing. The editorial board consists of William P. Brown, Professor Review) Tim of Old Testament. Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia; Carol A. Newsom, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament. Candler School of

Theology at Emory Atlanta, Georgia: and Brent A. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament. Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. The New Testament Knox Press Serge A. Storms gives condo living a try in this off-thewall, acid-splashed Florida crime caper from the "insanely funny" (New York Times Book Dorsey. "Delightfully madcap... This fiendishly funny adventure is irresistible." — **Publishers Weekly** Serge A. Storms and his permanently

baked sidekick, Coleman, have decided to pump the brakes and live on island time. After years of manic road tripping across their beloved Sunshine State, the irrepressible antiheroes drop anchor in the Florida Keys. They settle down in Pelican Bay, a thriving condo complex with scenic views and friendly neighbors. But the community is at war with investors who are buying up units and leasing them to young vacationers who party at all hours. With their little slice of heaven on the line, Serge takes it upon himself to convince the tourists to move

on and quickly becomes a local favorite. Meanwhile, the island chain's long and rich smuggling heritage is causing mayhem—a gang warestore hope and erupts when a local drug lord passes the family business to his young, enterprising son, and the sun-loving residents are suddenly dodging bullets. Luckily, Florida's most lovable serial killer is there to help! The Sign and the Sacrifice Wm. B. **Eerdmans Publishing NEW YORK** TIMES **BESTSELLER** • From one of the world's most influential spiritual

thinkers, a longawaited book exploring what it means that Jesus was called "Christ." and how this forgotten truth can meaning to our lives. "Anyone who strives to put their faith into action will put ourselves at the find encouragement and inspiration in the pages of this book."—Melinda Gates In his decades articulates a as a globally recognized teacher, Richard Rohr has helped millions realize what is at stake in matters of faith and spirituality. Yet Rohr has never written on the most perennially talked about topic in Christianity: Jesus.

Most know who Jesus was, but who was Christ? Is the word simply Jesus's last name? Too often, Rohr writes, our understandings have been limited by culture, religious debate, and the human tendency to center. Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus's life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet. Thought-provoking, practical, and full of and donations in deep hope and vision, The Universal Christ is a is a clear landmark book from one of our most beloved spiritual writers, and an invitation to contemplate how God liberates and loves all that is. Daniel **HarperCollins** The world's religions affirm it to be so and recent

research across a number of disciplines tell us that "Helping others not only benefits those we assist but is good for us as well." The recent and astonishingly generous outpouring of help response to the earthquake in Haiti Unlimited Love demonstration of this phenomenon, but what if we could be helping others a way of life, even when times are hard? Post is author of the widely praised Why Good Things

Happen to Good People Filled with inspirational anecdotes about the transformative power of doing good The author is a leader in the study of altruism, compassion, and love as well as the President of the Institute for Research on **Beautiful** packaging, ideal for gift giving The Hidden Gifts of Helping Others convinced to make will leave you with the unshakable feeling that the world is an essentially good place. Kiss of an Angel Oxford University

Press What will be the final provides insight into destiny of the human race at God's eschatological judgment? Will all be saved, or only a few? How does Christian eschatology impact Christian political action in the here and now? And what is the destiny of each individual facing the prospect of earthly death? In these essays, Russian Orthodox theologian Sergius Bulgakov (1871-1944) brings the resources of Scripture and tradition to bear on these vital questions, arguing for the magnificent final restoration of all creatures to union with God in a universal salvation worthy of the infinite scope of Christ's redemption.

Bulgakov also how Christians can strive to bring God's kingdom to earth in anticipation of the peace and justice of the heavenly Jerusalem. The reader will also find in these pages profound theological reflections on the nature of human death and Christ's accompaniment of all humans in their dying, based on Bulgakov's own near-death experience. Together, these essays shed new light on eschatology in all its facets: personal, political, and universal. Basic Introduction to the New Testament, revised edition Abingdon Press When he was 23

years old, Dale Allison almost died in a car accident. That terrifying experience dramatically changed his ideas about death and the hereafter. In Night Comes Allison wrestles with a number of difficult questions concerning the last things — such questions as What happens to us after we die? and Why does death so often frighten us? Armed with his acknowledged scholarly expertise, Allison offers an engaging, personal exploration of such themes as death and fear, resurrection and judgment, hell and heaven, in light of science, Scripture, and his own experience. As he ponders and creatively imagines engaging throughout with biblical texts. church fathers. rabbinic scholars. poets, and philosophers — Allison offers fascinating fare that will captivate many a reader's heart and soul. **Dragon Nights** Createspace Independent Pub "If discipleship is a journey, this book

belongs in the rucksack...Like the scriptures on which it is based, it deserves repeated reading." Stephen Cherry, Dean of Kings College, Cambridge This fresh and inspiring look at the meaning of discipleship covers the essentials world stage today. of the christian life. including: faith, hope and love; forgiveness; holiness: social action; life in the Spirit. Written for the general reader by one of our greatest living theologians, this book will help you to see more clearly, love more dearly and follow more nearly the way of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism after Pluralism Chalice Press A New Interpretation of Protestantism and Its Impact on the World The radical idea that individuals could interpret the Bible for themselves spawned a revolution that is still being played out on the This innovation lies at the heart of Protestantism's remarkable instability and adaptability. World-renowned scholar Alister McGrath sheds new light on the fascinating figures and movements that continue to inspire debate and division across the full spectrum of Protestant churches and communities worldwide.

The Sophiology of

Death Westminster John Knox Press Dissolve the distractions of ego to find our authentic selves in God In his bestselling book Falling Upward, Richard Rohr talked about ego (or the False Self) and how it Father Richard Rohr, gets in the way of spiritual maturity. But if there's a False Self, is there also a True Self? What is it? How is it found? Why does it matter? And what does it. have to do with the spiritual journey? This book likens True Gerard Manley Self to a diamond. buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives, that must be searched for, uncovered, separated from all the debris of ego that surrounds it. In a sense True Self must, like Jesus, be

resurrected, and that process is not resuscitation but transformation. Shows how to navigate spiritually difficult terrain with clear vision and tools to uncover our True Selves Written by the bestselling author of Falling Upward Examines the fundamental issues of who we are and helps us on our path of spiritual maturity Immortal Diamond (whose title is taken from a line in a Hopkins poem) explores the deepest questions of identity, spirituality, and meaning in Richard Rohr's inimitable style. Night Comes HarperOne

and preachers on four interpretive approaches to Paul and Romans Pauline scholarship is a minefield of differing schools of thought. Those who teach or preach on Paul can quickly get lost in the weeds of the various perspectives. How, then, can pastors today best preach Paul's message? Scot McKnight and Joseph B. Modica have assembled this stellar one-stop guide exploring four major interpretive perspectives on the apostle Paul: Reformational, New, Apocalyptic, and Participationist. First elucidated by a scholarly essay, each perspective is

First-rate scholars

then illuminated by	New Perspective:	Perspective 8. The
three sermons	Scot McKnight 3.	Balance of
expositing various	Romans and the	Already/Not Yet:
passages from	Apocalyptic	Romans 8:1–17:
Paul's magisterial	Reading of Paul:	James D. G. Dunn
letter to the Romans.	Douglas A.	9. This Changes
Coming from such	Campbell 4.	Everything: Romans
leading figures as	Romans and the	5:12–21: Tara Beth
Richard Hays,	Participationist	Leach 10. Pass the
James Dunn,	Perspective:	Peace by Faith:
Fleming Rutledge,	Michael J. Gorman	Romans 4:1–4,
and Tom Schreiner,	Preaching Romans:	13–17: Scot
these essays and	Sermons	McKnight
sermons splendidly	Reformational	Apocalyptic
demonstrate how	Perspective 5.	Perspective 11.
each perspective on	Romans as Ecclesial	Immortal Combat:
Paul brings valuable	Theology: Building	Romans 1:16–17
insights for	Multiethnic	and 5:12–14: Jason
preaching on	Missional Churches:	Micheli 12. In
Romans. [Table of	Michael F. Bird 6.	Celebration of Full
Contents]	God Justifies the	Communion:
Introduction	Ungodly: Romans	Romans 3:21–24:
Interpretive	4:1–8: Thomas R.	Fleming Rutledge
Perspectives on the	Schreiner 7. The	13. Old Adam, New
Apostle Paul 1.	Transforming	Adam; Old World,
Romans and the	Reality of	New World; Old
"Lutheran" Paul:	Justification by	You, New You:
Stephen	Faith: Romans	Romans 5:12–21:
Westerholm 2.	5:1–5: Carl R.	William H.
Romans and the	Trueman New	Willimon

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Participationist Perspective 14. Death Becomes Her: opportunities facing Romans 6:1-14: Timothy G. Gombis 15. Made New by One Man's Obedience: Romans 5:12-19: Richard B. Hays 16. Breathing Well: Romans 8:12-30: Suzanne Watts Henderson Conclusion 17. Implications: Joseph B. Modica Mermaid Confidential Rowman & Littlefield As rural America continues to undergo massive economic and demographic shifts, rural churches are uniquely positioned to provide community leadership. Leading a rural congregation requires a deeper

understanding of the challenges and these communities, as community well as a strong theological and community-focused identity. Allen T. Stanton describes how the many challenges in establishing this identity, rural leaders build a meaningful and vital ministry. **Reclaiming Rural** explores the myths and realities of rural places, and how those common narratives impact the leadership of rural churches. Ultimately, rural congregations must practice a contextual understanding of vitality, which understands both the strengths and challenges of leading in a rural setting. Arguing for a practice explores the meaning of evangelism imbued of the cross and the with this mission of vitality, Reclaiming

Rural promotes the church as a leader in economic and development, modeled upon a Wesleyan theology of grace. Acknowledging facing rural churches, this book is an energetic and encouraging guide to overcoming social and economic obstacles to build a thriving congregation. Why Study History? John Wiley & Sons Rowan Williams. former Archbishop of Canterbury, presents the Gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection as viewed through the eyes of those who witnessed them. The Sign and the Sacrifice significance of Christ's resurrection.

discussing what these combination of events meant to Jesus' biblical reflection, followers in the early years and what they can say to us today. Healing Spiritual Wounds Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Accessible, challenging, funny, and one of the best reads on how to love others in any situation. Love and hospitality can change the way you see the world and others. That's exactly what modern-day theologian, Richard Beck, experienced when he first led a Bible study at a local maximum security prison. Beck believed the promise of Matthew 25 that states when we visit the prisoner, we encounter Jesus. Sure enough, God met Beck in prison. With his signature

and psychological insight, Beck shows how God always meets us when we entertain the marginalized, the oppressed, and the refugee. Stories from Beck's own life illustrate this truth --God comes to him in the poor, the crippled, the smelly. **Psychological** experiments show how we are predisposed to appreciate those who are similar to us and avoid those who are unlike us. The call of the gospel, however, is to override those impulses with compassion, to "widen the circle of our affection." In the end, Beck turns to the Denison, Inc. Little Way of St. Thérèse of Lisieux for on marriage.

guidance in doing even the smallest acts theological reasoning, with kindness, and he lays out a path that any of us can follow. Making Sense of the Bible [Leader Guide] Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing "Text Copyright A 1951 by John R. W. Stott, originally published under the title Men with a Message. Previously published by Eerdmans A 1964 under the title Basic Introduction to the New Testament. ISBN 0802811906. Revised edition published by Baker Books A 2001 under the title The Story of the New Testament: Men with a Message." The Beauty of **Preaching** Janelle This is a study guide

Discussions include: covenant vs contract. concepts of biblical marriage, loneliness and looking for a mate, the realities of divorce, and family in Today, the definition the larger community. of marriage has I titled the study guide evolved one more "Marriage in Interesting Times," because we are living at a time when profound changes in the way marriage is understood. Not that long ago, it was assumed by many in American society that remember that the traditional marriage not only involved a man and a woman. but the man was the head of the household these are interesting and the woman was a homemaker. The man Cornwall It is the earned the money, and hope of both Dr. the woman cared for the children and kept the house in order. Then came the idea that husband and wife study and less were equal partners in diatribes.

the marriage. In most cases both partners worked outside the home, and they shared more equally the duties of the home. time to include samesex couples ... So, when we talk about first century, at least in the United States. and a number of other nations around the globe, we must legal definition, if not the religious one, includes both gay and straight couples. Yes, times. Dr. Bob Cornwall and **Energion Pubications** that there will be more dialogue during this

Marriage in **Interesting Times** Wm. B. Eerdmans **Publishing** Diana Butler Bass. one of contemporary Christianity's leading trendspotters, exposes how the failings of marriage in the twenty-the church today are giving rise to a new "spiritual but not religious" movement. Using evidence from the latest national polls and from her own cutting-edge research, Bass, the visionary author of A People's History of Christianity, continues the conversation began in books like Brian D. McLaren's A New Kind of Christianity and

Harvey Cox's The Future of Faith. examining the connections—and the this mistaken notion he reveals how the divisions—between theology, practice, and community that Gentiles had pushed is so far removed Christians experience today. Bass's clearly worded, powerful, and probing Christianity After Religion is required reading for anyone invested in the future of Christianity. Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy **Brazos Press** A global and pioneering leader of shows just how progressive Christianity and the bestselling author of Why Christianity Must Change or Die Jewish scriptures, and Eternal Life explains why a

literal reading of the back the layers of a Gospels is actually heretical, and how only entered the church once out all the Jewish followers of Jesus. A man who has consciously and deliberately walked the path of Christ, John Shelby Spong has lived his entire life inside the this profound and considered work, he icons, and offers a radical new way to look at the gospels today as he deeply Jewish the **Christian Gospels** are and how much they reflect the history, and patterns ascension, would of worship. Pulling

long-standing Gentile ignorance, church's literal reading of the Bible from these original Jewish authors' intent that it is an act of heresy. Using the Gospel of Matthew as a guide, Spong explores the Bible's literary and liturgical roots—its Christian Church. In grounding in Jewish culture, symbols, storytelling tradition—to explain how the events of Jesus' life. including the virgin birth, the miracles, the details of the passion story, and the resurrection and have been

understood by both story in the modern the Jewish authors world. of the various gospels and by the Jewish audiences for which they were originally written. Spong makes clear that it was only after the church became fully Gentile that readers of the Gospels took these stories to be factual, distorting their original meaning. In Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy, Spong illuminates the gospels as never before and provides a better blueprint for the future than where the church's leaden and heretical reading of the story of Jesus has led us—one that allows the faithful to live inside the Christian

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