

Witness To The World The Christian Mission In Theological Perspective

Witness to the World St. Vladimirs Seminary Press

Christians have always looked to models within the Christian faith to guide their lives. At a time when the church is more identifiable by ugly partisan politics--what we call "crappy Christianity"--than by compassionate neighbor love, this book highlights the lives and work of seven individuals who are pursuing their Christian calling in humility and profound love for and service to others, this book highlights the lives and work of seven individuals who are pursuing their Christian calling in humility and profound love for and service to others. Their commitments have led to vocations in working with homeless women, employing refugees, lobbying on Capitol Hill for environmental protection, healing trauma in urban communities, peacemaking in Israel-Palestine, advocating for immigrants, and walking alongside people in addiction recovery. Their individual and collective witness offer compelling examples of authentic Christian life, which is marked in part by active, embodied faith in pursuit of the common good; a broad and inclusive love for all people; rightly ordered political identities and loyalties; and a commitment to work toward holistic redemption of both people and the systems that constitute our life together. In contrast to much of contemporary American Christianity, these models of faith demonstrate that Christians should focus much more on what we are for rather than what we are against.

The word evangelism evokes strong reactions among Christians. Conflict about what it is, whether to do it, how to go about it, and the desired results divides churches, demonstrating the need for new theologies and methods that address today's religiously pluralistic and secular contexts. This book offers a comprehensive treatment of evangelism, from biblical models to contemporary practice. Frances Adeney shows that understanding different contexts and approaches to evangelism and accepting the views of others on this crucial topic can help replace the "evangelism wars" (social action vs. proclamation) with a more graceful approach to sharing God's good news with the world. In *Confident Witness -- Changing World*, twenty-two scholars and skilled ministry practitioners explore this complex question not only theoretically but also in practical terms immediately useful to pastors and church leaders.

Living Gently in a Violent World

The Authentic Witness

Gospel Witness

Joy for the World

A Witness of Courage in a Hurting World

Disruptive Witness

The Witness of the World to Christ

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," Jesus commanded His disciples. Anyone who is committed to bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to the world hears dozens of excuses and objects. This easy-to-use handbook quickly points to the Scriptures that answer the questions and settle the doubts of people who have not yet met Christ. Compiled by R. A. Torrey, one of the greatest evangelists of modern times, this valuable ministry tool will teach you how to: Become a successful soulwinner Use God's Word to answer difficult questions Show the self-righteous their need of God Help believers mature in Christ In addition, you will find helpful soul-winning hints and faith-strengthening Scriptures. The limitless power of the Word of God is available to help you become an effective worker in the harvest field of this world.

Traditional Protestant theology has long answered the question, What is the true church? by pointing to the visible church--its location, nature, and structure. The recent increase of interest in missions, however, has raised the issues of the church's role and identity--its mission in the world. It is no longer enough to use orthodoxy as the criterion for the genuineness of the church, identifying the body of Christ by organization or clerical structure, perfection in lifestyle, or ecstatic experience of the Holy Spirit. Rather, says Norman Kraus, the mark of the true church is its authenticity--its ability to remain true to its original prototype in character and purpose. Thus, the church's mission is to be the authentic community of witness to the world. The Christian community affirms each individual as a person in Christ, and its objective for the world is the same as for itself: it calls the world to peace in Christ. The church in mission, then, must be a sign to the world of the kingdom of God. As an authentic community, it is a healing community, characterized and organized around its mission of reconciling witness rather than creeds, various practices, or preaching. Following Christ as its model, its message is salvation and reconciliation.

God uses ordinary people like you and me. WE EASILY IDENTIFY WITH THE PEOPLE IN ACTS because Luke never allows us to forget their humanity. It's impossible to confuse Peter or Paul with fictional characters. No ancient novelist would ever have created men whose lives were characterized by such dramatic contradictions: the brash and blustering everyman who blossoms overnight into an elder statesman; a movement's most infamous persecutor who develops into its most prominent advocate. Luke has drawn two millennial's worth of readers into the overlapping apostolic "adventures of these two first-century Jewish men who, while so dissimilar, shared a common vision and served the same Messiah. In a series of vignettes, or "postcards", some historical, some biographical, still others theological. Acts reveals the successes and defeats, the conquest and tragedies of the original band of Jesus' followers. In Acts we are able to share in the joy, the loss, the frustration, the passionate debate and the ultimate triumph of these pioneers of Christianity. These are ordinary people who, through the

power and enablement of the Holy Spirit, accomplish extraordinary things in the name of their messiah. In less than one generation this initial cohort of Christians boldly "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) ! Steven Ger is a "Hebrew of Hebrews", a fourth-generation Jewish believer, whose Jewish-Christian perspective will bring new life to your understanding of the book of Acts.

Can the church regain its cultural influence? The church in America is losing ground. Unfortunately, our efforts to reverse this trend often seem to do more harm than good. In Joy for the World, Greg Forster explains how the church lost its culture-shaping voice and what Christians can do to turn things around. This book teaches us that the key to cultural transformation is something that we might not expect: explosive, Spirit-produced joy in God and his gospel.

A Theology of Public Witness

The Witness and the Other World

Witness to the World

Our Witness to the World

The World Situation and God's Move

A Collection of Testimonies and Inspirational Writings from the Pages of the "Restoration Witness"

Bible and Mission

A year 2000 Finalist in the ECPA book competition! Accounts of injustice from our own communities and from around the world often leave us feeling outraged and helpless. We wonder what we can possibly do in response. And we wonder where is the God of justice? Jesus, however, said, "Take heart! I have overcome the world." Gary Haugen sees the truth of Jesus' claim vindicated throughout Scripture, which portrays a God who rises up against injustice. He also sees this truth in the lives of sometimes little-known Christians who through the years have courageously confronted evil when they saw it. Here he tells stories of these witnesses of hope in a hurting world. The good news about injustice is that God is against it. God is in the business of using the unlikely to perform the holy, Haugen contends. And in this book he not only offers stories of courageous witnesses past and present, he also calls the body of Christ to action. He offers concrete guidance on the ways and means its members can rise up to seek justice throughout the world.

God has always commissioned his people to be a blessing and witness to others. This studyguide will enable you to see the world through God's eyes and will motivate you to get involved in the awesome and joyful task of worldwide outreach.

Drawing on the writings of German pastor-theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Jennifer M. McBride constructs a groundbreaking theology of public witness for Protestant church communities in the United States. In contrast to the triumphal manner in which many Protestants have engaged the public sphere, The Church for the World shows how the church can offer a nontriumphal witness to the lordship of Christ through repentant activity in public life. After investigating current Christian conceptions of witness in the United States, McBride offers a new theology for repentance as public witness, based on Bonhoeffer's thought concerning Christ, the world, and the church. McBride takes up Bonhoeffer's proposal that repentance may be reinterpreted "non-religiously," expanding and challenging common understandings of the concept. Finally, she examines two church communities that exemplify ecclesial commitments and practices rooted in confession of sin and repentance. Through these communities she demonstrates that confession and repentance may be embodied in various ways yet also discerns distinguishing characteristics of a redemptive public witness. The Church for the World offers important insights about Christian particularity and public engagement in a pluralistic society as it provides a theological foundation for public witness that is simultaneously bold and humble: when its mode of being in the world is confession of sin unto repentance, the church demonstrates Christ's redemptive work and becomes a vehicle of concrete redemption.

Walter Kaiser questions the notion that the New Testament represents a deviation from God's supposed intention to save only the Israelites. He argues that--contrary to popular opinion--the older Testament does not reinforce an exclusive redemptive plan. Instead, it emphasizes a common human condition and God's original and continuing concern for all humanity. Kaiser shows that the Israelites' mission was always to actively spread to gentiles the Good News of the promised Messiah. This new edition adds two new chapters, freshens material throughout, expands the bibliography, and includes study questions.

Witnesses to the World

A Guide for Gospel Foot Soldiers

Equipping the Church for Evangelism and Social Impact

Christian Witness in a Postmodern World

Rediscovering the Gospel in North America

Exotic European Travel Writing, 400-1600

Christian Ethics as Witness

This statement by the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis on the New Evangelization focuses on re-evangelizing Catholics, practicing or not, who have lost a sense of the faith and seek to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. This resource examines what the New Evangelization is, its focus, its importance for the Church and how dioceses and parishes can promote it.

Concise Wisdom from a Pastoral Veteran The Kingdom Pastor's Library is a new series that brings you a succinct, concise pastoral philosophy and training from Tony Evans. Our Witness to the World teaches you how to equip every member to go out into their neighborhoods for effective outreach. It also demonstrates how important social impact is for spreading the gospel. Faithful. Powerful. Practical. Become a Kingdom Pastor Today.

One of the chief challenges of the Second Vatican Council was to reclaim the meaning of baptism, especially as the church's service and mission in the world. Fifty years after the close of that watershed gathering, nineteen distinguished religious scholars reexamine that challenge and its implications for preaching and ministry today. This book reinvigorates an important conversation.

This book reflects Father Meyendorff's fundamental convictions concerning: 1) Orthodox participation in ecumenical dialogue, 2) the Church's responsibilities in education and mission, and 3) spiritual developments in Russia.

What We Have Seen and Heard

Witness To The World

Exotic European Travel Writing, 400-1600

Bearing Witness to Atrocity

Models for an Authentic Christian Life

Credibility and Authority

The Church for the World

What should Christian witness look like in our contemporary society? In this timely book, Alan Noble looks at our cultural moment, characterized by technological distraction and the growth of secularism, laying out individual, ecclesial, and cultural practices that disrupt our society's deep-rooted assumptions and point beyond them to the transcendent grace and beauty of Jesus.

This engaging study provides a new way of looking at Scripture—one that takes seriously the biblical idea of mission. Richard Bauckham shows how God identifies himself with particular individuals or people in human history in order to be known by all. He is the God of Abraham, Israel, and David and, finally, the one who acts through Jesus Christ. Bauckham applies these insights to the contemporary scene, encouraging those involved in mission to be sensitive to postmodern concerns about globalization while at the same time emphasizing the uniqueness of Christian faith. In doing so, he demonstrates the diversity of Christian faith around the world. This book will be rewarding reading for pastors, lay readers, and students of Scripture, mission, and postmodernism.

What can we do to prevent more atrocities from happening in the future, and to stop the ones that are happening right now? That the World May Know tells the powerful and moving story of the successes and failures of the modern human rights movement. Drawing on firsthand accounts from fieldworkers around the world, the book gives a painfully clear picture of the human cost of confronting inhumanity in our day.

Christian ethics is less a system of principles, rules, or even virtues, and more of a free and open-ended responsible witness to God's gracious action to be with and for others and the world. Postmodernity has left us with the risky uncertainty of knowing and doing the good. It also leaves us with the global risks of political violence and terrorism, economic globalization and financial crisis, and environmental destruction and global climate change. How should Christians respond to these problems? This book creatively explores how Christian ethics is best understood as a witness to God's action, thereby providing the ethical framework for addressing the various problematic social issues that put our world at risk. Haddorff develops the notion of witness through a detailed study of Karl Barth's theological ethics. Barth, he argues, provides a language enabling us to know what a Christian ethics of witness actually looks like in both theory and in practice. In correspondence to God's gracious action, Christians remain free to think and act in faith, hope, and love in response to their unique circumstances, even in a world at risk. In their witness, Christians remain confident that God has not abandoned the world but loves and cares for its future.

Fostering Baptismal Witness in the World

Barth's Ethics for a World at Risk

Speaking Truth in a Distracted Age

Sharing the Gospel in Everyday Encounters

The Christian Mission in Theological Perspective

Good News About Injustice

The Power of Christianity in Developing Modern Civilization

The church has much to learn from an often-overlooked group—those with disabilities. Including a study guide in this expanded edition, Stanley Hauerwas and Jean Vanier shed light on what it means to be human and how we are to live, carefully exploring the contours of a countercultural community marked by radical forms of gentleness, peacemaking, and faithfulness.

Christian ethics is less a system of principles, rules, or even virtues, and more of a free and open-ended responsible witness to God's gracious action to be with and for others and the world. Postmodernity has left us with the risky uncertainty of knowing and doing the good. It also leaves us with the global risks of political violence and terrorism, economic globalization and financial crisis, and environmental destruction and global climate change. How should Christians respond to these problems? This book creatively explores how Christian ethics is best understood as a witness to God's action, thereby providing the ethical framework for addressing the various problematic social issues that put our world at risk. Haddorff develops the notion of witness through a detailed study of Karl Barth's theological ethics. Barth, he argues, provides a language enabling us to know what a Christian ethics of witness actually looks like in both theory and in practice. In correspondence to God's gracious action, Christians remain free to think and act in faith, hope, and love in response to their unique circumstances, even in a world at risk. In their witness, Christians remain confident that God has not abandoned the world but loves and cares for its future.

Surveying exotic travel writing in Europe from late antiquity to the age of discovery, *The Witness and the Other World* illustrates the fundamental human desire to change places, if only in the imagination. Mary B. Campbell looks at works by pilgrims, crusaders, merchants, discoverers, even armchair fantasists such as Mandeville, as well as the writings of Marco Polo, Columbus, and Walter Raleigh. According to Campbell, these travel accounts are exotic because they bear witness to alienated experiences; European travelers, while claiming to relate fact, were often passing on monstrous projections. She contends that their writing not only documented but also made possible the conquest of the peoples whom she travelers described, and she shows how travel literature contributed to the genesis of the modern novel and the modern life sciences.

A professor of religion asserts that the difficulties faced in communicating the gospel are as much an opportunity as they are a challenge. This book analyzes contemporary trends in American cultural life related to what those who don't attend church know about Christianity and how they think about questions of ultimate meaning.

Christian Witness in a Complex World

The Prophetic Witness of Weakness

Acts: Courageous Witness in a Hostile World

God's Heart for the Nations

Daughters in My Kingdom

The World's Witness to Jesus Christ

The Book of Acts

This up-to-date textbook features global perspectives on current Christian engagement with Islam, equipping readers for mission among Muslims. Evelyne Reisacher, who has worked extensively with Muslims in Europe, helps readers move from fear to joy as they share the gospel with Muslims. Reisacher surveys areas where Muslims and Christians encounter one another in the twenty-first century, highlighting innovative models of Christian witness in everyday life. Drawing on insights from global Christianity, this survey takes account of diverse conceptions of Muslim-Christian relations. The book may surprise those who believe mission among Muslims is nearly impossible. This is the first book in

Mission in Global Community series, which reframes missiological themes and studies for students around the common theme of mission partnership with others. Series authors draw upon their own global experience and that of their global colleagues to illumine present reality and chart a course into the future. Series editors are Scott W. Sunquist and Amos Yong.

How can Christians witness to the complexity of our world? Gregg Okesson shows that local congregations are the primary means of public witness in and for the world. As Christians move back and forth between their churches and their neighborhoods, workplaces, and other public spaces, they weave a thick gospel witness. This introduction to public missiology explains how local congregations can thicken their witness in public realms where they live, work, and play. Real-life examples from around the world help readers envision approaches to public witness and social change.

A great deal of uncertainty exists in the church as to what mission really is. The shifts in political power, away from the traditionally Christian West; the call for a moratorium and the other critical voices from the Third World churches; and the increasing self-assurance and missiological consciousness among adherents of non-Christian religions--all these have given rise to the question whether Christian mission work still makes sense, and if it does, what form it should take. Is mission identical to evangelism in the sense of proclaiming eternal salvation? Does it require political involvement, and if so, how? Where does salvation take place: only in the Church, or in the individual, or in society, or in the non-Christian religions? The picture is one of change and complexity, tension and urgency. The answers we give to these questions should be consonant with the will of God and relevant to the situation in which we find ourselves.

An up-close look at World War I examines life in the trenches and the devastation of Europe by the Great War.

Confident Witness--changing World

World War I

Witnesses to All the World

How Local Churches Witness to a Complex World

The New Evangelization

Israel as a Light to the Nations

Most commentaries on Acts are written by Western scholars for a Western audience. This book comes out of more than forty years of teaching in the Majority World. It is aimed at the new breed of emerging missionaries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The apostles in Acts faced a hostile world. Yet in that context, the Holy Spirit gave them incredible courage. The scenes of Peter, Stephen, and Paul facing angry mobs and the fury of the Jewish Sanhedrin are being played out in India, China, and Eritrea today. Acts teaches us how to have a "courageous witness in a hostile world." Further, this work addresses the powerful forces that assault the worldwide church--particularly the racism that splits the church all over the world. Acts: Courageous Witness in a Hostile World will thrill you as you see how God's Spirit overcomes every obstacle and keeps the church on track, even when we think all is lost. Read this book for yourself and become courageous.

Christians have always looked to models within the Christian faith to guide their lives. At a time when the church is more identifiable by ugly partisan politics--what we call "crappy Christianity"--than by compassionate neighbor love, this book highlights the lives and work of seven individuals who are pursuing their Christian calling in humility and profound love for and service to others, this book highlights the lives and work of seven individuals who are pursuing their Christian calling in humility and profound love for and service to others. Their commitments have led to vocations in working with homeless women, employing refugees, lobbying on Capitol Hill for environmental protection, healing trauma in urban communities, peacemaking in Israel-Palestine, advocating for immigrants, and walking alongside people in addiction recovery. Their individual and collective witness offer compelling examples of authentic Christian life, which is marked in part by active, embodied faith in pursuit of the common good; a broad and inclusive love for all people; rightly ordered political identities and loyalties; and a commitment to work toward holistic redemption of both people and the systems that constitute our life together. In contrast to much of contemporary American Christianity, these models of faith demonstrate that Christians should focus much more on what we are for rather than what we are against.

In the first meeting of the Relief Society, Sister Emma Smith said, "We are going to do something extraordinary." She was right. The history of Relief Society is filled with examples of ordinary women who have accomplished extraordinary things as they have exercised faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Relief Society was established to help prepare daughters of God for the blessings of eternal life. The purposes of Relief Society are to increase faith and personal righteousness, strengthen families and homes, and provide relief by seeking out and helping those in need. Women fulfill these purposes as they seek, receive, and act on personal revelation in their callings and in their personal lives. This book is not a chronological history, nor is it an attempt to provide a comprehensive view of all that the Relief Society has accomplished. Instead, it provides a historical view of the grand scope of the work of the Relief Society. Through historical accounts, personal experiences, scriptures, and words of latter-day prophets and Relief Society leaders, this book teaches about the responsibilities and opportunities Latter-day Saint women are given in Heavenly Father's plan of happiness.

In light of our increasingly post-Christian Western contexts, David Gustafson offers a mission-oriented ecclesiology that moves from missional theory to practices of missional engagement. Introducing "God's human drama" as a way to explain the gospel within God's redemptive story, he outlines specific ways for pastors and church leaders to shape a "gospeling" culture within their congregations. Gustafson expertly lays the foundations of and approaches to evangelism that are seminal and apt for the church today.

Mission in the Old Testament

Disciples Called to Witness

How to Witness to Anyone

Faithful Witness in a Fractured World

A Public Missiology

Joyful Witness in the Muslim World

Witness to Wonder: The World of Catholic Sacrament

How are Christians to live in a violent and wounded world? Rather than contending for privilege by wielding power

and authority, we can witness prophetically from a position of weakness. The church has much to learn from an often overlooked community--those with disabilities. In this fascinating book, theologian Stanley Hauer was collaborates wi...

That the World May Know

Evangelism in Word and Deed

How Christianity Lost Its Cultural Influence and Can Begin Rebuilding It

Joyful Witness in the Muslim World (Mission in Global Community)

Graceful Evangelism