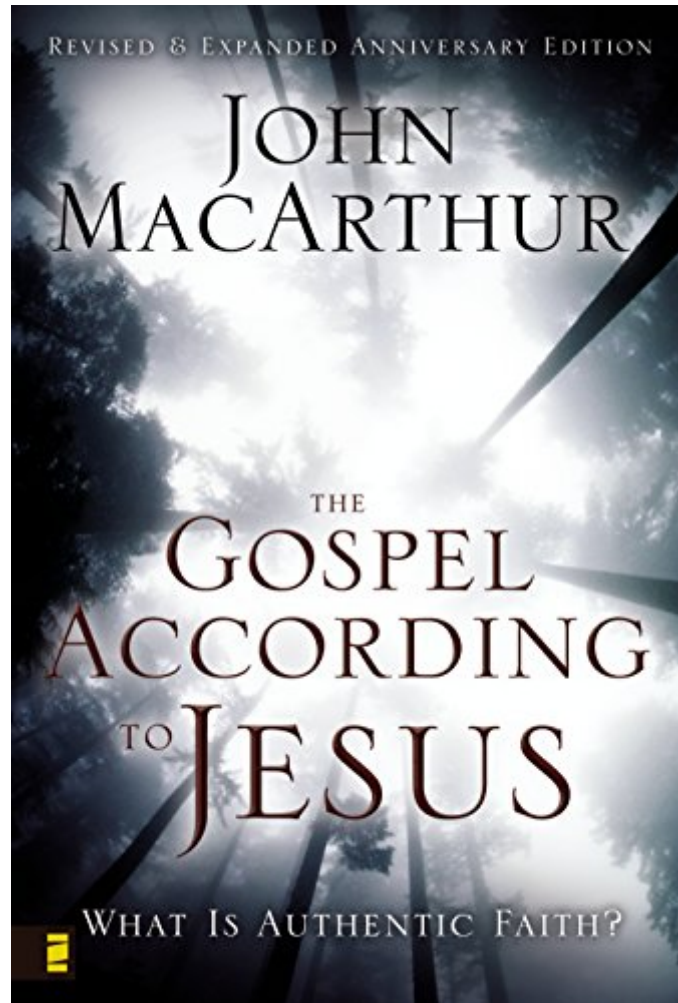


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The Gospel According To Jesus: What Is Authentic Faith?



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In my opinion, John MacArthur has hit a homerun with this book. If it were up to me, this book would be required reading for every pastor in America, but particularly pastors of megachurches, since an increasing number of megachurches are slipping into the easy believism that MacArthur successfully refutes here. In a nutshell, MacArthur attempts to take on the concept that people can make allegedly sincere professions of faith in Christ and then be considered a Christian with certain eternal security even if their life bears no good fruit after their supposed conversion. This is an important question, both from a theological standpoint as well as from a Christian living perspective. An increasing number of churches, particularly a number of megachurches, have appeared to shy away from topics that remind people of the reality of sin, the need for repentance and forgiveness, and the important desire of being obedient to God and His Word because such sentiments are increasingly unpopular within the realm of comfortable Christianity. MacArthur argues that good works are not a precondition of salvation, thus affirming the historic Protestant position of salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ and relying on His grace. But having affirmed this position, MacArthur then goes into fabulous Biblical detail concerning the FRUITS by which genuine salvation can be measured. Critics of MacArthur's book have argued that MacArthur is preaching a works based salvation, but I think it's clear that MacArthur is not doing that.

I just finished reading The Gospel According to Jesus, and it was absolutely wonderful. I remember reading through the gospels about 8 years ago when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I had just started attending a seeker sensitive church, and we had a great pastor. But I remember even then, as I read through the gospels and studied the words of the Savior thinking that there was a lot more to accepting Jesus than just praying a silent prayer to yourself at the end of the service. It required a change of lifestyle, a change of heart, a change of attitude, and an understanding of my own sin and depravity. In short, it was not an "easy" thing to accept. And life has borne out that following Him is not always "easy", not always "fun", and the trials that come to test your faith can often be excruciatingly painful. That said, I *have* trusted Him, have kept the faith, and continue to remain in His grace and to seek His strength and direction for my life. I share with Dr. MacArthur a deep appreciation for the true gospel, and a desire to share it with others. I think there are way too many people out there who accept something that is a poor substitute for the gospel Jesus came to give us, and I fear there are a great many people who have been lulled into a

false sense of security when it comes to eternal salvation. This is one of the reasons I have such a problem with the likes of Kenneth Copeland, Joel Osteen, and others who pervert and distort the real message of our Lord. As good as this book is, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are even better. If you really want to know the gospel of Jesus, go there first and let Him speak to you personally.

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