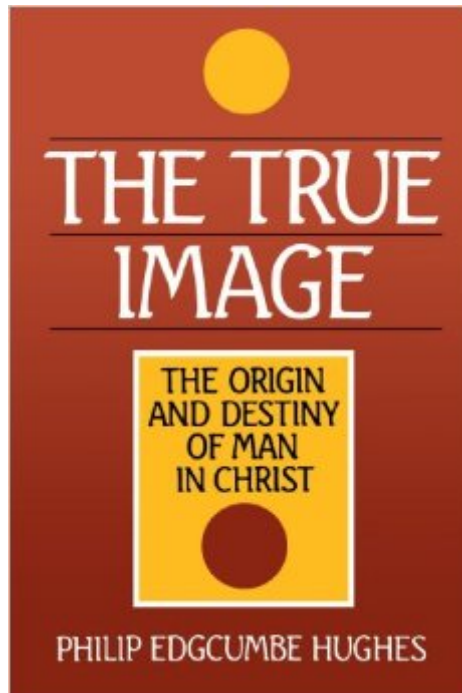


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True Image: Christ As The Origin And Destiny Of Man



Synopsis

"A deeply learned and spiritually enriching book by a mature evangelical scholar that brings the doctrine of Christ and the human together at the point of the image of God. . . . Hughe's skills as both a biblical scholar and a historical and systematic th

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Philip Edgcumbe Hughes was one of my many professors at Westminster Theological Seminary. I had him for New Testament Exegesis. It was the hardest course I took at Westminster. Not only did one need to know the Greek roots of irregular verbs, but one was also required to know the four principal parts of those verbs. His was the only course for which I received a grade below B, and I'm grateful that I received a C+. Rumor had it that perhaps half the class failed. I am quoting brief portions from one chapter in Dr. Hughes' excellent book. The chapter is titled, "Is the Soul Immortal?" Regarding some of Calvin's words, Hughes wrote, "There is ... a strangely Platonic ring to assertions, both in the PsychopannyÃ Â- chia and in the Institutes, about the soul being "freed from the body," about the body "weighing down the soul" and being "the prison of the soul," and about the soul being "set free from this prison" and "loosed from these fetters" when we "put off the load of the body." Hughes was suggesting that Calvin may not have completely extricated himself from Platonic pagan thought. I believe Calvin is in heaven, but Platonic poison apparently went deep into the stream of Christian thought. Many Reformed Christians have not put off this official error of the Roman Catholic Church. In their adherence to "church fathers," they did not go back far enough in time. Hughes also wrote, "To contend that only the human soul is innately immortal is to maintain

a position which is nowhere approved in the teaching of Scripture ... There is no suggestion that a part of him was undying and therefore that his dying would be in part only.

Dr. Philip Edgcumbe Hughes was born in Australia, and has taught at Tyndale Hall in England, as well as American seminaries including Westminster Theological Seminary. He has written other books such as Theology of the English Reformers, Interpreting Prophecy, etc. He wrote in the Preface to this 1989 book, "Our governing premise is that the doctrine of man (anthropology) can be truly apprehended only in the light of the doctrine of Christ (christology)... Thus perceived, the divine purpose of creation is grounded in the Son, and what was begun in the Son is also completed in the Son. It follows that conformity to the image of God is essentially Christoformity. Man's destiny... is the attainment of 'the complete knowledge of the Son of God,' which coincides with his becoming 'the perfect man... Christ, accordingly, is the True Image in which man was formed at creation and into which by the reconciling grace of re-creation fallen man is being transformed." (Pg. viii-ix) The three major sections of the book are, "Creation in the Image of God: Integration," "The Image Rejected: Disintegration," and "The Image Restored: Reintegration.

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