



The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?

By Richard Stearns

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WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF US?

Is our faith just about going to church, studying the Bible and avoiding the most serious sins—or does God expect more?

Have we embraced the whole gospel or a gospel with a hole in it?

Ten years ago, Rich Stearns came face-to-face with that question as he sat in a mud hut in Rakai, Uganda, listening to the heartbreaking story of an orphaned child. Stearns' journey there took much more than a long flight to Africa. It took answering God's call on his life, a call that tore him out of his corner office at one of America's most prestigious corporations—to walk with the poorest of the poor in our world.

The Hole in Our Gospel is the compelling true story of a corporate CEO who set aside worldly success for something far more significant, and discovered the full power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to change his own life. He uses his journey to demonstrate how the gospel—the whole gospel—was always meant to be a world changing social revolution, a revolution that begins with us.

ECPA 2010 Christian Book of the Year Award Winner!

“Read this compelling story and urgent call for change—Richard Stearns is a contemporary Amos crying ‘let justice roll down like waters....’ Justice is a serious gospel-prophetic mandate. Far too many American Christians for too long a time have left the cause to ‘others.’ Read it as an altar call.”

--Eugene H. Peterson, translator of *The Message*, Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, BC

“Rich Stearns calls us to exhilarating obedience to God's life-altering, world-changing command to reflect his love to our neighbors at home and globally. *The Hole in Our Gospel* is imbued with the hope of what is possible when God's people are transformed to live radically in light of his great love.”

--Gary Haugen, President & CEO, International Justice Mission

“Richard Stearns is quite simply one of the finest leaders I have ever known.... When he became president of World Vision I had a front row seat to witness the way God used his mind and heart to inspire thousands.... His new book, *The Hole In Our Gospel* will call you to a higher level of discipleship.... Now is the time...Richard Stearns has the strategy...your move!”

--Bill Hybels, Founding and Senior Pastor, Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, IL

“Rich Stearns has given us a book that makes absolutely clear what God hopes for and expects from each of us.... He reminded me of my personal responsibilities and the priority I must give them and also where life’s true rewards and fulfillment are to be found.”

--Jim Morris, former executive director, United Nations World Food Program

"World Vision plays a strategic role on our globe. As the largest relief organization in the history of the world, they initiate care and respond to crisis. Rich Stearns navigates this mercy mission with great skill. His book urges us to think again about the opportunity to love our neighbor and comfort the afflicted. His message is timely and needed. May God bless him, the mission of World Vision and all who embrace it."

--Max Lucado, author of 3:16—The Numbers of Hope, Minister of Writing and Preaching, Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, TX

“With passionate urging and earnestness, Rich Stearns challenges Christians to embrace the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ by embracing the neediest and most vulnerable among us. After reading the moving stories, the compelling facts and figures, and Stearns’ excellent application of scripture and his own experiences at World Vision, you will no doubt be asking yourself: What should I do?”

--Chuck Colson, Founder, Prison Fellowship

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Stearns, the CEO of World Vision, says Christians have a huge hole in their lives, an emptiness that comes from ignoring the plight of the poor. He details his own quest to fill this hole by leaving Lenox Inc., where he was CEO, to run a not-for-profit that helps feed, clothe, and educate children worldwide. Unlike many evangelical Christians, Stearns believes poverty is explained by something more than choices, and lifting cultures from the systemic causes of poverty requires a multi-pronged approach. This accessible book will make it into the hands of evangelical Christians who may not pick up one of the many ABA books on issues of hunger, access to clean water, malaria and AIDS. Readers of Rick Warren, Jim Wallis and N.T. Wright will find Stearns synthesizing thoughts from them as well as from economists and missionaries. This is a passionate and motivating magnum opus from the leader of one of the most recognized aid organizations in the world. The book is a surprisingly no-holds-barred prophetic voice in the wilderness crying out to rich Americans, "Repent and help your world neighbors." (*Mar. 10*)

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Review

"Rich Stearns calls us to exhilarating obedience to God's life-altering, world-changing command to reflect his love to our neighbors at home and globally. *The Hole in Our Gospel* is imbued with the hope of what is possible when God's people are transformed to live radically in light of his great love." ----Gary Haugen, President & CEO, International Justice Mission

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It's 1998 and Richard Stearns' heart is breaking as he sits in a mud hut and listens to the story of an orphaned child in Rakai, Uganda. His journey to this place took more than a long flight from the United States to Africa. It took answering God's call on his life, a call that hurtled him out of his presidential corner office at Lenox-America's finest tableware company-to this humble corner of Uganda. This is a story of how a corporate CEO faced his own struggle to obey God whatever the cost, and his passionate call for Christians to change the world by actively living out their faith. Using his own journey as an example, Stearns explores the hole that exists in our understanding of the Gospel. Two thousand years ago, twelve people changed the world. Stearns believes it can happen again. "Read this compelling story and urgent call for change-Richard Stearns is a contemporary Amos crying 'let justice roll down like waters'! Justice is a serious gospel-prophetic mandate. Far too many American Christians for too long a time have left the cause to 'others.' Read it as an altar call." -- --Eugene H. Peterson, translator of *The Message*, Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, BC

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About the Author

Richard Stearns has served as president of World Vision U.S. since 1998, having formerly been the CEO of Parker Bros. Games and Lenox, Inc. He and his wife, Reneé, have five children of their own and millions more around the world.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maxine Elam:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students as they are still students or that for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that query above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great and important the book *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?*. All type of book is it possible to see on many options. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Francis Dawson:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Jonathan Zahn:

The experience that you get from *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?* is a more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood through anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this particular *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?* instantly.

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