

The Cross of Christ

By John Stott



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The work of a lifetime, from one of the world's most influential thinkers, about the heart of the Christian faith. "I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. . . . In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?" With compelling honesty John Stott confronts this generation with the centrality of the cross in God's redemption of the world -- a world now haunted by the memories of Auschwitz, the pain of oppression and the specter of nuclear war. Can we see triumph in tragedy, victory in shame? Why should an object of Roman distaste and Jewish disgust be the emblem of our worship and the axiom of our faith? And what does it mean for us today? Now from one of the foremost preachers and Christian leaders of our day comes theology at its readable best, a contemporary restatement of the meaning of the cross. At the cross Stott finds the majesty and love of God disclosed, the sin and bondage of the world exposed. More than a study of the atonement, this book brings Scripture into living dialogue with Christian theology and the twentieth century. What emerges is a pattern for Christian life and worship, hope and mission. Destined to be a classic study of the center of our faith, Stott's work is the product of a uniquely gifted pastor, scholar and Christian statesman. His penetrating insight, charitable scholarship and pastoral warmth are guaranteed to feed both heart and mind.



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The Cross of Christ By John Stott Bibliography

Sales Rank: #66190 in Books
Brand: InterVarsity Press
Published on: 2006-09-28
Format: Special Edition
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.40" w x 6.00" l, 1.55 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 380 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

This is an overall fine, useful book . . . it is always a delight to learn of others who take the cross of Christ seriously and seek to tell others about it. (Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly, Fall 2007)

[Stott's] penetrating insight, charitable scholarship and pastoral warmth are guaranteed to feed both heart and mind. (Phil Gons, PastorBookshelf blog, June 5, 2007)

"John Stott rises grandly to the challenge of the greatest of all themes. All the qualities that we expect of him?biblical precision, thoughtfulness and thoroughness, order and method, moral alertness and the measured tread, balanced judgment and practical passion?are here in fullest evidence. This, more than any book he has written, is his masterpiece." (J. I. Packer, Regent College)

"Outside of the Bible itself, this may be the best book I've ever read on the cross of Christ. It is thorough, thoughtful and timely. As I read it, my mind was challenged, my heart was warmed, my faith was strengthened, and my focus was sharpened on the cross. Praise God for just giving us Jesus with nail prints in his hands and feet!" (Anne Graham Lotz, author of Just Give Me Jesus)

"I read everything John Stott writes because I know it will be biblical, well-reasoned and contextually applicable. *The Cross of Christ* is an intelligent, imaginative and timely exploration of the centrality of the cross, by a personal mentor I've come to appreciate for his scholar's mind and pastor's heart; he knows God deeply, understands the times clearly and engagingly explains truth in a relativistic age." (Dick Staub (dickstaub.com), president of The Center for Faith and Culture, broadcaster and author of Christian Wisdom of the Jedi Masters and Too Christian, Too Pagan)

"John Stott is loved and revered in our home. We have all of his writings, I believe, and in the honored center place in our bookshelf sits *The Cross of Christ*.

My wife and I consider *The Cross of Christ* one of the outstanding books of all times. We refer to it often. We have given copies away and recommended it widely. We take it out as we discuss the work of the Savior and in preparation for preaching and teaching. My own personally autographed copy is all marked up.

It is an outstanding exposition of scriptural truth. I believe we must saturate the churches across the world with the central truth of *The Cross of Christ*.

Once again as a call for the history of Christianity, a fresh generation of young followers of Jesus Christ need to *understand* the cross of Christ. Many are weak and some are even childish spiritually for not understanding the work of the cross.

Chapter six alone?"Self-Substitution of God"?is worth the whole of this rich, God-honoring, Christ-exhausting, devotional, biblical, ever-so-balanced, theologically sane and clear book." (Luis Palau, International Evangelist)

"In our world of war and terror, there is nothing more important to contemplate than the cross of Christ. May Stott's reflections give us the courage to fight, with all the love within us, the war of the slaughtered Lamb. The cross teaches us there is something worth dying for but nothing worth killing for, that we can conquer

evil without mirroring it. So grab this book and get ready to live real good and get beat up real bad. It is the story of our faith." (Shane Claiborne, author of The Irresistible Revolution)

"I have no hesitation in saying that this is the most enriching theological book I have ever read. I read it slowly and devotionally over a period of several months. I found that it edified and challenged me, thrilled me with the glory of the cross, and equipped me to answer some of the questions non-Christians and skeptics ask about the cross. I am happy that a new thrust is being made to introduce this great book to a new generation of Christians." (Ajith Fernando, author, Bible teacher and national director, Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka)

"The passion of Paul's statement, 'I am determined to know nothing among you but Jesus Christ and him crucified,' resonates on every page of this classic book on the centrality of the cross. What's more, Dr. Stott has validated every word with a life spent in servant leadership." (Michael Card, Bible teacher and musician)

"Biblical, clear and cogent are the words that came to mind on first reading this book. The passing of time has also made it indisputable that this book is a classic which is profound in a way that few evangelical books have been in recent years. It is compelling in its simplicity and comprehensive in its grasp of the way in which God conquers our sin, our rebellion, our ghastly evil through the person of Christ. Here is truth which is true, not just because it works for me, but because it is grounded in the very being and character of God, revealed and authenticated by him, worked out in the very fabric of our history, and therefore it is truth for all time." (David F. Wells, Andrew Mutch Distinguished Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

"For those who want an evenhanded and robust defense of the penal substitutionary theory of the atonement, John Stott's *The Cross of Christ* is the benchmark. With a deft hand, Stott has given us a classic articulation of this influential, evangelical doctrine that is both vigorous and readable. Books like this stand the test of time." (Tony Jones, author of The Sacred Way)

"As relevant today as when it first appeared, *The Cross of Christ* is more than a classic. It restates in our own time the heart of the Christian message. Like John the Baptist, John Stott points us away from the distractions that occupy so much of our energies in order, announcing, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Michael Horton, professor of theology and apologetics, Westminster Seminary California)

"Rarely does a volume of theology combine six cardinal virtues, but John Stott's *The Cross of Christ* does so magnificently. It says what must be said about the cross; it gently but firmly warns against what must not be said; it grounds its judgments in biblical texts, again and again; it hierarchizes its arguments so that the main thing is always the main thing; it is written with admirable clarity; and it is so cast as to elicit genuine worship and thankfulness from any thoughtful reader. There are not many 'must read' books?books that belong on every minister's shelf, and on the shelves of thoughtful laypersons who want a better grasp of what is central in Scripture?but this is one of them." (D. A. Carson, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School)

From the Publisher eatures & Benefits

- * A masterpiece from one of the most respected Christian teachers
- * Explores all the facets of the cross and its implication for our lives
- * A classic study on the heart of the Christian faith

- * Examines Scripture, tradition and modern experience with regard to the cross
- * Biblically precise, thoughtful, thorough and filled with practical passion
- * 1987 Eternity Book of the Year
- * Winner of a 1988 Evangelical Christian Publishers Association Gold Medallion Award
- * Now with a study guide and a new foreword by Alister McGrath

About the Author

John R. W. Stott (1921-2011) has been known worldwide as a preacher, evangelist and communicator of Scripture. For many years he served as rector of All Souls Church in London, where he carried out an effective urban pastoral ministry. A leader among evangelicals in Britain, the United States and around the world, Stott was a principal framer of the landmark Lausanne Covenant (1974). His many books have sold millions of copies around the world and in dozens of languages. Stott's best-known work, Basic Christianity, has sold two million copies and has been translated into more than 60 languages. Other titles include The Cross of Christ, Understanding the Bible, The Contemporary Christian, Evangelical Truth, Issues Facing Christians Today, The Incomparable Christ, Why I Am a Christian and Through the Bible Through the Year, a daily devotional. He has also written eight volumes in *The Bible Speaks Today* series of New Testament expositions. Whether in the West or in the Two-Thirds World, a hallmark of Stott's ministry has been expository preaching that addresses the hearts and minds of contemporary men and women. Stott was honored by Time magazine in 2005 as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" and was named in the Queen's New Years Honours list as Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In 1969, Stott founded the Langham Trust to fund scholarships for young evangelical leaders from the Majority World. He then founded the Evangelical Literature Trust, which provided books for students, pastors and theological libraries in the Majority World. These two trusts continued as independent charities until 2001, when they were joined as a single charity: the Langham Partnership. Langham's vision continues today to see churches in the Majority World equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ through nurturing national movements for biblical preaching, fostering the creation and distribution of evangelical literature, and enhancing evangelical theological education.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Robinette:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want sense happy read one together with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The particular The Cross of Christ is kind of publication which is giving the reader erratic experience.

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