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Martin Luther: Commentary On The Sermon On The Mount



Synopsis

"During Bugenhagen's absence Luther preached a long while for him, regularly, on the fifth, sixth and seventh chapters of Matthew, beginning Nov. 9, 1530. These sermons were then published, first in 1532, at Wittenberg, under Joseph Klug, in quarto; in 1533 at Marburg, in octavo; and in 1539, again in Wittenberg, in quarto, under Johann Weiss. In 1533 they were also translated into Latin by Vincent Obsopoeus." In this Irmischer edition these sermons are thrown into the form of a running commentary, and as such they are now presented to the English reading public by the Lutheran Publication Society. When requested by a committee of this Board to translate this work, I called attention to the peculiar roughness and even fierceness of Luther's way of expressing himself and of denouncing the minions of the papacy. But the committee judged it best that Luther should be allowed to speak for himself, presuming that intelligent English readers will make due allowance for the style of speech common in that day, and for the peculiarly aggravating circumstances under which that noble man of God was called to labor. An admirable vindication of these "Asperities" appeared in the ninth volume of our excellent Quarterly Review, in 1881; it is from the pen of Rev. Dr. Morris, one of Luther's most enthusiastic admirers. Charles A. Hay. Gettysburg, Feb. 11, 1892.

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Customer Reviews

First time I've ever read Luther's writings. He received his bachelor and Master degrees in 4 years, then went on to receive his Doctrate and 2 more degrees if i remember. So reading this book cemented his intelligence, what I did not realize was his penchant for calling a spade a spade. It seems so out of place in our feminized world of political correctness to hear Luther tell you exactly what he is thinking and using words that are hilarious. You can't help but think, I hope I'm on his side. This is a true commentary in that he handles the scripture from a professor of theology standpoint, but does not back down in giving his opinion. Great insight on the Sermon on the Mount, I've thoroughly enjoyed this book.

(Disclaimer: I am not a theologian.) As a Christian with some gray hairs, it seems good to take the time to understand "The Sermon on the Mount" (SOM). God freed Christians from the requirement of perfect compliance to the Old Testament law for salvation. But in loving gratitude, Christians seek to please their King and Savior. Jesus gave His people the commandment to love one another. I am not competent to address the ceremonial and judicial portions of the Old Testament law. However, it is clear that the moral portion of the Old Testament law helps to define what "loving one another" means. The SOM provides great light into the moral law. Luther's commentary on the SOM is useful to anyone seeking to understand the SOM, and thereby the moral law and therefore LOVE. In addition, it is my personal experience that SOM principles can save a Christian much needless loss and suffering in life. It is difficult to imagine a better investment of 99 cents than procuring the Kindle version of this book.

Luther's insights into scripture are always worth reading. He applied God's Word to his life and to everything around him from politics, his conflict with the Pope, to people working in the fields and at trades. Some is less applicable to today, but much of it could be written to our times just as well.

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