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Reconciliation: An Annotated Bibliography

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Abstract

A review of the recent book publications related to the spring theme, "Reconciliation." We include the following titles.

- Marsh, Charles. *Evangelical Anxiety: A Memoir*. New York, NY: HarperCollins. 2022. ISBN 978-0-06-286273-0. 245 pages. \$27.99.
- Siebeling, John and Wayne Francis. *God and Race: A Guide for Moving Black Fists & White Knuckles*. New York, NY: HarperOne. 2022. ISBN-13: 978-0063087224. 272 pages. \$26.99.
- Wright, Nicholas Thomas. *On Earth as in Heaven: Daily Wisdom for Twenty-First Century Christians*, edited by Oliver Wright. HarperOne. 2022. ISBN-13: 978-0063210899. 400 pages. \$29.99.
- Lewis, Clive Staples. *A Preface to Paradise Lost*. HarperOne. 2022. ISBN-13: 978-0063222137. 192 pages. \$23.99.
- Evans III, Jimmie "Tri". *Learn to Preach the Bible: The Titus Project Method*. Three Trees Press. 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1086082548. 119 pages. \$9.99.
- Ortlund, Gavin. *Why God Makes Sense in a World that Doesn't: The Beauty of Christian Theism*. Baker Academic. 2021. ISBN-13: 978-1540964090. 240 pages. \$22.99.

Keywords

HarperCollins, HarperOne, Baker Academic

Cover Page Footnote

Pursuing an MA in Christian Apologetics from Liberty University (2023)

Marsh, Charles. *Evangelical Anxiety: A Memoir*. New York, NY: HarperCollins. 2022. ISBN 978-0-06-286273-0. 245 pages. \$27.99.

Charles Marsh is a professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia and director of the Project on Lived Theology. Marsh holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, a MA from the University of Virginia, and an MTS from Harvard Divinity School. His research interests include modern Christian thought, religion and civil rights, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, religion and mental health, and lived theology. Among Marsh's significant works are *Reclaiming Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Promise of His Theology*, *God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights*, *Wayward Christian Soldiers: Freeing the Gospel from Political Captivity*, and *Welcoming Justice God's Movement Toward Beloved Community*. His latest work, *Evangelical Anxiety*, discusses Marsh's mental breakdown and the destruction of self he experienced while at Harvard Divinity School. Such anxiety was the result of his deep South evangelical upbringing, particularly as it related to segregation and the nature of sexuality. This form of Christianity stigmatized mental health care as a lack of faith, leaving Marsh both wayward and confused. In time, Marsh was able to discover the benefits of therapy and a kind of Christianity that brought self-acceptance and healing. This book seeks to deconstruct much of the fear, shame, and anti-psychology present in Christianity, reconstructing the prior categories into a narrative of love, grace, faith, and greater physical/spiritual health.

Siebeling, John and Wayne Francis. *God and Race: A Guide for Moving Black Fists & White Knuckles*. New York, NY: HarperOne. 2022. ISBN-13: 978-0063087224. 272 pages. \$26.99.

John Siebeling serves as a senior pastor of The Life Church and is a founding board member of the Association of Related Churches. Wayne Francis leads the New York location of The Life Church. The aim of this book is to address the race problem as it relates to church practice. It is separated into four parts, covering the topics of hope, heart, household, and the house of God. There are acronyms, reflective questions, and memorable lines throughout the book that help put theory into practice. One example is STEPS: speak up, take personal responsibility, educate yourself, pray, and start building diversity in your relationships. It concludes with a guidance to coming together, reconciling a view of earth as it is in heaven, through confession, apology, and collaboration. This book is recommended to public theologians and laity interested in helping to solve current race relations issues.

Wright, Nicholas Thomas. *On Earth as in Heaven: Daily Wisdom for Twenty-First Century Christians*, edited by Oliver Wright. HarperOne. 2022. ISBN-13: 978-0063210899. 400 pages. \$29.99.

Nicholas Thomas Wright served as the Bishop of Durham in the Church of England for several years. After that, he served as a research professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at St. Mary's College in the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Wright is a scholar on the relationship between Christian life and theology and is also an advocate for biblical re-evaluation on topics like justification, women's ordination, and the Christian views about life after death. He has written and edited many books, including *Simply Christian*, *Surprised by Hope*, *The Day the Revolution Began*, *Simply Jesus*, *After You Believe*, and *Scripture and the Authority of God*. This work is aimed at moving people away from misconceptions about Christian theology, biblical faith, and Jesus's kingdom. Edited and arranged by his son, Oliver, the book is a series of excerpts from previous works (especially ones showcasing Wright's development of "signposts") that show how God is and will bring in his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. The chapters are listed as follows: Easter, Beauty, Ascension, Power, Pentecost, Spirituality, Advent, Justice, Christmas, Truth, Lent, Freedom, Passiontide, Love, and Easter: The New Year. The book is aimed at church laity and college students alike.

Lewis, Clive Staples. *A Preface to Paradise Lost*. HarperOne. 2022. ISBN-13: 978-0063222137. 192 pages. \$23.99.

Needing no introduction is C. S. Lewis—the 20th century giant of the Christian faith, known for popularizing Christian intellectualism and inspiring radio program during World War II. His more well-known works include *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and *Surprised by Joy*. Lesser known was that he was (unanimously elected) Chair of Medieval and Renaissance English at Cambridge University. In appropriate fashion, he wrote this work as a reflection of Milton's epic, *Paradise Lost*—a retelling of Satan's temptation, the fall of humankind, and the expulsion from the Garden of Eden. The aim of the work is to help the reader remember the proper place of ritual, splendor, and joy in the Christian life. Chapters include topics on epic poetry, criticism, technique, style, as well as Milton's views on Augustine, angels, sexuality and use of theology. The book is aimed at audiences who wish to appreciate *Paradise Lost* without hindrance and those who value the contributions of Lewis.

Evans III, Jimmie “Tri”. *Learn to Preach the Bible: The Titus Project Method*. Three Trees Press. 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1086082548. 119 pages. \$9.99.

Tri Evans has served as pastor of Pine Hill Baptist Church in Louisiana since 2009 and is currently in the process of completing a Ph.D. from Liberty University. The aim of the book is to provide pastors with a well-defined process for exegetical sermon preparation. The book is separated into two parts: ideology and methodology—the former discussing the importance of verse-by-verse preaching and the latter discussing the steps of the Titus Project Method (pray, read, observe think, research, pray, recap, etc.). The book includes helpful appendices that encourage and provide examples to the reader.

Ortlund, Gavin. *Why God Makes Sense in a World that Doesn't: The Beauty of Christian Theism*. Baker Academic. 2021. ISBN-13: 978-1540964090. 240 pages. \$22.99.

Gavin Ortlund has served as senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Ojai in California since 2018 and received a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary in historical theology in 2016. The purpose of this book is twofold: to present arguments against naturalism and for Christian theism using abductive arguments and narrative apologetics. The chapters focus on the possibility that our world has a beginning, has meaning, has drama, and hope. The book ends with taking the Pascalian wager on the question of God. This book is recommended for Christian audiences looking to bolster their faith from a broader perspective and agnostics considering the soundness of Christian claims.