


Christian Book Reports

Jim Hoffman



The Divine Conspiracy

“My hope is to gain a fresh hearing for Jesus, especially among those who believe they already understand him. In his case, quite frankly, presumed familiarity has led to unfamiliarity, unfamiliarity has led to contempt, and contempt has led to profound ignorance.” Dallas Willard





The Divine Conspiracy


If you agree that Jesus deserves a fresh hearing, what hinders that hearing from taking place in us?





The Person of Jesus

“For all the vast influence he has exercised on human history, we have to say that Jesus is usually seen as a frankly pathetic individual who lived and still lives on the margins of ‘real life’. What lies at the heart of the astonishing disregard for Jesus found in the moment to moment existence of multitudes of professing Christians is a simple lack of respect for him. What, then, can devotion or worship mean, if simple respect is not included in it? ” Dallas Williard





On Discipleship

“True, you will find few scholars or leaders in Christian circles who deny that we are supposed to make disciples or apprentices to Jesus and teach them to do all things that Jesus said ... Jesus’ instructions on this matter are, after all, starkly clear. We just don’t do what he said. We don’t seriously attempt it. And apparently we don’t know how to do it.”

Dallas Williard





On Discipleship

If someone would ask us how are disciples made, what would we say?

“If I am to be someone’s apprentice, there is one absolutely essential condition. I must be with that person”.

Dallas Willard






On Scripture

“Now, in fact, Jesus and his words have never belonged to the categories of dogma or law, and to read them as if they did is simply to miss them” Dallas Williard

John 6:63 The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. NIV






On Scripture

“The Bible is, after all, God's gift to the world through the Church, not to the scholars. It comes through the life of his people and nourishes that life. Its purpose is practical, not academic.” Dallas Willard

How we read it is as important as why we read it.





On Scripture

“Concerning his most important sermon, that we know as the sermon on the mount, it remains an enigma.”

“The only proper response to this word that Jesus brought with him from eternity is ‘do it’.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer






The Temple of God

“This is why everyone from the youngest child to the oldest adult naturally wants in some way to be extraordinary, outstanding, making a unique contribution, or to be thought of so – if only for a brief time.” Dallas Williard

It is not necessarily egotistical to want to express the wonder that we are – it is the natural expression of God’s creative genius.





The Attraction of Jesus

Luke 8:1-3 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

People everywhere wanted to see and hear Jesus. He proclaimed something we all want to hear – good news.

As his disciples, we have a story of good news to tell in our day - Jesus has not changed and He still matters.






The Human Job Description

“The human job description, found in Genesis One indicates that God assigned to us collectively the rule over all living things on Earth, both animal and plant. We are responsible before God for life on this earth.”

Dallas Williard

Genesis 1:28

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."





The Human Job Description

It is no accident that when animals are in trouble (cat in a tree, or a dog stranded on the ice) that people feel an obligation to help.

When the environmentalists try to protect the forests they are not crazy – they are sensing the call of God even if their actions are often off the mark.

We were called to rule in love – what we usually see are efforts to dominate without love.





The Human Job Description

“When we submit what and where we are to God our dominion increases.” Dallas Williard

Matthew 25:23

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

NIV





God's Kingdom

“God’s kingdom is the range of his effective will and cannot be shaken. It has never been in trouble and never will be. It is not something that human beings can produce or hinder. We do have an invitation to be part of it and if we refuse we only hurt ourselves.”

Dallas Williard

Hebrews 12:28-29

Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. 29 For our God is a devouring fire.






God's Kingdom

“So when Jesus directs us to pray ‘thy kingdom come’ he does not mean we should pray for it to come into existence. Rather, we pray for it to take over at all points in the personal, social, and political order where it is now excluded.” Dallas Williard

Matthew 13:33

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." NIV





God's Kingdom

“New Testament passages make it clear that this kingdom is not something to be accepted now and enjoyed later, but something to be entered now.”

Dallas Williard

Matthew 18:3-4

I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. NIV






The Sin Nature

“We want to be good, but are ready to do evil and we come prepared with lengthy justifications.”

Dallas Williard

Romans 7:21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. NIV






Death Dismissed

“Once we have grasped our situation in God’s full world, the startling disregard Jesus and the apostles had of death, it all makes sense. Paul bluntly states that Jesus abolished death – he simply did away with it.”

Dallas Williard

2 Timothy 1:10-11

But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. NKJV






Death Dismissed

“To one group of his day who believed physical death was the cessation of one’s existence he said ‘God is not the God of the dead, but of the living’ (Luke 20:38). His meaning was that those who love and are loved by God are not allowed to cease to exist for they are God’s treasures.” Dallas Williard

Luke 20:38

So he is the God of the living, not the dead, for they are all alive to him."





Questions / Comments

