

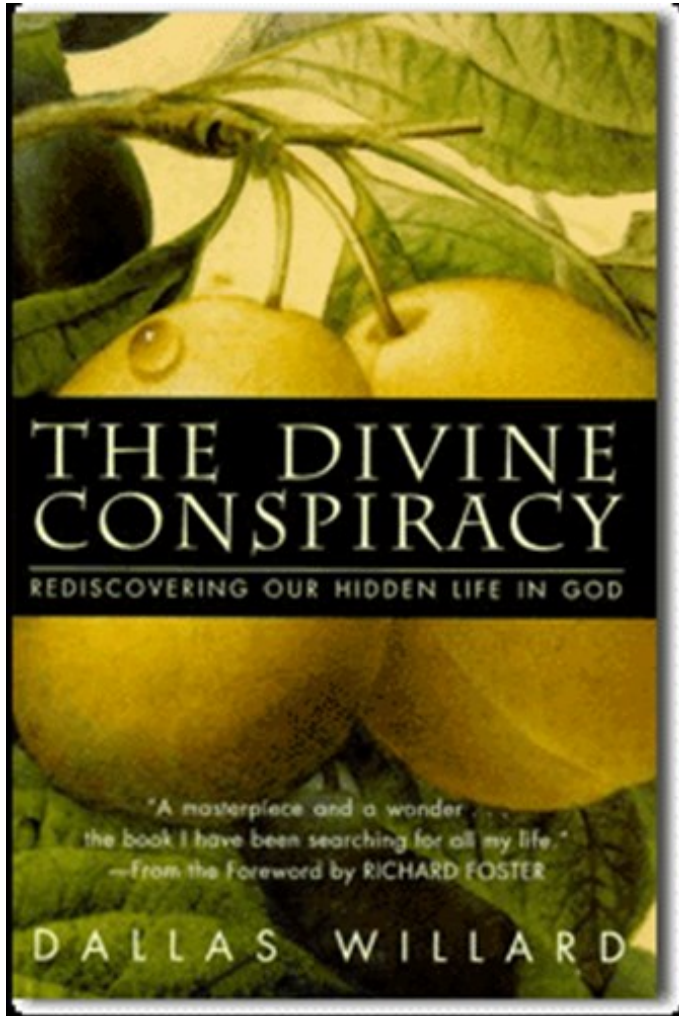
# Christian Book Reports 2019

**Christian Life Assembly The Journey Class**

Jim Hoffman

**Bill Holland  
Holy Spirit Hospital  
Room #724**

Class Lunch  
03/31/19  
Hoss' Mechanicsburg



# The Divine Conspiracy

## Dallas Willard

# Who was Dallas Willard?

- Dallas Albert Willard (September 4, 1935 – May 8, 2013) was an American philosopher also known for his writings on Christian spiritual formation. Much of his work in philosophy was related to *phenomenology* (the study of the development of human consciousness and self-awareness as a preface to or a part of philosophy), particularly the work of Edmund Husserl, many of whose writings he translated into English for the first time. He was longtime Professor of Philosophy at The University of Southern California in Los Angeles, teaching at the school from 1965 until his death in 2013 and serving as the department chair from 1982 to 1985.

# Who was Dallas Willard?

- **Phenomenology**

- **How we perceive what is happening around us.**
- **Why is our world such a mess as mankind struggles to understand what is going on.**

# Conspiracy

- **Conspiracy, plot, intrigue, cabal all refer to surreptitious or covert schemes to accomplish some end, most often an evil one. A conspiracy usually involves a group entering into a secret agreement to achieve some illicit or harmful objective: a vicious conspiracy to control prices. A plot is a carefully planned secret scheme, usually by a small number of persons, to secure sinister ends: a plot to seize control of a company.**

A seldom used definition of the word,  
Conspiracy = any concurrence in action;  
or in combination to bring about a given  
result. (there is a Trinitarian conspiracy  
to redeem the world)



# 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 Divine Conspiracy

**“We live in a culture that has, for centuries now, cultivated the idea that the skeptical person is always smarter than one who believes. You can almost be as stupid as a cabbage as long as you doubt.”**

**Dallas Willard**

# A Skeptic Who is Considered to be a Genius

“In our obscurity - in all this vastness -  
there is no hint that help will come from  
elsewhere to save us from ourselves. It is  
up to us.”

Atheist, Carl Sagan

# The Divine Conspiracy

**“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.” Dallas Willard**

In our lifetimes we’ve witnessed the church building go from a place to show respect for God to a place to make men feel comfortable.

# The Divine Conspiracy

**“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 Willard**

# 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 Discipleship

**“The idea of having faith in Jesus has come to be totally isolated from being his apprentice and learning how to do what he said.” Dallas Willard**

It would seem to me that becoming a disciple of Jesus is the best evidence of actually knowing Him.



# On Discipleship

**“Jesus, Willard says, “does not call us to do what he did, but to be as he was, permeated with love. Then the doing of what he did and said becomes the natural expression of who we are in him.” Dallas Willard**

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

## On Discipleship

**“What is truly profound is thought to be stupid and trivial, or worse, boring, while what is actually stupid and trivial is thought to be profound. That is what it means to fly upside down.” Dallas Willard**

The following sounds smart, but is actually quite uninformed. **“Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.”** Oliver Wendell Holmes

# 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 Willard**

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. NASB

# 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**

Reading the bible for an education is to miss the point of reading it for edification.

# On Scripture

**“Concerning Jesus’ most important sermon, that we know as the sermon on the mount, it remains an enigma.” Dallas Willard**

In the “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus’ message seemed like riddles because what He was teaching was so new and “other worldly” that it seemed incredible.

# On Scripture

I am blessed if I mourn?

The gentle will inherit the earth?

The persecuted receive the kingdom?

I should welcome insults?

The 10 commandments were the minimum standard?

If someone takes my shirt, give him my coat as a bonus?

# 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 Willard**

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 1 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 Willard**

## 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 Sin Nature

**“Once we have grasped our situation in God’s world, and 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 Willard**

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

# The Sin Nature

**“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 Willard**

Luke 20:38

“Now He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him.” NASB

# Grace

**“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. Grace, you know, does not just have to do with forgiveness of sins alone.”**

**Dallas Willard**

# The Value of Jesus in Everyday Life

**“Jesus matters because of what he brought and what he still brings to ordinary human beings, living their ordinary lives and coping daily with their surroundings. He promises wholeness for their lives. In sharing our weaknesses he gives us strength and imparts through his companionship, a life that has the quality of eternity.” Dallas Willard**

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. NASB

# The 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: “On earth as it is in heaven.” With this prayer we are invoking it, as in faith we are acting it, into the real world of our daily existence.” Dallas Willard**

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and say,  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Next Week  
The Bible Jesus Read  
Philip Yancey