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This collection of essays explores the legacy of Lesslie Newbigin's classic work, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, critically analyzing the nature of Western pluralism and discussing the influence of Newbigin's work on the field of missiology. By looking backward, this volume advances a vision for Christian witness in the pluralistic world of the twenty-first century. Author note: Ronald C. White, Jr. is Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. >P>C. Howard Hopkins is Professor of History Emeritus at Rider College and Director of the John R. Mott Biography Project. He is the author of *The Rise of the Social Gospel in American Protestantism. The Jefferson Bible, or The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth* as it is formally titled, was a book constructed by Thomas Jefferson in the latter years of his life by cutting and pasting numerous sections from various Bibles as extractions of the doctrine of Jesus. Jefferson's composition excluded sections of the New Testament containing supernatural aspects as well as perceived misinterpretations he believed had been added by the Four Evangelists. In 1895, the Smithsonian Institution under the leadership of librarian Cyrus Adler purchased the original Jefferson Bible from Jefferson's great-granddaughter Carolina Randolph for \$400. A conservation effort commencing in 2009, in partnership with the museum's Political History department, allowed for a public unveiling in an exhibit open from November 11, 2011, through May 28, 2012, at the National Museum of American History. "This compact theological primer from a widely respected scholar offers a well-integrated and illuminating approach to a variety of basic issues in the study of the New Testament"--Provided by publisher. When was the last time you took a moment to consider the purpose and effectiveness of your children's sermons? After all, nothing is more important than sowing the seeds of faith early in life. In this comprehensive look at all aspects of preaching the gospel to young people, Richard Coleman challenges you to examine your approach with a critical eye and gives you plenty of practical guidance for developing simple, direct messages that help children form a relationship with Jesus Christ. In the first section of *Gospel-Telling*, Coleman discusses what constitutes meaningful children's sermons, offering a thoughtful rationale for the idea that we must proclaim the gospel so youngsters experience God's love. You'll learn how you can mine your own experience for inspiration and proclaim gospel stories that flow from your specific circumstances. Then in the second portion of the book you'll see this process at work, with over thirty examples illustrating several different types of children's sermons.

Whether you're a pastor, Christian educator, or engaged in the teaching ministry, you're sure to profit from the practical advice and in-depth reflection in these pages. With *Gospel-Telling*, you'll be equipped to share with young people the good news -- with creativity and theological integrity. *Gospel-Telling* is an enriching book that treats children with the spiritual respect they deserve. Richard Coleman understands the transformative language of children -- play and metaphor -- and shows how our weekly children's sermons can reach the heart of the child and not simply the mind of the adult. This is a must-have resource for educators and pastors alike. Mickie O'Donnell Executive Director, Children's Ministries of America

Richard Coleman understands the core of the biblical message as well as the learning processes of children and puts them together in theory and practice. This is a valuable treatment of a too long neglected topic. Rev. Ray Kostulias Pastor, First Congregational Church Park Ridge, New Jersey Author of *Character Witness* and *I Witness* Richard J. Coleman has served as the teaching minister of a university church, the pastor of a small-town congregation, and the director of an interdenominational inner-city Christian center. He has published children's sermons, leadership training articles, and seasonal devotionals, as well as books on the dialogue between science and theology and the dialogue between Evangelicals and Liberals. Coleman is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Princeton Theological Seminary. An outstanding book on prayer and the spiritual life written by one of the best spiritual directors of our time. Dubay synthesizes the teachings on prayer of the two great Doctors of the Church--St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila--and the teaching of Sacred Scripture. Publisher Description N.T. Wright, an ancient historian, biblical scholar, and bishop, offers a Christian response to the discovery (and the sensation surrounding that discovery) of the Gospel of Judas. The publication of the King James version of the Bible, translated between 1603 and 1611, coincided with an extraordinary flowering of English literature and is universally acknowledged as the greatest influence on English-language literature in history. Now, world-class literary writers introduce the book of the King James Bible in a series of beautifully designed, small-format volumes. The introducers' passionate, provocative, and personal engagements with the spirituality and the language of the text make the Bible come alive as a stunning work of literature and remind us of its overwhelming contemporary relevance. Acts is the sequel to Luke's gospel and tells the story of Jesus's followers during the 30 years after his death. It describes how the 12 apostles, formerly Jesus's disciples, spread the message of Christianity throughout the Mediterranean against a background of persecution. With an introduction by P.D. James Drawing on the work of leading figures in biblical, religious, historical, and cultural studies in Ireland and beyond, this volume explores the reception of the Bible in Ireland, focusing on the social and cultural dimensions of such use of the Bible. This includes the transmission of the Bible, the Bible and identity formation, engagement beyond Ireland, and cultural and artistic appropriation of the Bible. The chapters collected here are particularly useful and insightful for those researching the use and reception of the Bible, as well as those with broader interests in social and cultural dimensions of Irish history and Irish studies. The chapters challenge the perception in the minds of many that the Bible is a static book with a fixed place in the world that can be relegated to ecclesial contexts and perhaps academic study. Rather, as this book shows, the role of the Bible in the world is much more complex. Nowhere is this clearer than in Ireland, with its rich and complex religious, cultural, and social history. This volume examines these very issues, highlighting the varied ways in which the Bible has impacted Irish life and society, as well as the ways in which the cultural specificity of Ireland has impacted the use and development of the Bible both in Ireland and further afield. In this groundbreaking book, Dennis R. MacDonald offers an entirely new view of the New Testament gospel of Mark. The author of the earliest gospel was not writing history, nor was he merely recording tradition, MacDonald argues. Close reading and careful analysis show that Mark borrowed extensively from the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad* and that he wanted his readers to recognize the Homeric antecedents in Mark's story of Jesus. Mark was composing a prose anti-epic, MacDonald says, presenting Jesus as a suffering hero modeled after but far superior to traditional Greek heroes. Much like Odysseus, Mark's Jesus sails the seas with uncomprehending companions, encounters preternatural opponents, and suffers many things before confronting rivals who have made his house a den of thieves. In his death and burial, Jesus emulates Hector, although unlike Hector Jesus leaves his tomb empty. Mark's minor characters, too, recall

Homeric predecessors: Bartimaeus emulates Tiresias; Joseph of Arimathea, Priam; and the women at the tomb, Helen, Hecuba, and Andromache. And, entire episodes in Mark mirror Homeric episodes, including stilling the sea, walking on water, feeding the multitudes, the Triumphal Entry, and Gethsemane. The book concludes with a discussion of the profound significance of this new reading of Mark for understanding the gospels and early Christianity. Michael Beates's concern with disability issues began nearly 30 years ago when his eldest child was born with multiple profound disabilities. Now, as more families like Michael's are affected by a growing number of difficulties ranging from down syndrome to autism to food allergies, the need for church programs and personal paradigm shifts is greater than ever. Working through key Bible passages on brokenness and disability while answering hard questions, Michael offers here helpful principles for believers and their churches. He shows us how to embrace our own brokenness and then to embrace those who are more physically and visibly broken, bringing hope and vision to those of us who need it most. A discussion of the Christian approach to war, peace and obedience to the state, based on a careful reading of the Bible. The Naked Gospel is a chapter-by-chapter assault on the churchy jargon and double talk of our day. It puts forth a message that is simple but life-changing. With a fresh take on Scripture and unapologetic style, The Naked Gospel will challenge you to re-examine everything you thought you already knew. In this exegetical study of the Gospel of John, Andreas Kostenberger strives to discover and articulate a thoroughly biblical theology of mission which would have contemporary implications for how the church responds to Christ's mandate. The final book of the Bible, Revelation prophesies the ultimate judgement of mankind in a series of allegorical visions, grisly images and numerological predictions. According to these, empires will fall, the "Beast" will be destroyed and Christ will rule a new Jerusalem. With an introduction by Will Self. The earliest of the four Gospels, the book portrays Jesus as an enigmatic figure, struggling with enemies, his inner and external demons, and with his devoted but disconcerted disciples. Unlike other gospels, his parables are obscure, to be explained secretly to his followers. With an introduction by Nick Cave While there are many books on hermeneutics, Graeme Goldsworthy's perception is that evangelical contributions often do not give sufficient attention to the vital relationship between hermeneutics and theology, both systematic and biblical. In Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics, Goldsworthy moves beyond a reiteration of the usual arguments to concentrate on the theological questions of presuppositions, and the implications of the Christian gospel for hermeneutics. In doing so, he brings fresh perspectives on some well-worn pathways. Part I examines the foundations and presuppositions of evangelical belief, particularly with regard to biblical interpretation. Part II offers a selective overview of important hermeneutical developments from the sub-apostolic age to the present, as a means of identifying some significant influences that have been alien to the gospel. Part III evaluates ways and means of reconstructing truly gospel-centered hermeneutics. Goldsworthy's aim throughout is to commend the much-neglected role of biblical theology in hermeneutical practice, with pastoral concern for the people of God as they read, interpret and seek to live by his written Word. 'Gay. The word seemed to hold the weight of eternity within its single syllable. As strange as it may seem, in all the years I had struggled with my sexuality, the idea that I could be 'gay' had simply never crossed my mind. I was a Christian! That was my whole life! And Christians weren't gay.' This could be the most important book you read this year. It's a memoir. An exploration of what is, and what could be. Most of all, it's a clarion call to the church - to rediscover the love that Jesus called us to. Unconditionally. 'So many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people give up on Christianity because they cannot reconcile who they are with what they were brought up to believe that the Bible teaches about sexuality. Here is a wonderfully told story of a brave young homosexual man who has struggled to hold onto his faith while still affirming himself as gay. This is a must-read.' Tony Campolo The chasm between evangelism and social action needs to be bridged. Chester convincingly argues that the truth of the gospel is best understood and embraced in the context of loving action and gospel-centered community. The long "Quest of the Historical Jesus" has come to an end--according to Floyd Hale, the author of HOW JESUS WAS LOST IN THE BIBLE ... AND FOUND. This is a brief review in his own words. Jesus was the "first Gandhi" (to sum it up in one statement). To make this obvious I first show--"by the Scriptures"--that all the other images and titles laid on Jesus after his death by the Church are false. That takes a few pages of what may be

considered boring by some--even heresy by others. The real Jesus' primary task was to pick and train dedicated followers who would conduct nothing short of a revolution--"nonviolently." Needless to say this would cause enemies, whom they were to "love"--while "hating" their own families. Words like these have caused Bible scholars to miss seeing Jesus applied this kind of teaching to those whom he would "send out," and not to "all believers." Jesus's execution as a seditionist by the Romans stopped the "revolution" before it started. No "sender-outer," no revolution. But the "edited" plans were well remembered and can be gleaned from the Gospels. This reveals the image the "planner." Jesus was a Humanist and needs to be rescued from the Bible and let stand in History on his own, no longer shackled by religion. One of the purposes of this book is an effort to do just that. A full Review of "How Jesus Was Lost ... And Found," is Mike Travelstead's Review which follows: \_\_\_\_\_

How Jesus Was Lost in the Bible and Found by Floyd Hale Reviewed by Mike Travelstead, Macedonia, IL In his latest of several self-published books, The Reverend Floyd Hale has taken on the Herculean task of redefining Jesus the Christ. Having read all of the previous books, which were thought-provoking for truth-seekers, I found this latest volume most compelling, following a consistent logic, using much illustration, explanation, and scriptural reference. If readers approach the text with an open mind and critical attitude, they will be rewarded with a cogent argument worthy of reflection, one that re-shapes the image of Jesus, who has had a profound and far-reaching effect on the history of our world. The thesis of How Jesus Was Lost in the Bible and Found claims that the traditional titles applied to Jesus Christ, Messiah, Savior, Son of God, Son of Man by the church are false because the Old Testament prophecies did not apply to him nor foretell him. Some liberal Biblical scholars have denied the divinity of Jesus, but maintain that he was a wise teacher. The Reverend Hale goes further by insisting that Jesus commanded his followers not just to believe, but to act. He trained them to conduct a non-violent revolution designed to change the system, a system which oppressed the poor and suffering. Later leaders, like Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., adopted this sacrificial but effective technique. However, Jesus plan was aborted by his premature execution. Hales style is conversational, infused with Southern Illinois humor, some references which may not be readily apparent to younger readers. Some analogies, too, are quite instructive. I like especially the football analogy he uses at the end. Hale speculates that Jesus has a dream," in which he forms a team that will carry the ball, but he dies a moment before kick-off. The game is called for a memorial service. But instead of going back to the field, they continue conducting memorial services. That is powerful. This plan never came to fruition because, as Hale claims, Jesus followers misinterpreted his idea of the Kingdom. As the early church was being established, many different beliefs contended for precedence. The historical figure who virtually single-handedly created the Christian Church as it is known was St. Paul. Completely ignoring the stories of Jesus miraculous birth, Paul emphasizes the resurrection as the basis of his faith, hoping for eternal salvation sometime in the future. Hale maintains that Jesus preaching of the Kingdom defines eternal as now the Kingdom of God is here right now. This definition of eternal may not be the common perception, but Joseph Campbell, the late world renowned expert on world mythology and important influence on George Lucas Star Wars, also defines eternal as the here and now. Floyd Hale is no stranger to controversy. His writing and preaching over the years have created no small amount of unrest, readers and listeners experiencing bewilderment, disbelief, and even anger. But he has kindly and courageously held the line. His background is much like many of us who grew up in the traditional church environment, a literal reading of the Bible, with apparent contradictions which were not allowed to be questioned, fear instilled by a wrathful God who punishes and rewards. Hale entered seminary with a desire to "preach the word" and perpetuate the system, but his God-given intellect forced him to reconsider the orthodoxy. This has led him on a lifelong quest for truth, but it is a difficult and sometimes lonely road, "the road not taken" as Robert Frost would have it. Others have written on similar topics. One especially like it is Why Christianity Must Change or Die by John Shelby Spong, retired bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. Spong maintains that in light of scientific advancement and modern biblical criticism, the church must implement this knowledge or become irrelevant, or even extinct. Floyd Hale may have the idea that could solve this problem. An introduction to a complex theological issue that impacts our daily lives as believers in Christ: What is the relevance of the Old Testament Law to our understanding of

the Gospel and how it should be lived? This book explores five major approaches to this important biblical topic as they've developed in Protestant circles: Non-Theonomic Reformed View – the law is the perfection of righteousness in Jesus Christ. Theonomic Reformed View – the goodness of the law is dependent on how it's used and does not offer a way to salvation. Heavily focused on Paul's discussion of the Law. Law as "Gracious Guidance" View – emphasizes the contrasts between the Mosaic law and the Gospel of grace, while still asserting the Law's value. Dispensational View – approaches the Law from a historical perspective to help us understand its presentation, treatment, and recipients. Modified Lutheran View – the Law of Christ as the fulfillment of the Law of Moses. This book allows each contributor to not only present the case for his view, but also to critique and respond to the critiques of the other contributors, allowing you to compare their beliefs in an open forum setting to see where they overlap and where they differ. The Counterpoints series presents a comparison and critique of scholarly views on topics important to Christians that are both fair-minded and respectful of the biblical text. Each volume is a one-stop reference that allows readers to evaluate the different positions on a specific issue and form their own, educated opinion. After more than 130 years, the Fourfold Gospel--Jesus Christ, our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King--continues to find a ready following and creative expression around the world. Its success, however, means that it has come to be understood, expressed, and practiced in ways somewhat differently than it originally was. This volume, written by scholars from across the globe, explores these emphases in detail, articulating how the passage of well over a century and the crossing of oceans has resulted in the advancing of the original vision. Wisdom, wit, and Sacred Writ are the outstanding interactive hallmarks of this fourth and final volume in The Spiritual Wisdom of the Gospels for Christian Preachers and Teachers series. In the same style and format as the first three volumes, Shea presents evocative reflections to enhance Scripture-based preaching and teaching for liturgical feast days, funerals, and weddings. Christian preachers and teachers and anyone interested in the spiritual life will find Feasts, Funerals, and Weddings an insightful and relevant resource. John Shea, STD, is a theologian, author, and storyteller who lectures nationally and internationally on storytelling in world religions, faith-based healthcare, contemporary spirituality, and the spirit at work movement. The Gospel speaks to a broad range of concerns--concerns that differ from person to person, group to group, culture to culture. Yet the practice of the twentieth-century church has been to concentrate on one part of the Gospel--repentance and justification--as if it were the whole, and to proclaim that part uniformly, often without meaningful context that would demonstrate the relevance of Christ to the hearer. The Gospel and Its Meaning breaks fresh ground for evangelism. It equips the students of evangelism with theological foundations for reaching diverse groups, from Hindi pantheists to radical environmentalists, without compromising the Gospel's integrity. The Gospel and Its Meaning - Identifies the basic elements of the Gospel - Shows the relationship of these elements to specific doctrines of theology - Identifies theologians and systems that have focused on particular doctrines - Shows which elements of the Gospel deal most clearly with various issues of evangelism - Suggests avenues of ministry that can address each evangelistic issue. By showing how different parts of the Gospel address the concerns of people within and without the Judeo-Christian worldview, The Gospel and Its Meaning helps those in any kind of evangelistic ministry to develop a means for connecting the Gospel directly to the world of the hearer while distinguishing it clearly from philosophies of relativism and pluralism. A quality pew and ministry Bible at a very economical price. - Complete text with subject headings and translators' footnotes. The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. It includes some of the loftiest and most loved verses in all the Bible: "And the Word became flesh...", "For God so loved the world...", "You who are without sin cast the first stone...", "I am the resurrection and the life...", "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that his readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." This Lent, join Adam Hamilton and experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal while exploring the major themes of John while reading the entire Gospel of John. Designed to use as part of a 40-day church-wide emphasis during Lent and Easter or any time of the year, the DVD features Adam Hamilton presenting the Gospel of John, using Scripture, story, and the teachings of Jesus for each of our lives. Each of the six sessions

contain 8-10 minutes of video each and is perfect for both adult and youth classes. Session titles: The Word Made Flesh The Miraculous Signs of Jesus The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus The Farewell Discourse The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King Eternal Life All video sessions are closed captioned. Which Bible passages are for us today and which only apply to the first audience ancient readers? Can we just pick and choose for ourselves the verses we think fit our situation? Who gets to decide? In *READ THE BIBLE FOR A CHANGE*, Ray Lubeck helps readers correctly understand and relate the Bible to their lives. If you are serious about your relationship with God and committed to responding faithfully to His Word, this book is for you. Ray has devoted his life to helping people discover for themselves God's truth and see how it relates to their everyday, practical living. He will show you how to: - Read each passage in its larger biblical context - Understand the effects of its literary style - Recognize the meaning of a text - Hear God speak through the Bible's human authors - Identify the life-changing truths that apply to life today - Bring pleasure to God by obeying His Word As a college-level teacher, Ray realizes what it takes to hold the interest of students of the Bible. He uses illustrations, charts, stories, and everyday examples to make learning both fun and significant. *Read the Bible for a Change* will help you avoid the pitfalls and discover the truths that transform you life. "Magisterial. . . A learned, brilliant and enjoyable study."—Géza Vermès, *Times Literary Supplement* In this exciting book, Paula Fredriksen explains the variety of New Testament images of Jesus by exploring the ways that the new Christian communities interpreted his mission and message in light of the delay of the Kingdom he had preached. This edition includes an introduction reviews the most recent scholarship on Jesus and its implications for both history and theology. "Brilliant and lucidly written, full of original and fascinating insights."—Reginald H. Fuller, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* "This is a first-rate work of a first-rate historian."—James D. Tabor, *Journal of Religion* "Fredriksen confronts her documents—principally the writings of the New Testament—as an archaeologist would an especially rich complex site. With great care she distinguishes the literary images from historical fact. As she does so, she explains the images of Jesus in terms of the strategies and purposes of the writers Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."—Thomas D'Evelyn, *Christian Science Monitor* Pastor and author Martin Thielen has compiled a list of ten things people need to believe, and ten things they don't, in order to be a Christian. This lively and engaging book will be a help to seekers as well as a comfort to believers who may find themselves questioning some of the assumptions they grew up with. With an accessible, storytelling style that's grounded in solid biblical scholarship, Thielen shows how Christians don't need to believe that sinners will be "left behind" to burn in hell or that it's heresy to believe in evolution. And while we must always take the Bible seriously, we don't always have to take it literally. At the same time, Christians do need to believe in Jesus--his life, his teachings, his death and resurrection, and his vision for the world. A great benefit of those beliefs is that they provide promising answers to life's most profound questions, including: Where is God? What matters most? What brings fulfillment? What about suffering? Is there hope? Thielen articulates centrist, mainline Christianity in a way that's fresh and easy to understand, and offers authentic Christian insights that speak to our deepest needs. This new edition includes a leader's guide, previously only available online, and a new introduction from the author that reflects on the book's reception. The leader's guide features unique and easily implemented aids for carrying out a seven-week, congregation-wide initiative that will help local churches reach out to their communities. More information is available at [thielen.wjkbooks.com](http://thielen.wjkbooks.com). "The subject of this treatise," writes Colquhoun, "is in the highest degree, important and interesting, both to saints and to sinners. To know it experimentally, is to "be wise unto salvation;" and to live habitually under the influence of it, is to be at once holy and happy. To have spiritual and distinct views of it, is the way to be kept from verging towards self-righteousness, on the one hand, and licentiousness, on the other; and to be enabled to assert, the absolute freeness of sovereign grace, and at the same time, the sacred interests of true holiness. Without an experimental knowledge, and an unfeigned faith, of the law and the gospel, a man can neither venerate the authority of the one, nor esteem the grace of the other." This classic is organized as follows:  
Introduction Chapter I. Of the Law of God in General Chapter II. Of the Law of God as Promulgated to the Israelites From Mount Sinai Chapter III. Of the Properties of the Moral Law Chapter IV. The Rules for Understanding Aright the Ten Commandments Chapter V. Of the Gospel of Christ Chapter VI. Of the Uses

of the Gospel, and of the Law in Subservience to the Gospel Chapter VII. Of the Difference Between the Law and the Gospel Chapter VIII. Of the Agreement Between the Law and the Gospel Chapter IX. Of the Establishment of the Law by the Gospel Chapter X. Of the Believer's Privilege of Being Dead to the Law as a Covenant of Works, With a Highly Important Consequence of It Chapter XI. Of the High Obligations Under Which Believers Lie, to Yield Even Perfect Obedience to the Law as a Rule of Life Chapter XII. Of the Nature, Necessity, and Desert of Good Works To the Reader Presents the original teachings of Jesus written by his contemporaries and early followers The problems with the Bible that New Testament scholar Bart Ehrman discussed in his bestseller Misquoting Jesus—and on The Daily Show with John Stewart, NPR, and Dateline NBC, among others—are expanded upon exponentially in his latest book: Jesus, Interrupted. This New York Times bestseller reveals how books in the Bible were actually forged by later authors, and that the New Testament itself is riddled with contradictory claims about Jesus—information that scholars know... but the general public does not. If you enjoy the work of Elaine Pagels, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, and John Shelby Spong, you'll find much to ponder in Jesus, Interrupted.

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