

## Michael Horton S The Christian Faith The Reformed Reader

Does the Bible support the concept of 'once saved, always saved,' or can a person lose his or her salvation? How do the Scriptures portray the complex interplay between grace and free will? These and related questions are explored from different angles in this thought-provoking Counterpoints volume. The contributors each state their case for one of four prominent views on eternal security: classical Calvinist, moderate Calvinist, reformed Arminian, and Wesleyan Arminian. In keeping with the forum approach of the Counterpoints series, each view is first presented by its proponent, then critiqued and defended. This fair and respectful approach allows you to weigh for yourself the strengths and weaknesses of the different doctrinal stances. By furnishing you with scholarly and thoughtful perspectives on the topic of eternal security, this book helps you sift through opposing views to arrive at your own informed conclusions. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Bible and Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

Michael Horton's highly anticipated *The Christian Faith* represents his magnum opus and will be viewed as one of—if not the—most important systematic theologies since Louis Berkhof wrote his in 1932. A prolific, award-winning author and theologian, Professor Horton views this volume as “doctrine that can be preached, experienced, and lived, as well as understood, clarified, and articulated.” It is written for a growing cast of pilgrims making their way together and will be especially welcomed by professors, pastors, students, and armchair theologians. Features of this volume include: (1) a brief synopsis of biblical passages that inform a particular doctrine; (2) surveys of past and current theologies with contemporary emphasis on exegetical, philosophical, practical, and theological questions; (3) substantial interaction with various Christian movements within the Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodoxy traditions, as well as the hermeneutical issues raised by postmodernity; and (4) charts, sidebars, questions for discussion, and an extensive bibliography, divided into different entry levels and topics. *Building on Covenant and Eschatology: The Divine Drama*, this volume is part two of a three-part project surveying essential topics of Christian theology through the lens of covenant. In *Lord and Servant: A Covenant Christology*, Michael Horton explores the topics that are generally grouped under the doctrines of God, humanity, and Christology. Rather than attempt a general systematic theology, Horton revisits these topics at the places where covenant and eschatology offer the most promising insight and where there is the most contemporary interest and debate.

In this two-volume work, Michael Horton seeks to encounter anew the remarkable biblical doctrine of justification. Volume 1 is an exercise in historical theology, exploring the doctrine from the patristic era to the Reformation. Volume 2 then moves on to investigate justification in conversation with contemporary biblical scholarship.

Leading Reformed voice offers a revised and updated edition of his landmark publication about the freeing message of saving grace. DVD included.

The 2011 award-winning publication *The Christian Faith* garnered wide praise as a thorough, well-informed treatment of the philosophical foundations of Christian theology, the classical elements of systematic theology, and exegesis of relevant biblical texts. *Pilgrim Theology* distills the distinctive benefits of this approach into a more accessible introduction designed for classroom and group study. In this book, Michael Horton guides readers through a preliminary exploration of Christian theology in “a Reformed key.” Horton reviews the biblical passages that give rise to a particular doctrine in addition to surveying past and present interpretations. Also included are sidebars showing the key distinctions readers need to grasp on a particular subject, helpful charts and tables illuminating exegetical and historical topics, and questions at the end of each chapter for individual, classroom, and small group reflection. *Pilgrim Theology* will help undergraduate students of theology and educated laypersons gain an understanding of the Christian tradition's biblical and historical foundations.

Derived from Michael Horton's recently released *The Christian Faith*, this digital short presents a full theological investigation into the biblical concept of union with Christ. Horton covers the nature of this union, exegetical development of the concept, and both historical visions and contrasting paradigms of it. He also draws connections between a Christian's ongoing union with his or her Savior and grace, ontology, essence and energies, and covenant—an altogether masterful sketch of a beautiful and mysterious spiritual reality.

Unity in the gospel is essential to the witness of the church. Yet that unity was tested by the release of two documents, *Evangelicals and Catholics Together* and *The Gift of Salvation*, which appeared to surrender the historic doctrine of sola fide (faith alone). In response, Christian leaders released a statement called *The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Evangelical Celebration*. *Getting the Gospel Right*, a companion to Sproul's popular *Faith Alone*, contains the complete text of that statement along with thorough, point-by-point discussion and exposition, to make a strong declaration of the abiding unity of evangelicals regarding the gospel and justification by faith alone.

The doctrine of justification stands at the center of our systematic reflection on the meaning of salvation as well as our piety, mission, and life together. In his two-volume work on the doctrine of justification, Michael Horton seeks not simply to repeat noble doctrinal formulas and traditional proof texts, but to encounter the remarkable biblical justification texts in conversation with the provocative proposals that, despite a wide range of differences, have reignited the contemporary debates around justification. Volume 1 engages in a descriptive task - an exercise in historical theology exploring the doctrine of justification from the patristic era to the Reformation. Broadening the scope, Horton explores patristic discussions of justification under the rubric of the "great exchange." He provides a map for contemporary discussions of justification, identifying and engaging his principal interlocutors: Origen, Chrysostom, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, John Duns Scotus, William of Ockham, Gabriel Biel, and the magisterial reformers. Observing the assimilation of justification to the doctrine of penance in medieval theology, especially via Peter Lombard, the work studies the transformations of the doctrine through Aquinas, Scotus and the nominalists leading up to the era of the Reformation and the Council of Trent. He concludes his first study by examining the hermeneutical and theological significance of the Reformers' understanding of the law and the gospel and the resultant covenantal scheme that became formative in Reformed theology. This then opens the door to the constructive task of volume 2 - to investigate the biblical doctrine of justification in light of contemporary exegesis.

Every seminary in the world offers classes on Christian theology, but what at its core is theology? Is it a practical or theoretical discipline? Is it centrally a matter of faith or of reason? What are its proper means and ends? Derived from Michael Horton's recently released *The Christian Faith*, already one of the most significant systematic theologies of the past 50 years, this digital short explores the discipline of theology through the lens of philosophy, Scripture, ministry, and the church, laying a foundation for pursuing theology as hearing, wisdom, understanding, and more. “Theology serves the function of articulating the identity of this God so that he may be properly invoked,” Horton writes. This short work constructs a conceptual framework for pastors, theologians, and students wanting to think more deeply about the foundational discipline of Christian thought and practice.

This groundbreaking collection considers empire from a global perspective, exploring the role of evangelicals in political, social, and economic engagement at a time when empire is alternately denounced and embraced. It brings noted thinkers from a range of evangelical perspectives together to engage the most explosive and discussed theorists of empire in the first decade of the twenty-first century--Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri. Using their work as a springboard, the contributors grapple with the concept of empire and how evangelicalism should operate in the world of empire.

The good news that God's Word proclaims is a recipe to use in times of disaster. That is to say, it comes as a relevant announcement only to those who are in trouble for one reason or another. *A Place for Weakness*, formerly titled *Too Good to Be True*, by award-winning Michael Horton, calls for more realism in facing life's challenges and a richer view of God and his purposes to match them.

In *Rediscovering the Holy Spirit*, author, pastor, and theologian Mike Horton introduces readers to the neglected person of the Holy Spirit, showing that the work of God's Spirit is far more ordinary and common than we realize. Horton argues that we need to take a step back every now and again to focus on the Spirit himself.

Is it possible that we have left Christ out of Christianity? Is the faith and practice of American Christians today more American than Christian? These are the provocative questions Michael Horton addresses in this thoughtful, insightful book. He argues that while we invoke the name of Christ, too often Christ and the Christ-centered gospel are pushed aside. The result is a message and a faith that are, in Horton's words, "trivial, sentimental, affirming, and irrelevant." This alternative "gospel" is a message of moralism, personal comfort, self-help, self-improvement, and individualistic religion. It trivializes God, making him a means to our selfish ends. Horton skillfully diagnoses the problem and points to the solution: a return to the unadulterated gospel of salvation.

This is the unusual and compelling story of Diana, a tantalizingly beautiful woman who sought love in the strange by-paths of Lesbos. Fearless and outspoken, it dares to reveal that hidden world where perfumed caresses and half-whispered endearments constitute the forbidden fruits in a Garden of Eden where men are never accepted. This is how *Diana: A Strange Autobiography* was described when it was published in paperback in 1952. The original 1939 hardcover edition carried with it a Publisher's Note: This is the autobiography of a woman who tried to be normal. In the book, Diana is presented as the unexceptional daughter of an unexceptional plutocratic family. During adolescence, she finds herself drawn with mysterious intensity to a girl friend. The narrative follows Diana's progress through college; a trial marriage that proves she is incapable of heterosexuality; intellectual and sexual education in Europe; and a series of lesbian relationships culminating in a final tormented triangular struggle with two other women for the individual salvation to be found in a happy couple. In her introduction, Julie Abraham argues that Diana is not really an autobiography at all, but a deliberate synthesis of different archetypes of this confessional genre, echoing, as it does, more than a half-dozen novels. Hitting all the high and low points of the lesbian novel, the book, Abraham illustrates, offers a defense of lesbian relationships that was unprecedented in 1939 and radical for decades afterwards.

For whom did Christ die? Who may be saved? are questions of perennial interest and importance for the Christian faith. In a familiar Counterpoints format, this book explores the question of the extent of Christ's atonement, going beyond simple Reformed vs. non-Reformed understandings. This volume elevates the conversation to a broader plane, including contributors who represent the breadth of Christian tradition: Traditional Reformed: Michael Horton Wesleyan: Fred Sanders Roman Catholic: Matthew Levering Eastern Orthodox: Andrew Louth Barthian Universalism: Tom Greggs This book serves not only as a single-volume resource for engaging the views on the extent of the atonement but also as a catalyst for understanding and advancing a balanced approach to this core Christian doctrine. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Bible and Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

For the Spirit, being somewhat forgotten is an occupational hazard. The Holy Spirit is so actively involved in our lives that we can take his presence for granted. As they say, familiarity breeds contempt. Just as we take breathing for granted, we can take the Holy Spirit for granted simply because we constantly depend on him. Like the cane that soon feels like an extension of the blind man's own body, we too easily begin to think of the Holy Spirit as an extension of ourselves. Yet the Spirit is at the center of the action in the divine drama from Genesis 1:2 all the way to Revelation 22:17. The Spirit's work is as essential as the Father's and the Son's, yet the Spirit's work is always directed to the person and work of Christ. In fact, the efficacy of the Holy Spirit's mission is measured by the extent to which we are focused on Christ. The Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who brings the work of the Father, in the Son, to completion. In everything that the Triune God performs, this perfecting work is characteristic of the Spirit. In *Rediscovering the Holy Spirit*, author, pastor, and theologian Mike Horton introduces readers to the neglected person of the Holy Spirit, showing that the work of God's Spirit is far more ordinary and common than we realize. Horton argues that we need to take a step back every now and again to focus on the Spirit himself—his person and work—in order to recognize him as someone other than Jesus or ourselves, much less something in creation. Through this contemplation we can gain a fresh dependence on the Holy Spirit in every area of our lives.

Have Christians misunderstood what it means to be in the world but not of it? Has the church, in a sense, neglected the world to the detriment of all? Michael S. Horton has written *Where in the World Is the Church?* for those Christians who struggle with a subculture that stifles rather than encourages their divinely given impulses and ambitions. He does so with the hope that theologians will learn more about other disciplines and that Christians in those other disciplines will anchor themselves more firmly in biblical theology before they attempt to 'integrate' their faith and life.

"God justifies the ungodly": Paul's statement in Romans 4:5 has brought comfort and provoked controversy throughout the history of the church. Historically, most Protestants have seen the Reformation as a rediscovery of this gospel truth--indeed, justification as "the article by which the church stands or falls." In our day, however, neither the Reformers' account of the doctrine nor their appraisal of its significance can be taken for granted. Through various movements within Protestant theology and biblical studies, fresh (and not so fresh) challenges have made it imperative for us to reevaluate the Scriptures and the systematic as well as historical arguments that have been persuasive for so many Christians in previous eras. This book joins that contemporary conversation, bringing together voices from the pages of *Modern Reformation* magazine over the years. Like the magazine, this collection connects Lutheran, Reformed, and Baptist theologians, historians,

and biblical scholars who are able to unpack important issues for thoughtful nonspecialists. This collection covers a lot of ground: the relationship of justification to covenant (especially recent discussions between N. T. Wright and John Piper), the law, union with Christ, as well as sanctification. A final chapter considers the contemporary relevance of justification. If theology is for the church, then the gospel is surely a matter for all of God's people to wrestle with together. In this expanded volume, two classic essays are now included under the heading "Union and Peace with Christ" in order to emphasize further the significance of justification for the Christian life, all in keeping with Paul's conclusion in Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." May all churches being reformed by the Word stand in the grace of Christ and "rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Those looking for a single resource that collects clear teachings on the most important doctrines of Christianity need look no further than Gregg Allison's 50 Core Truths of the Christian Faith. This volume covers foundational doctrines of the nature and works of God, the Bible, God's created beings, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and the end times. And each chapter features clear guidance for how to teach and apply the doctrine today. Pastors, Sunday school teachers, and lay students of theology will find this an indispensable resource for understanding and teaching Christian theology.

Michael Horton writes, "Some Christians so stress the 'kingdom living' of individual believers in the world that the church and its partial manifestation of the kingdom of God through the means of grace become subordinate. Others confuse the church with that kingdom in its fully realized form." In his development and delineation of a theology of both the kingdom and the church, Horton seeks to show that they are interrelated but not identical. Along the way he explores the difference between the cultural mandate and the Great Commission, biblical images of the church, the ecclesiologies of various Christian traditions, and the integral connection between eschatology, ecclesiology, and kingdom. Derived from Michael Horton's recently released *The Christian Faith*, already one of the most significant systematic theologies of the past 50 years, this digital short tackles one of today's theological hot topics with insight and charity.

Fear may not be what you think it is. Michael Horton guides readers in diagnosing the misplaced fears we have, showing how only the fear of God can conquer the false gods that we often take too seriously as if they had the last word over our lives. With 24-hour news cycles and constant immersion in a world of screens and social media, we are bombarded by news reports about layoffs, the dangers of climate change, and threats to our health. Exploited by politicians who crave our alliance, fear is used to breed hatred and further divide us from one another. In *Recovering Our Sanity*, author Michael Horton argues that we need to resist the pull of our fear-driven culture. He mines the riches of Scripture and theology to help us better understand what fear is and how a good fear--the fear of God--drives out the bad fears that often rule our lives. A proper fear of God enables us to overcome the unhealthy, uncertain, and unknown fears that drive the disintegration of our society, our families, and our own lives. The fear of God, running from Genesis to Revelation, must once again fill the horizon of our thoughts and imaginations. As Proverbs reminds us: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." A right fear of the One who matters most leads to a lasting trust that bears a harvest of blessings for ourselves and for others.

In his well-received *Christless Christianity* Michael Horton offered a prophetic wake-up call for a self-centered American church. With *The Gospel-Driven Life* he turns from the crisis to the solutions, offering his recommendations for a new reformation in the faith, practice, and witness of contemporary Christianity. This insightful book will guide readers in reorienting their faith and the church's purpose toward the good news of the gospel. The first six chapters explore that breaking news from heaven, while the rest of the book focuses on the kind of community that the gospel generates and the surprising ways in which God is at work in the world. Here is fresh news for Christians who are burned out on hype and are looking for hope.

Radical. Crazy. Transformative and restless. Every word we read these days seems to suggest there's a "next-best-thing," if only we would change our comfortable, compromising lives. In fact, the greatest fear most Christians have is boredom--the sense that they are missing out on the radical life Jesus promised. One thing is certain. No one wants to be "ordinary." Yet pastor and author Michael Horton believes that our attempts to measure our spiritual growth by our experiences, constantly seeking after the next big breakthrough, have left many Christians disillusioned and disappointed. There's nothing wrong with an energetic faith; the danger is that we can burn ourselves out on restless anxieties and unrealistic expectations. What's needed is not another program or a fresh approach to spiritual growth; it's a renewed appreciation for the commonplace. Far from a call to low expectations and passivity, Horton invites readers to recover their sense of joy in the ordinary. He provides a guide to a sustainable discipleship that happens over the long haul--not a quick fix that leaves readers empty with unfulfilled promises. Convicting and ultimately empowering, *Ordinary* is not a call to do less; it's an invitation to experience the elusive joy of the ordinary Christian life.

The follow-up to "Christless Christianity," this book offers hope for contemporary American Christianity, calling believers to a Gospel-driven faith. Now in paper.

Many programs for outreach, discipleship, and spiritual disciplines are available at any bookstore and on countless websites. We assume that we already know the nature of the Great Commission and the appropriate methods of carrying it out. But Michael Horton contends that it too often becomes our mission instead of God's. At a time when churches are zealously engaged in writing up mission statements and strategic plans, he argues that we must ask ourselves anew whether we are ambassadors, following the script we've been given, or building our own kingdoms with our own blueprint. Pastors, church leaders, and readers of Horton's *Christless Christianity* and *The Gospel-Driven Life* will value this frank and hopeful exploration of the Great Commission as a call to understanding and good practice. Now available in trade paper.

"How can the church be the symphony of redemption when its musicians interpret the composition so differently that it sounds more like a wild cacophony than a harmonious concert? The world wonders. And so do we." So asks Michael Horton in the opening chapter of "Evangelicals, Catholics, and Unity." Isn't it time for Roman Catholics and evangelicals to finally lay aside their differences and achieve a unified front against secularism? Why are these two groups still divided after all these centuries? Didn't the Lutherans and Roman Catholics come together already with a joint declaration? As Mark Noll has asked, "Is the Reformation over?" "All this has been confusing and troubling for many believers," writes Horton, "who sincerely long for greater visible unity among Christ's flock. We wish for unity but cannot willingly surrender essential truth in order to accomplish a false peace. For those who care about such truth, Christian unity must be a marriage made in heaven, not a merger or acquisition made on earth." In this compact and thoughtful book, Michael Horton asks if evangelicals can be considered catholic and Roman Catholics evangelical. In six succinct chapters, he helps readers navigate these troubled waters, coming to the conclusion that not only was the Reformation necessary almost five hundred years ago, this important debate continues even today.

In this innovative work in theological method and hermeneutics, Michael S. Horton uses the motif of the covenant as a way of binding together God's "word" and God's "act." Seeking an integration of theological method with the content of Christian theology, Horton emphasizes God's covenant as God's way of working for redemption in the world. Horton maintains a substantial dialogue with important philosophical figures and Christian theologians, ultimately providing scholars and serious students a significant model for approaching and understanding Christian theology.

Leading Reformed voice offers a revised and updated edition of his landmark publication about the freeing message of saving

grace.

John Calvin, a man adored by some and maligned by others, stands as a legendary figure in Christian history. In Calvin on the Christian Life, professor Michael Horton offers us fresh insights into the Reformer's personal piety and practical theology by allowing Calvin to speak in his own words. Drawing not only from his Institutes and biblical commentaries, but also from lesser-known tracts, treatises, and letters, this book will deepen your understanding of Calvin's theology and ministry by exploring the heart of his spiritual life: confident trust and unwavering joy in the sovereign grace of God. Part of the Theologians on the Christian Life series.

Unwinds the intricacies of covenant theology, making the complex surprisingly simple and accessible to every reader. Now available in paperback.

Readers of The Persuasive Christian Parent will learn: - Why parents are the most important influence in their children's lives - That truth should be a consistent topic of conversation with our children - That parents can transmit their confidence in Christian truth claims to their children - Why plausibility is important to a confident faith - How Christianity explains reality far more powerfully than anything else - How a hostile, secular culture can strengthen their children's faith Because of this hostile, secular culture, many Christian parents fear for their children's faith. The Persuasive Christian Parent offers a powerful panacea to this crisis of confidence with nine foundational concepts parents can teach their children, building in them an enduring, lifelong faith. God has provided Christians everything they need to successfully defend their faith to themselves, and their children. As you engage the arguments in The Persuasive Christian Parent, you will be able to provide answers to the tough questions that daily confront children and parents alike. "The stats are in and the tide of secularization is often overwhelming for our young people. How do we respond? Let Mike D'Virgilio tell you. This is an important and essential book." --Michael Horton, J. Gresham Machen Professor of Theology and Apologetics at Westminster Seminary Mike D'Virgilio, a graduate of Arizona State University, received his Masters degree in systematic theology from Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He is a church Elder, led a Christ & Culture ministry for several years, and has contributed to numerous blogs. Visit his latest, <http://persuasivechristianparent.com/>, for practical insights into building a confident faith for you, your children, and others.

In Core Christianity, author, pastor, and theologian Mike Horton explains the essential and basic beliefs that all Christians share. In addition to unpacking them in a way that is easy to understand, he shows why these beliefs matter to our lives today.

A challenging examination of the biblical and theological issues underlying a distinctively Christian view of worship.

"What are Christians to obey? The Bible is the simple answer of course, but upon further investigation, things are not quite that simple. For example, I am sure we have all heard a Christian condemning and calling homosexuality an abomination based upon Leviticus 18:22 or 20:13. However, if one looks on the next page at Leviticus 19:27, should we not also conclude that we should not get haircuts or shave? Why is one normative, but not the other?" "Christianity, after all, is not simply a code of ethics. It is not just a moral system. Being a Christian is not simply trying to 'do what Jesus did.' No, the foundation of the Christian life is the gospel of Jesus Christ. All else flows from the good news of Christ crucified for sinners. As Michael Horton writes, 'It is the Good News that yields good works. Salvation is not the prize for our obedience but the source.'" "The law of Christ cannot be reduced to a list of do's and don'ts. It certainly involves specific things that can be 'listed' as right or wrong, but it is far more than a list like the ten words written on stone. The law of Christ is love, but it is also the example of Christ. Everything Christ taught is part of his law, but so is everything his apostles taught a vital part of his law. Christ himself is his law personified. The whole of Scripture, as interpreted through the lens of Christ as the new covenant prophet, priest, and king, is a part of the law of Christ." May the Sovereign Lord be pleased to bless you, as you read and contemplate the glory of the new covenant in Christ, to see Christ more fully and more gloriously, as the full and final authoritative Word by whom God has spoken in these last days.

This compelling question is central to a debate taking place among evangelicals today. Michael Horton, a preeminent voice for reformation in the church, has drawn together a group of leaders in the evangelical church to answer this question once and for all. - W. Robert Godfrey - Michael Horton - Alister McGrath - Kim Riddlebarger - Rick Ritchie - Rod Rosenbladt - Paul Schaefer - Robert Strimple These writers draw on Scripture, theology, and church history to address the Lordship salvation issue. They explain their positions clearly, taking care to avoid promulgating legalistic rules people need to follow to be considered Christian. But neither do they convey the feeling that rules no longer matter.

A feisty, entertaining, and educational conversation about the shape of the church of the 21st century.

Offering readers a comprehensive summary of the major tenets of Reformation theology, this volume convincingly demonstrates the Reformation's enduring importance for the church today.

Following Covenant and Eschatology and Lord and Servant, this concluding volume of a four-part series examines Christian salvation from the perspective of covenant theology. In Covenant and Salvation, Michael Horton surveys law and gospel, union with Christ, and justification and theosis, conversing with both classical and contemporary viewpoints. In this final volume of a four-volume series, Michael Horton explores the origin, mission, and destiny of the church through the lens of covenantal theology. Arguing that the history of Israel and the covenant of grace provide the proper context for New Testament ecclesiology, Horton then shows how the church is constituted through the ascension of Christ, the Pentecost, and the Parousia and how it continues to live by the Word and sacraments. Horton's goal is to demonstrate the potential of a covenantal model for integrating the themes of the church as people and as place, with an urgent concern for contemporary practice.

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