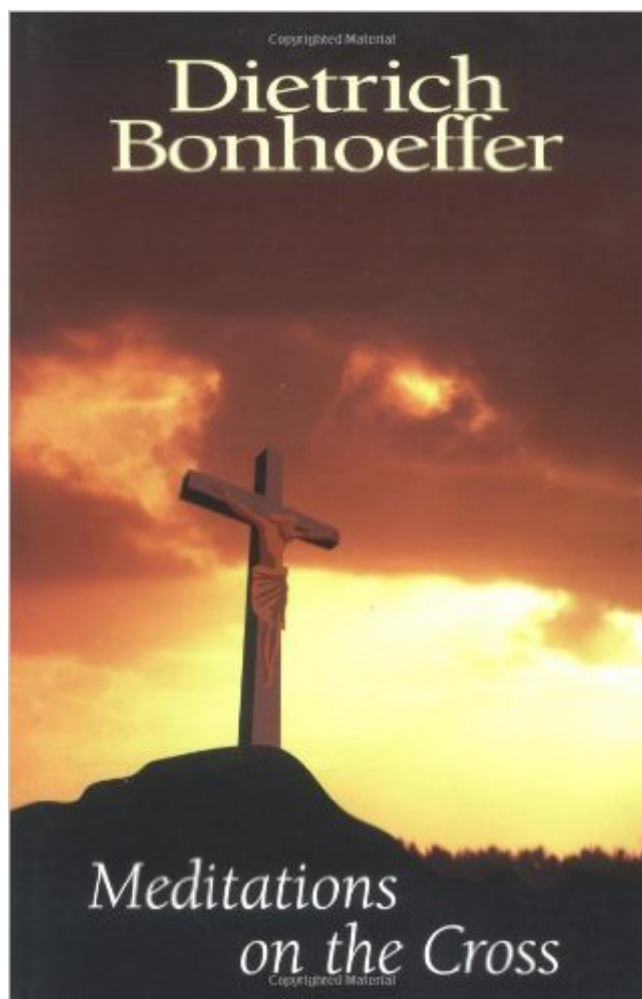


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Meditations On The Cross



Synopsis

The cross and the resurrection were central themes for Bonhoeffer's theology. These excerpts from sermons and letters contain his personal and faithful words about the crucifixion and the power of the cross for all Christians. *Meditations on the Cross* is ideal for devotional reading and personal reference.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book has a selection of texts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's sermons, lectures, books and his letters from prison. Some of the texts are short (only a few lines) while others are up to 13 pages long. But here you find theology of the cross, and that in a very broad sense. Here's a short text from this book from page 49: "Jesus is not a human being but the human being. Whatever happens to him also happens to human beings as such; it happens to everyone; and thus also to us. The name Jesus embraces all of humanity and all of God." What happened on the cross happens to humanity, human beings as such, that means all of us! The cross, resurrection and overcoming death was central in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's theological work so here's just a glimpse of what one of the greatest theologians in the 20th century said and wrote but highly enjoyable. I only wonder if it wasn't possible to have this book a bit longer? It is 94 pages long and it does not take a long time to read it. But it's a good book.

This collection of essays, excerpts from sermons given in Barcelona, Berlin and Finkenwalde, and

pieces of personal letters is reflective of Bonhoeffer's thorough grasp of principles of Christian theology, i.e., what you would expect. Each of the selections is thought provoking and of use to any who wish a deep perspective on the various topics...all of which are "categorized". The selection from Bonhoeffer's work entitled Ethics, is an excerpt titled Ecce Homo which in itself is worth the price of this little book. For any wishing to truly understand the work of Christ on the Cross, the magnitude of Christ's work on the cross, this selection cannot be recommended highly enough...it added immeasurably to my knowledge of Christ's place in history, and added to my understanding of the role of God in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. If you are serious about expanding your understanding of these grand themes, this essay is a marvelous furrow in which to lower your plow. There are a few pieces of writing that are best understood by having a bit of knowledge regarding the times in which Bonhoeffer lived, but even these references contain meaningful reflections: what you would expect.

Bonhoeffer is an intensely great example of someone with uncompromising faith living in a very dark period of history. The individual meditations aren't long, but they are very deep and need to be read with contemplation. I think his musings in this book are the best I've read on the cross of Christ.

Though a short book, it is full of deep insights to the meaning of the cross. I am always amazed at how Bonhoeffer sees things I miss and how deeply he understands God and His relationship to me. There are some very short thoughts or sermons, but they are so deep you could ponder the implications for days. Will reread this to mine it for more understanding of Jesus.

Each small chapter starts with a Bible paragraph and subsequent remarks by Bonhoeffer that can spruce up any bible study as well as be used on its own by a study group.

If you like your soul food meaty, filling and full of vegetables, then you'll like Meditations on the Cross. This is a challenging book to read in that it is deep writing. Bonhoeffer, who was hung by the Nazis in April of 1945, was truly an exceptional Protestant theologian and an exceptional man who tried to live out his faith in truth and honesty. In this book, you will find short readings that offer compelling insights into the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ. My only criticism is that I wish Manfred Weber, the editor, put the dates of each piece at the beginning not the end. I keep flipping to the end of the reading to see if Bonhoeffer wrote the piece before or during his prison time. Even though this book is challenging but very rewarding.

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