

PERSPECTIVE

MAY 2019



**RESOURCES
FOR EVERY**
season

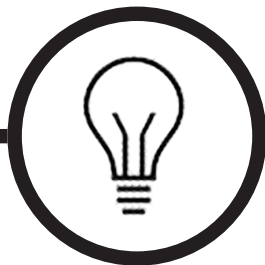
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Resources for Every Season

“You may get much instruction from books which afterwards you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master’s service. Paul cries, ‘Bring the books’—join in the cry.”

— Charles Spurgeon

THE BLESSING OF GOOD CHRISTIAN BOOKS

I think I can say with certainty that no Christians in history have had greater access to good Christian books than we do today. With the click of a button we can purchase books written at almost any stage in church history, including our own, and have them delivered to our doorstep in a matter of days, or to our devices in a matter of seconds. Online reviews and recommended booklists abound, so we can quickly find the best books on any given topic. Hundreds of new books are being published each year, and hundreds of classic works are being reprinted and reintroduced to the market. In all of this, the Lord has been very kind to us. When it comes to good Christian books, we are truly blessed beyond measure.

At Mount Vernon, we seek to embrace this blessing by doing what we can to get these great books into the hands of members—from giving away books on Sunday nights to transforming a closet into a bookstore in the worship center foyer. Why? Because we agree with Charles Spurgeon that there is “much instruction” to be gained from good Christian books that we can use as “a true weapon” in our service to the Lord. Good Christian books are a good gift from God that can help us live faithful Christian lives.

This year, as we give special attention to Family Ministry, we’ve been thinking and talking a lot about what it means for the church to be one family partnering with parents to show the next generation the way of Christ. One of the ways that we can fulfill this important calling is by faithfully modeling what it looks like to live for Christ in every season of life. The next generation needs to see faithful college students, singles, married couples, parents, empty nesters, retired people, and widows. They need to see what it looks like to hold fast to Christ in every season. They are watching us, and if we want to show them the way of Christ, we must persevere in faithfulness no matter our life stage or circumstances.

In an effort to help us persevere, I’ve compiled a list of resources I believe provide “much instruction” for these different seasons of life. My hope is that they will help make us more faithful servants of Christ as we seek to show the next generation the way of Christ.

THE ONE BOOK YOU MUST READ

Before we get to the list, it must be said that as Christians we do not *have* to read any book other than the Bible. God’s Word is sufficient and provides us with everything we need for life and godliness in every season of life (2 Tim. 3:16–17). I fear that the blessing of good Christian books has, for some, led to the neglect of *the* Good Book. If that’s you, I’d encourage you to set this list aside for now and spend some time digging into the one book you *must* read if you are to grow in grace and godliness. Everything here is intended to supplement and to explain, not replace, Scripture. The word of God alone has the power to save and to sanctify the believer. Though the instruction we gain from books can be “a true weapon” in the service of the Lord, the Lord himself has given us the *only* weapon we need, the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17).

A SHORT LIST OF BOOKS FOR EVERY SEASON

With that important caveat in place, let me suggest some resources that I hope will be a blessing to church. Though I’ve categorized these books by season of life, they can and should be read by those *not* in the specific season under which they are listed. One of the greatest ways we can serve one another as a family of faith is to understand the unique challenges faced by our brothers and sisters. That said, though books are great, the best way (and arguably the only way) to truly get to know the unique challenges faced by others in the church is to simply ask and listen. The best families are those in which communication is regular, two-sided, and intentional. Do you want to know what it is like to be a widower? Ask one to coffee, or better yet, invite him over for dinner and ask him to share with you the blessings and challenges of his season of life.

One other note on this list: “Of making many books there is no end” (Eccles. 12:12). The list below represents a small sampling of books for each season. For the sake of brevity and simplicity, I’ve chosen to list only a few books that touch on topics I think are relevant for each season. I’ve also deliberately chosen shorter books, recognizing that our time for reading is often limited. If one of your favorites didn’t make the list, you have my apologies in advance. Finally, I also recognize that I’ve failed to provide resources for some specific aspects of different seasons (e.g., adoption and the unique challenges of parenting adopted children). This is in part for the sake of brevity, and also because we will be addressing some of these specific aspects in upcoming issues of the “Perspective.”

OK, on to the list.

Books for Any Season

[O Love That Will Not Let Me Go: Facing Death with Courageous Confidence in God](#) edited by Nancy Guthrie*

It may seem morbid to start a list of books for every season of life with a book about death, but if we are to navigate this life wisely, we must remember that we are “a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” (Jas 4:14). In this volume, Guthrie compiles the thoughts of a number of Christians, past and present, on the inevitable end of life. These short, devotional reflections go a long way in “teach[ing] us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:12).

[Praying the Bible](#) by Donald S. Whitney*

Prayer is essential to the Christian life. Though we feel our need to pray more in some seasons than others, Scripture commands us to “pray without ceasing” in every season (1 Thess. 5:17). In this short, practical guide, Whitney shows us that Scripture teaches us not only what to pray, but how to pray in accord with God’s priorities for our lives. Another book on prayer that I highly recommend is [A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World](#) by Paul E. Miller.

[Chasing Contentment: Trusting God in a Discontented Age](#) by Erik Raymond

Discontentment is not confined to any particular season of life—the married mother of three struggles with it as much as the single man in his first entry-level job. The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. Raymond helpfully reminds us that contentment is something that even the Apostle Paul had to learn (Phil. 4:11). We too can learn to be content by finding our contentment in the God who is content in himself and gives us the gift of himself in Christ.

[True Friendship: Walking Shoulder to Shoulder](#) by Vaughan Roberts

Friendship is a crucial part of life in every season. Whether we are willing to admit it or not, we all need deep friendships. We were made in the image of the triune God who himself has always existed as one God in three persons experiencing perfect love and fellowship. He not only made us for community, but also gave us a pattern for human friendships in the life of Jesus (e.g., Lk. 12:4). Roberts walks us through six aspects of true friendship that help us understand what Christian friendship can and should be.

[Be Still, My Soul: Embracing God’s Purpose and Provision in Suffering](#) edited by Nancy Guthrie*

Suffering for the Christian is inevitable. It is not confined to any one season of life but comes to us in varying degrees in every season. Like Guthrie’s volume on

death, this book is a compilation of short excerpts from Christians past and present. I’ve chosen it because of its devotional style, but it is one of many excellent books on suffering. A few others I highly recommend in no particular order are [God’s Grace in Your Suffering](#) by David Powlison, [Facing Grief: Counsel for Mourners](#)* by John Flavel, [Surprised by Suffering: The Role of Pain and Death in the Christian Life](#) by R. C. Sproul, and [How Long, O Lord?: Reflections on Suffering and Evil](#)* by D. A. Carson.

Books for Teens

[This Changes Everything: How the Gospel Transforms the Teen Years](#) by Jaquelle Crowe

There may be no season of life for which Christians have lower expectations than the teen years. Unwittingly, we have embraced the cultural caricature of teens as rebellious, irresponsible, and immature. Crowe, a teen herself, shows us that the Bible not only rejects this caricature but offers a beautiful and challenging picture of the teen years through the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. A similar book, with a slightly different focus is [Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations](#) by Alex & Brett Harris.

[Thoughts for Young Men](#) by J. C. Ryle

Though Ryle wrote this little booklet in the 1800s, its message is as relevant today as it was then. His pastoral and practical advice is a sure and steady guide for young men who desire to live for Christ. Dads, this would be a great thing to read with your sons. Another booklet that I would highly recommend to teens is [Jonathan Edwards’ Resolutions: And Advice to Young Converts](#). Edwards wrote his seventy resolutions as a teenager and sought to live them out for the rest of his life. Lesser known, but equally helpful and practical are the included letters he wrote to young Deborah Hatheway not long after her conversion to guide her as she began the Christian life.

[True Beauty](#) by Carolyn Mahaney and Nicole Whitacre

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (Prov. 31:30). But, in a culture that places a premium on beauty, this truth can be difficult to embrace, especially for a teenage girl. The barrage of ads and billboards, the celebrity culture that prizes looks above all else, social media and the constant temptation to compare that comes with it—all are sending the message that physical beauty is the most important thing. In *True Beauty*, Mahaney and Whitacre labor to provide women with a biblical vision for beauty. This would be a great book for a mom to read with her teenage daughter.

* Available for sale in the church bookstall

Books for Singles

[7 Myths About Singleness](#) by Sam Allberry*

Books on singleness abound. Sadly, they don't always have the best titles (e.g., [Redeeming Singleness](#)* which, nonetheless, is a helpful book) because we tend to wrongly define singleness in a negative sense. Allberry, a single pastor, wants Christians to change the way we think and talk about singleness. In order to do so, he sets out to overturn seven common misconceptions. This is a book not just for singles but for the whole church as we seek to love our single brothers and sisters well. It would be an excellent book for singles to read and discuss with brothers or sisters in different seasons of life.

[Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will](#) by Kevin DeYoung*

For most, life after college comes with more questions than it does answers. What should I do with my life? Where should I live? Am I in the right career? Should I get married? If so, when? And, to who? In all these things, we want to please the Lord; yet, the Bible doesn't give us simple answers to these and many other important life questions. How then do we answer them? DeYoung offers very practical advice that points us the right direction, toward wisdom and obedience. I'd also encourage you to pick up [Step by Step: Divine Guidance for Ordinary Christians](#) by James C. Petty if you are looking for a more in-depth treatment of this subject.

[The Gospel at Work: How the Gospel Gives New Purpose and Meaning to Our Jobs](#) by Sebastian Traeger & Greg Gilbert*

Though all Christians work, few of us think deeply about the meaning and purpose of our jobs in light of Scripture. Yet, the Bible has much to say about work and how the gospel transforms the 9 to 5. And, the earlier in our careers we wrap our minds around these truths, the better. Traeger and Gilbert provide a theological and practical look at what Scripture says about work, including how we choose our work, how to deal with difficult co-workers, and even how to share the gospel in the workplace.

[Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness and Dating](#) by Marshall Segal

This is another one of those books on singleness with a pretty unhelpful title. Not all singles long to be married, and I've yet to meet a single who wants to be identified as "not yet married." That said, some singles do long to be married, and many will eventually marry. Segal has those brothers and sisters in mind as he writes. This book is divided in two parts. The first focuses on honoring God in singleness, and the second focuses on honoring God in dating. A more in depth review of the book can be found on page 7. As a bonus, the whole book is [available digitally](#) for free.

Books for Couples

[Love that Lasts: When Marriage Meets Grace](#) by Gary & Betsy Ricucci*

This is a book that the pastoral staff regularly uses for pre-marital counseling. It is a biblical introduction to the gift of marriage that covers everything from men and women's roles, to conflict, to romance. But it isn't just for the engaged or newly married. The biblical truths and practical wisdom that the Ricuccis offer have been a blessing to my own marriage every time I've gone through the book.

[When Sinners Say "I Do": Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage](#) by Dave Harvey*

More than once I've heard a young husband say, "I didn't realize how selfish I was until I got married." Marriage has a way of revealing sin in our hearts that we didn't even know was there. But ours isn't the only sin marriage reveals. It doesn't take long to realize that our spouse is a sinner too. Harvey does an excellent job of helping us think biblically about these realities, so we might see both the transforming power and sweetness of the gospel in our marriages. [What Did You Expect?](#) by Paul David Tripp is a longer book that also seeks to apply the balm of the gospel to the sin in our marriages.

["A Do-It-Yourself Marriage Retreat"](#) by Deepak Reju

I'm cheating on this one. It isn't a book, but it is an incredibly valuable resource. Good marriages don't just happen. They take work—regular, intentional, sometimes difficult work. Jamie and I have found Reju's "A Do-It-Yourself Marriage Retreat" extremely helpful as we seek to do this kind of work on our marriage. We've taken the questions with us on weekend getaways and date nights. For us, the questions are such good conversation starters that it is difficult to get through more than a couple in one sitting. The retreat is [available for free online](#).

Books for Parents

[The Duties of Parents](#) by J. C. Ryle*

Parenting is a high calling. Making disciples of our children requires intentionality, diligence, and faith. In this little booklet, Ryle seeks to impress this truth on the hearts of parents. For example, he states, "Home is the place where habits are formed; home is the place where the foundations of character are laid; home gives the bias to our tastes, and likings, and opinions. See then, I pray you, that there be careful training at home." Though short, this booklet is filled with biblical wisdom that should be read and digested slowly.

* Available for sale in the church bookstall

[*Shepherding a Child's Heart*](#) by Ted Tripp*; [*Instructing a Child's Heart*](#) by Tedd & Margy Tripp*; [*Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*](#) by Paul David Tripp* I recognize that I'm cheating here, but these three books really go together. *Shepherding a Child's Heart* is the book I would recommend first to anyone wanting to think about what it looks like to very practically bring up children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). *Instructing a Child's Heart* builds on this foundation and provides guidance for impressing the truths of God's word on the hearts of our children. *Age of Opportunity* completes the trilogy by explaining how these principles apply as we seek to parent our children as they transition to adulthood. Another excellent resource in this same practical parenting genre that focuses more on the heart of the parent is [*Gospel-Powered Parenting*](#)* by William P. Farley.

[*Family Worship*](#) by Donald S. Whitney*

Family worship has been described as a neglected grace in the modern church. Throughout history, Christians have sought not only to worship the Lord when the church gathers but also in their homes when the family gathers around the table or the living room. Christian parents and their children would be blessed by a renewal of this practice. Desiring to see family worship revived in our homes, Whitney makes a biblical and historical case for family worship and then lays out a simple plan for beginning the practice.

[*The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place*](#) by Andy Crouch*

Technologies should be embraced carefully and thoughtfully by Christians. Yet, sadly, there may be no aspect of modern life where we more willingly and, honestly, thoughtlessly allow the world to dictate our practices. Thankfully, there are a number of recent books that encourage Christians to be more thoughtful about their use of technology ([*12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You*](#)* by Tony Reinke is another example). In *The Tech-Wise Family*, Crouch points specifically to the reality that Christian virtue is forged in the context of family. For our children and families to flourish and grow in the ways God intends, we must put technology in its proper place.

Books for Empty Nesters

The lists for this season and the others that follow are shorter than those above primarily because I've not read books or resources that focus on them. The lists are also shorter because there are comparably few good books written by Christians on these specific seasons of life. Though I haven't read them, the books listed below come highly recommended by brothers

and sisters who have experienced these seasons. That said, I encourage you to read them like you would any other Christian book—like the Bereans who tested everything they heard against the Scriptures (Acts 17:11).

[*You Never Stop Being a Parent: Thriving in Relationship with Your Adult Children*](#) by Jim Newheiser and Elyse Fitzpatrick

Parenthood doesn't end when your children leave the house. In some ways, it becomes even more complicated. Often when our elders with adult children share prayer requests with the elder body, they ask us to pray for wisdom in parenting their adult children. In this book, Newheiser and Fitzpatrick offer wisdom that has come both from personal experience and hours of counseling families. The authors unapologetically lean into the sufficiency of Scripture for this season of life and labor to point readers to the wisdom of God in the gospel as they seek to parent their adult children well.

[*Grandparenting: Strengthening Your Family and Passing on Your Faith*](#) by Dr. Josh Mulvihill

"Grandparenting exists to deliver the gospel to future generations." That's the conviction of Dr. Mulvihill who has done an incredible amount of biblical study on the topic as well as numerous interviews with grandparents, and I'm convinced he's right. The book is divided into four parts that focus on the rejection of unbiblical trends in grandparenting, the biblical calling of grandparents, guidance for discipleship of adult children and grandchildren, and practical advice for strengthening those relationships. I was able to read the introduction and first chapter of this one. If they are indicative of the rest of the book, trust that it will be a helpful resource for any grandparent who desires to point their grandchildren to Christ.

[*Help for the Caregiver: Facing the Challenges with Understanding and Strength*](#) by Michael R. Emlet

The empty nest season is often the season in which we are called to care for aging parents. Having watched my mother and father walk through this season, and knowing many in the church who are currently walking through it, I recognize that it can come with significant physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. This short [*CCEF booklet*](#) seeks to provide biblical help and hope to caregivers. Two other recent books that may be of help to caregivers are [*Between Life and Death: A Gospel-Centered Guide to End-of-Life Medical Care*](#) by Kathryn Butler, M.D. and [*Finding Grace in the Face of Dementia*](#) by John Dunlop, M.D.

* Available for sale in the church bookstall

Books for the Retired

[Life After Retirement](#) by Steve Brown

For some, retirement can be a little disorienting. When you've spent the entirety of your adult life working, it can be difficult to adjust to the new normal of retirement. In this short booklet, Brown seeks to provide help for those feeling a bit lost as they transition into this new season, reminding them of God's grace and greater purposes for their lives.

[Rethinking Retirement](#) by John Piper

Piper begins this little book with these words: "Finishing life to the glory of Christ means finishing life in a way that makes Christ look glorious. It means living and dying in a way that shows Christ to be the all-satisfying Treasure that he is. So it would include, for example, not living in ways that make this world look like your treasure. Which means that most of the suggestions that this world offers us for our retirement years are bad ideas." He then goes on to explain what he means with both biblical principles and examples from the lives of saints who finished well for the glory of Christ. This booklet is [available online for free](#).

[Finishing Our Course with Joy: Guidance from God for Engaging with Our Aging](#) by J. I. Packer

With advances in medicine, people are living longer than ever before. That means the retirement season may last several decades for some. And, throughout that time, we all will face the inevitable effects of aging on our bodies and minds. Packer wrote this little book in 2014 when he was 88 years young. By God's grace, he's now 92 and still persevering in the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). As one seeking to persevere to the end, he writes to others like him "who want to learn, in a straightforward way, how we may continue living to God's glory as we get older." A slightly longer book with a similar purpose is Derek Prime's [A Good Old Age: An A to Z of Loving and Following the Lord Jesus in Later Years](#).

Books for Widows and Widowers

[Becoming a Widow: The Ache of Missing Your Other Half](#) by Elizabeth W. D. Groves

I cannot even begin to imagine the heartache of losing one's spouse. There is no closer human relationship than the one-flesh union between husband and wife. Elizabeth Groves knows this heartache personally. Through the lens of the loss of her own husband she seeks to point widows to Christ as she guides them through the process of grieving. There are a couple of other books that focus on the grief of losing a spouse which are more biographical and may or may not be as helpful to widows and widowers: [A Grief Observed](#) by C. S. Lewis, in which he very candidly wrestles with the

loss of his wife Joy, and [A Grief Sanctified: Through Sorrow to Eternal Hope](#) by J. I. Packer, which includes and reflects upon Richard Baxter's memoir of his wife's life and death.

[The Undistracted Widow: Living for God after Losing Your Husband](#) by Carol W. Cornish

Cornish's book is similar in purpose to *Becoming a Widow*. The differences, though, warrant a mention. She too writes as a widow who lost her husband of 38 years to lung cancer. Though she addresses and seeks to comfort widows in their grief, she also very helpfully addresses the reality that life for the widow continues on after the death of their spouse. Her desire is to see women use their widowhood for God's glory.

[Caring for Widows: Ministering God's Grace](#) by Brian Croft and Austin Walker

No, this book isn't for widows. It is instead for the church, called by God to honor widows and to visit them in their affliction (1 Tim. 5:3; Jas 1:27). This is an incredibly important yet often neglected ministry in the body. One of the reasons it gets neglected is because we don't know where to start. Recognizing this, Croft and Walker expose readers to the Bible's teaching on the care of widows and provide a wealth of practical advice for how we as a church can faithfully fulfill our calling to minister God's grace to our widowed brothers and sisters in Christ.

TAKE UP AND READ

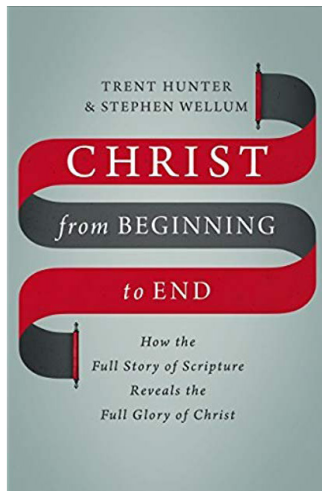
There are so many more books that I could mention, and arguably many more I should mention, but my hope is that the list above exposes you to the wealth of good Christian books related to every season of life. You don't need to read them all. You don't have to read any of them. You must read the Bible. And, if you do read them, you should do so with your Bible at your side.

My prayer for those of you who do pick up one or more of the volumes mentioned above is that as you read, you would get much instruction that you can use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service in your present season of life.

– Dustin Butts

Christ From Beginning to End

Written by Trent Hunter & Stephen Wellum



Have you ever struggled to see Christ in the Old Testament? Jesus, himself, tells us that the Old Testament is about him (Luke 24:27). Yet, as you read and study Scripture it isn't that obvious to you. *Christ from Beginning to End* by Trent Hunter and Stephen Wellum was written to equip the reader with how to read and study the Bible better. "[T]he better you read the story of the Bible, the better you can fathom Christ's glory," (20). With pastoral concern, Hunter and Wellum endeavor to make Christ known in the text and challenge the reader to soberly consider: "Do I know Jesus Christ?" (261). The book is organized into

two parts with complementary objectives undergirding a single purpose: 1) providing "a clear understanding of the Bible's unity and message," and 2) equipping readers to be "more competent in reading the Bible," (29) – all to reveal Christ *throughout* the Bible as the title signifies.

Chapters 2-4 helpfully instruct readers how to read the Bible according to its close, continuing, and complete contexts and are worth the price of admission. With great clarity and pastoral care, *Christ From Beginning to End* summarizes both the familiar and unfamiliar gospel threads throughout the Bible. Readers will especially benefit from the chapter on the Old Testament prophets, where Hunter and Wellum show their interrelationship by presenting the unique ways they point to Christ. Hosea beautifully portrays the heart of God: "He wants more than justice for Israel. He wants *her*! God declares his love and his wrath, his affection and his anger. There is tension in the heart of the Lord when his just and holy character collides with his tender love, mercy, and grace," (172). Amen! The prophets "creatively dramatized the horror of sin and its awful implications," but also point forward to a new exodus, a new marriage, a new temple, and a new creation that the suffering servant will usher in (175, 190-195).

Christ from Beginning to End is biblical theology at its best. Hunter and Wellum demonstrate how the Bible fits together, like a puzzle "designed for a single purpose," (33). They have written a very accessible overview of the Bible that most readers will be able to pick up and immediately benefit from. They avoid "heady" theological terms and steer clear of major theological debates (i.e. Covenant Theology vs Dispensationalism). Not only will readers be better able to read their Bible; they will be stirred to worship our glorious Christ as they more easily see him in ALL of Scripture.

– RECOMMENDED BY CHAD IRELAND

Excerpts From the Book

1

"The same thing that makes us Christians also grows us as Christians: the grace of God revealed in the gospel."
– Introduction, p.22

2

"[T]he big picture that helps us unlock the puzzle of the Bible...the promise-fulfillment theme and the unfolding of typology through the biblical covenants."
– Looking Ahead, p.63

3

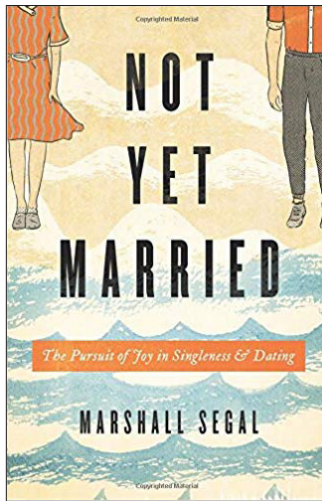
"The Holy Spirit designed the old covenant...to point beyond itself to something greater: a solution to sin and access to God."
– Moses, p.142

4

"The new covenant community, the church, is more than a helpful resource for Christian growth; it's the only context for all true and lasting transformation."
– Conclusion, p.265

Not Yet Married

Written by Marshall Segal



“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” In all things, Christians are to strive to glorify God; whether it be at work in a cubicle, studying for a sociology midterm, changing diapers and running errands, or running a 5k for charity. The aim and goal of the Christian life is to worship and glorify Christ. Dating, in light of this, ought to be no different. Segal in *Not Yet Married* writes: “Worship is the goal of all Christian dating, because worship is the goal of the Christian life” (Segal, 124).

Far too often believers idolize the idea of dating and marriage, believing that a Christian partner that will satisfy and make them whole, bringing joy to their lives (23). While marriage is a picture of the Gospel, marriage is not the Gospel. Scripture tells us that it is Christ alone who can offer eternal joy. Rather than seeing singleness as a transitory season, Segal argues single Christians are to use their time, efforts, and resources for the sake of the Gospel.

Segal offers practical Biblical wisdom on what it looks like to date well – pursuing purity while pursuing a fellow, like-minded believer with marriage in view. He stresses the importance of the call to accountability and honesty with older, more mature believers in a local church. Besides dating, Segal also offers insight (and an argument) for a life of godly singleness, citing Paul in 1 Corinthians 7: “The single life can be (relatively) free from relational anxieties (v. 32) and worldly distractions (v. 33) and wide open for worship, devotion, and ministry (v. 35)” (Segal, 37). Here, Segal presents the case that those called to lifelong singleness are able to devote the time, money, and effort married people may not have for the sake of the church.

Meditating back on what I read, the greater theme which stood out to me was the fact that Christian dating is entirely counter-cultural. Because I grew up in an age of casual dating, swiping right, and referring to dating as “hanging out,” this book encouraged me to stand firm in my faith-based convictions as I now date. In addition, I was convicted of some of the ways I have wrongly practiced dating in the past. At the heart of the book, Segal presents a case that dating is an act of worship. As our worship is aimed towards a good and holy Sovereign King, singles in the church can rest in the grace of the Lord as they think about marriage.

– RECOMMENDED BY JAKE CHANDLER

Excerpts From the Book

1

“But God made you and me for far more than marriage, business, or whatever else we each might choose for ourselves. If we miss this, we risk wasting our lives running in wrong directions, pursuing pitiful dreams, and serving tiny gods.”

– Love Is Looking for You, p. 28

2

“Perhaps the greatest temptation in the singleness is to assume marriage will meet our unmet needs, solve our weaknesses, organize our lives, and unleash our gifts.”

– Single, Satisfied, Satisfied, p. 38

3

“Good accountability, grounded in the gospel, does not breed condemnation but confidence. It reminds us that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone... The gospel is big enough to cover all our sin, no matter how far we have run from God, and to redeem us from any of our mistakes or failures in dating.”

– The Third Wheel We All Need, p. 180

MAY

These Scripture readings have been selected to help you prepare for the Sunday morning message. Take Up & Read!

May 1	Exodus 3	May 17	1 Samuel 16:1–13
May 2	1 Corinthians 1:1–17	May 18	Acts 13:13–25
May 3	1 Corinthians 1:18–31	May 19	Acts 13:13–25
May 4	Exodus 4:1–17	May 20	Luke 23:1–25
May 5	Exodus 4:1–17	May 21	Luke 24:1–12
May 6	Acts 10:33–11:18	May 22	Isaiah 55:1–5
May 7	Acts 11:19–30	May 23	Psalms 16
May 8	Acts 12:1–19	May 24	Psalms 2
May 9	Acts 12:20–25	May 25	Acts 13:26–43
May 10	Deuteronomy 13:1–5	May 26	Acts 13:26–43
May 11	Acts 13:1–12	May 27	Jonah 1:1–6
May 12	Acts 13:1–12	May 28	Jonah 1:7–17
May 13	Deuteronomy 2:1–25	May 29	Jonah 2:1–10
May 14	Judges 2:11–23	May 30	Jonah 3
May 15	1 Samuel 8	May 31	Matthew 12:38–50
May 16	1 Samuel 10:17–27		

***Sermons in bold**

TAKE UP & READ



Mount Vernon
BAPTIST CHURCH