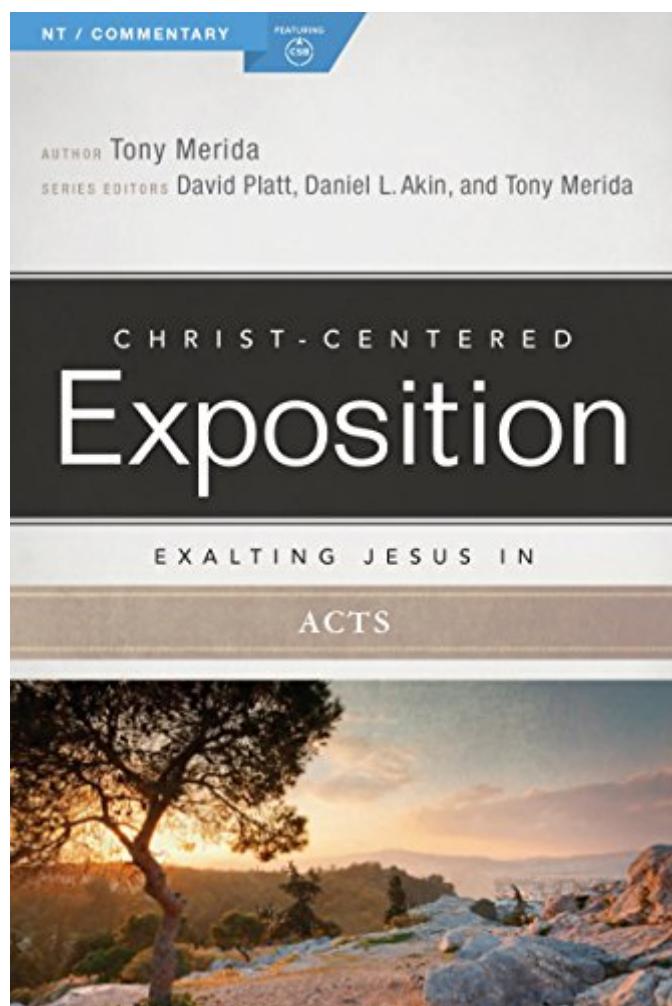


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Exalting Jesus In Acts (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)



Synopsis

Edited by David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida, this new commentary series, projected to be 48 volumes, takes a Christ-centered approach to expositing each book of the Bible. Rather than a verse-by-verse approach, the authors have crafted chapters that explain and apply key passages in their assigned Bible books. Readers will learn to see Christ in all aspects of Scripture, and they will be encouraged by the devotional nature of each exposition. Projected contributors to the series include notable authors such as Russell D. Moore, Al Mohler, Matt Chandler, Francis Chan, Mark Dever, and others.

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Customer Reviews

Enjoying all the Christ centered exposition series, and this volume is another good one. Thanks for the quick delivery!

For the past couple of years, the B&H Publishing Group has released a series of commentaries called, "Christ-Centered Exposition." These commentaries are geared in not only assisting pastors

in their sermon prep, but also for small group settings. These commentaries are like reading a book where there is teaching in them unlike some commentaries where they give the meaning of the verse and attempt to interpret it in its original context. Tony Merida, David Platt, and Danny Akin have been the editors of this series and have a great job gather authors seeking to make much of Jesus in this books by showing Christ in the pages of the Bible. I recently received Exalting Jesus In Acts which was written by Tony Merida. One of the reasons I wanted to look this commentary over is our church just finished going through the book of Acts in Sunday School for our adults. Like all the commentaries in this series, each chapter is outlined as far as what that particular chapter will be looking at as well what verses it will be covering. Since Acts is such a big book in the Bible, the book itself is pretty lengthy even the chapters are not. This is probably one of the thickest commentaries from this series I have. Each chapter ends with some discussion questions which is good for small group settings and possible application points for a sermon. I want to touch on a couple of particular verses in Acts the Merida comments on. The first being Acts 2:38-39, which says, "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself'" (The commentary mostly uses the Christian Standard Bible [CSB], but I will quoting from the English Standard Version [ESV]). This is one of the go-to passage for those who embrace Infant Baptism. I wish I could say that Merida did touch on that, but he went in the area of baptismal regeneration, which the belief that when you are baptized, you are saved, which was an interesting discussion, but I wished he would have addressed more on the Infant Baptism viewpoint. The second one is Acts 8:39-40, which says, "And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea." This passages takes place right after Phillip shared Christ with the Ethiopian Eunuch and baptized him. You might be wondering why I wanted to look at this passage. My reason is a few years ago, I heard a preach say that the reason God took Phillip and zipped him from one place to another was to thank him for his service. You can imagine the confusion I had when I heard that. There is not many answers as to why Phillip was beamed like a Star Trek transporter by God to Azotus. Sadly, Merida does not go there nor did he give a theory as to why that happened. I guess this part of Acts will remain a mystery. Despite my disappointment with the two passages I mentioned, this is an excellent commentary and highly recommend it.

A faithful expositor of God's Word should always seek to exalt Christ in the preaching event. Preaching is, in some regard, an act of worship. It is the explanation of preparation and hours spent with God and God's truth for the congregation's edification. To do so, one must use exegete the text well. Secondly, it is necessary to spend time with other scholars who have taken the time to communicate God's truth. One aside: there are commentaries written for and toward a more scholarly approach to the text (e.g., working with the original languages of the Bible), and then there are those written in a more pastoral nature (e.g., for application in the preaching event). I appreciate both kinds of commentaries. Tony Merida's commentary *Exalting Jesus in Acts* is a commentary that features the best aspects of scholarly and pastoral commentaries. Dr. Merida displays robust research in his works cited which in turn is shown in the commentary on any portion of text. This is a commentary for pastors who desire faithful exposition from a seasoned pastor (and professor of teaching preaching!). Furthermore, I also appreciate that this commentary is written by an experienced professor of preaching and pastor but not solely for pastors. It is also written for small group study (see my final point). I also appreciate Merida's commentary because it features the new Christian Standard Bible (CSB). Literal and readable, the CSB is a new translation into the Evangelical world that should be used by pastors, scholars, and students. I equate the CSB's readability and reliability with the likes of the English Standard Version and the New American Standard Bible. I think it is a reliable combination between these two translations of Scripture. Finally, I also am appreciative of the reflection questions at the end of each commentary section. The layout of each chapter provides the main-idea of the text, outline of this particular portion of the text, and exposition. The questions provide ample discussion from the commentary in conjunction with Scripture being the centerpiece of all that is said. Certainly, the Christ-Centered commentary series is not the Word Biblical or Baker Exegetical series, but this commentary is devoted to the text of Scripture. It is not technical in its dealings with the original languages though I have no problem with that. *Exalting Jesus in Acts*, as with the commentaries in this series, is for the pastor seeking to be a faithful expositor of the truths found in God's Word. Disclosure: I received this book free from B&H Publishers through the B&H Blogger Review Program. The opinions I have expressed are my own, and I was not required to write a positive review. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255

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