



REJOICING IN CHRIST

BY MICHAEL REEVES

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JACE HUDSON

My book review in a sentence is this: *Rejoicing in Christ* helped this burdened pastor and busy parent to slow down and savor Jesus for who he truly is—my all-satisfying joy. There you have it. And if you are similarly burdened and busy but also hunger and thirst for a delight-inducing taste of Jesus, then I'm confident this book will serve your soul.

Expounding on how Jesus is God's *beloved* Son, in whom the Father is *well pleased* (Matt. 3:17), Michael Reeves writes of Christ:

If there is nothing more precious to the Father than him, there cannot be any blessing higher than him or anything better than him. In every way, he himself *must* be the 'very great reward' of the gospel (Gen. 15:1). He is the treasure of the Father, shared with us. Sometimes we find ourselves tiring of Jesus, stupidly imagining that we have seen all there is to see and used up all the pleasure there is to be had in him. We get spiritually bored. But Jesus has satisfied the mind and heart of the infinite God for eternity. Our boredom is simple blindness. If the Father can be infinitely and eternally satisfied in him, then he must be overwhelming all-sufficient for us. In every situation, for eternity (21).

Jesus has satisfied the mind and heart of the infinite God for eternity. What a thought! My spiritual boredom is simple blindness. What an indictment! Reeves' book is a stirring call to see and savor Jesus for the all-sufficient joy that he is.

In five chapters, Michael Reeves covers the deity of Christ, his incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension, as well as our union with him by the Spirit and his second coming. These are the usual topics in Christology, but Reeves illuminates them with fresh insights. One way he accomplishes this is by feeding us some of the finest historical thinking on Jesus. From Calvin to Chesterton, Sibbes to Spurgeon, Luther to Lewis, and so many

more, Reeves serves up the best and yet does it with a skill that keeps his work easily accessible.

Rejoicing in Christ is also an enjoyable read. Reeves is a clear and clever communicator who uses pithy language (Jesus needed “to be in real, pinchable reality” [43]) and quotable phrases (“That otherwise unremarkable tomb in Jerusalem thus became the womb of a new creation” [64]).

Michael Reeves closes his book with a thought-provoking question, “What do you *enjoy* most about the gospel” (121)? There are so many ways you could answer: the gift of salvation, the defeat of death, the adoption of the Father, or the hope of the new creation. Undoubtedly, each is precious but more desirable, delightful, and dear to us still is Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the treasure of the Father shared with us. He is our all-sufficient satisfaction in every situation, for all eternity. *Rejoicing in Christ* helps us do just that—rejoice in Jesus.

*He is the treasure
of the Father,
shared with us.*

A word of advice on reading this book: at only 135 pages, you could zip through it quickly. Don't. Instead, read this book slowly. Read it devotionally. Maybe read a couple of pages early in the morning or with your spouse before bed at night. Read this book like you'd eat a rich feast. Chew slowly, enjoy each bite, and savor Jesus!

JACE HUDSON

Jace Hudson serves as senior pastor of [Covenant of Grace Church of Copley](#) (Copley, OH).