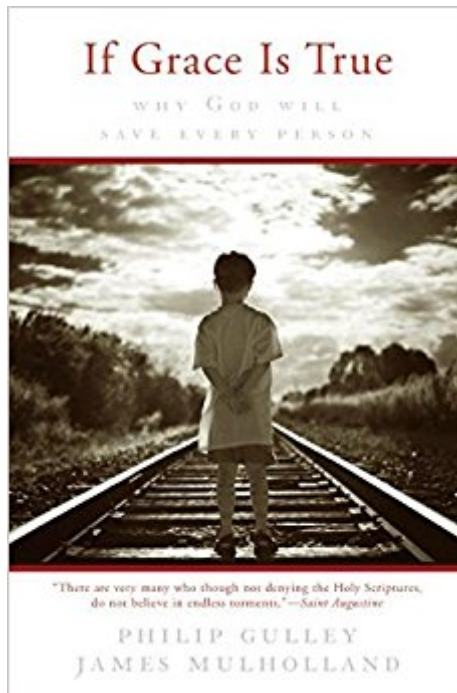


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If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person



Synopsis

Philip Gulley and James Mulholland have extended and deepened the meaning of God's grace in decidedly thoughtful and lovely ways. "Arkansas Democrat Gazette" In this controversial bestseller, authors and Quaker ministers Philip Gulley and James Mulholland expand upon their belief in eternal salvation for all through God's perfect grace. For seekers, for thoughtful Christians, and for the simply curious, Gulley and Mulholland offer a beautiful, timeless message of hope.

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Customer Reviews

Traditionally, many Christian denominations have held fast to the belief that those who confess God's saving grace from sin will be rewarded with eternal life while those who reject this grace will be damned to eternal perdition. Such a belief, according to ministers Gulley and Mulholland, fails miserably to acknowledge the real message of Christianity: that God's gracious arms are wide enough to hold every person, regardless of shortcomings or sins. The authors did not always feel this way, and their little meditation on Christian universalism is as much autobiographical confession as theological treatise. Using stories from their own lives and ministries, Gulley and Mulholland devote a chapter to each of the words in the sentence "why God will save every person." In a seamless voice, they tell of people's struggles to accept teachings of the church that keep them from closeness with God. They also recall events in their own lives where they stood in the way of God's grace operating in personal relationships. For example, when one of their ministerial friends

declared his homosexuality, they realized that - despite their former judgmental stance on homosexuality - this person deserved God's love and grace as much as any other. Salvation, they argue, is simply being freed of every obstacle to intimacy with God. Gulley and Mulholland's stirring manifesto on the central role of universalism in Christianity will provoke traditionalists and encourage new ways of thinking about the nature and purpose of the Christian faith. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gulley, author of the best-selling stories set in fictional Harmony, Indiana, and theologian Mulholland have been friends since they first met at seminary, and they speak as one voice and in the first person--as they take great pains to emphasize: for though they are very different, they have had remarkably similar spiritual experiences. To many people, their book's subtitle and premise that God will save every person, without exception, amount to a controversial stance, to say the least. Some will think theirs is an awfully generous interpretation, and others--those who grew up being assured that some would be saved and most damned--will be appalled. Despite such reactions, including angry outbursts from friend and foe alike, Gulley and Mulholland stick to their guns as they tell their stories and the stories of people they have met with compassion, hope, kindness, and grace--and the lovely conviction of universal salvation. June SawyersCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

If Grace is True is thorough and intimate explanation of Universalism and a God that truly is about grace. For "traditional "Christians, this will challenge many of your long held beliefs, but read it. It is mentally healthy to view other beliefs and examine your own. Gulley is in no way intimidating or dogmatic, rather his writing is filled with the grace he writes about.

A well written book about God's plan of the ages to purge and ultimately save all people. I was disappointed that the author apparently doesn't believe in the Incarnation and the Resurrection or even the divinity of Christ and declares that nobody had to pay the sin debt and God could simply have forgiven all. Christians would strongly disagree since it is Christ who makes it possible for mankind to come to God, and it is the Holy Spirit who brings us to Christ and keeps us in the faith. All of scripture speaks of Christ. He is present in every book of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. He is God in the flesh. Without Him the Bible is just another book. Without Christ there is no gospel.

This book brought to light things I have been pondering and questioning about for some time. It is more in alignment with my idea of an all loving Father God.

Lots to think about, agree or disagree, in time we will all find out.

I wasn't going to read this, but a well-meaning friend urged me so strongly that I decided to give it a try. The better parts of the book are in the first 3 chapters. I appreciate the authors' arguments that the idea of Hell as we've been traditionally taught puts considerable limitations on the Love and Grace of God. If our determination as little human beings to resist God is stronger than His divine ability to draw us with his Love and Grace, his love and grace are not all that amazing. If God has picked and chosen who he will share this Love and Grace with and some aren't chosen, then His Love and Grace are not that amazing either. However their logic breaks down seriously in the last 2 chapters of the book. Jesus' divinity is dismissed, along with any serious consideration of Bible passages they find difficult. While I'm open to new takes on old ideas, I can't buy such fruity ideas based solely on the sentiments of the authors, it seems. I think I'll read the Thomas Talbot book others have recommended and see what I think. I'm certainly willing to be convinced that God is bigger and more powerful and more loving than the traditional Church makes him look. I appreciate these authors' hearts to try and relieve people of religious burdens rather than saddle people with them; however I can't take seriously such weak and unsupported arguments even for an idea I hope is true.

More than a little off the beaten track. It is thought provoking

Thought-provoking ideas, humbly presented. If God is love and "grace is true," then ultimate forgiveness and God's gathering all "home" surely must also be true. Perhaps we should stop judging God by human standards?

The theology presented in this book may be difficult for some..... But it has the ring of truth in it.....Deacon m

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