FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

In 2018 BC (before COVID-19), I spent a few weeks in Florence, Italy, with students from Mercer University, along with friends and colleagues. I taught a class on Dante, and it was the best teaching experience of my life. Dante's *Commedia* has long been my favorite book.

Our headquarters was just a few blocks from Dante's house. After class one day with my students, we walked to Dante's house, took the tour, and ate gelato. Yes, it was a memorable day.

On the next to last day of the trip, a friend showed me a dress boutique on the corner two blocks from Dante's house. She pointed out that over the door was a stone image of an open book and told me of the owner of this former bookshop.

In the 15th century, at the height of the Renaissance, this was the shop of Vespasiano da Bisticci, a bookseller. Born in 1422, he came to be called the “king of the world's booksellers.” His shop had all sorts of books—hand-copied—for sale. He came to know scholars, princes, and all of the elite of Florence, and he knew well the Pope's book-buyer from Rome. But in 1480 he retired. He could no longer compete with the newest innovation by a German named Gutenberg, who in the 1450s printed the first book from a printing press (it was not a Bible, by the way).

But, while his shop was open, Vespasiano was the man to see. After all, in Florence seventy percent of the residents were literate and they read a lot. (Most European cities at that time had about twenty-five percent literacy).

Getting past the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy. When Dante (one of Vespasiano's bestselling authors) emerges from the darkness of the Inferno and Purgatory, he sees stars. We are beginning to see the stars. Whether we are emerging from the Inferno or from Purgatory is the question. Regardless, the journey continues.

Vespasiano once said "All evil is born of ignorance. Yet writers have illuminated the world, chasing away the darkness."

The Word has a way of doing that.

Marc Jolley
22 June 2021
Life Lessons
Don Reid

Lessons on life, remembrance, and faith during a pandemic—Saturday night essays for Sunday morning reflection

Life Lessons covers topics of the heart and mind, often with related stories from the Scriptures. Ninety concise and to-the-point chapters speak to everyday topics we all may experience on any given day from dawn to bedtime.

Don Reid has taught a Sunday school class in his home church in Staunton, Virginia, for over three decades. In March of 2020, when the Covid pandemic began closing churches and keeping congregations close to home, he improvised an email lesson and sent it to each member of his Friendship Class on Saturday nights. From these weekly messages, this book was born and developed.

You’ll read topics such as “Passing It On,” “Homesick,” “The Left-Handed Judge,” and “Does God Care Who Wins the Super Bowl?” There are stories that will transport you back to your youth and then bring you back to the present with a jolt or two of truth. The chapters cover feelings and insights from both secular and Biblical standpoints and often offer a humorous touch to subjects we all enjoy.

Reid interjects stories and people from his life throughout these narratives and makes it an enlightening, yet fun book that will make great discussion for any class or book club or family gathering.

Whether it is “Remembering Dad” or “Just Like Oscar and Felix” or “It Was Palm Sunday in Syracuse,” you’ll find your favorite chapters and read them over and over again.

Don Reid, lead singer for The Statler Brothers, is a three-time Grammy Award-winner with twenty-one gold and platinum albums. He is a member of the Country Music and Gospel Music Halls of Fame. As a songwriter, he holds twenty-one BMI (Broadcast Music Inc.) awards. Reid spent seven years as a television series writer and has published ten books since his retirement from the music industry. He lives in his hometown of Staunton, Virginia. Learn more about him at www.donreid.net.
Ben Wynne is a native of Florence, Mississippi, and serves as professor of History at the University of North Georgia in Gainesville. He specializes in Antebellum American Studies, the American South, and the Civil War Era, and is the author of multiple books related to Southern history and culture.

**Something in the Water**

A History of Music in Macon, Georgia, 1823–1980

Ben Wynne

The history of Macon, Georgia, has an exceptional soundtrack, and *Something in the Water* provides a lively narrative of the city’s musical past from its founding in 1823 to 1980. For generations, talented musicians have been born in or passed through Macon’s confines. Some lived and died in obscurity, while others achieved international stardom. From its pioneer origins to the modern era, the city has produced waves of talent with amazing consistency, representing a wide range of musical genres—country, classical, jazz, blues, big band, soul, and rock. As the book points out, the city’s influence stretches far beyond the borders of Georgia, and its musical imprint on the United States and the world is significant.

The story of music in Macon includes a vast, eclectic cast of characters, such as the city’s first music “celebrity” Sidney Lanier, entertainment entrepreneur Charles Douglass, jazz age divas Lucille Hegamin and Lula Whidby, big band singers Betty Barclay and the Pickens Sisters, rock and roll founding father Little Richard Penniman, rhythm and blues icons James Brown and Otis Redding, local country star Eugene “Uncle Ned” Stripling, Capricorn Records founders Phil Walden and Frank Fenter, and The Allman Brothers Band, one of the most popular groups of the rock era.

The book also offers a treatment of Macon’s leading entertainment venues, both past and present, like Ralston Hall, the Grand Opera House, and the Douglass Theater, along with local institutions such as Wesleyan College, Mercer University, and the Georgia Academy for the Blind, which trained generations of music students.
Jaclyn Weldon White (1948–2021)

Jaclyn Weldon White of Hoschton, Georgia, died June 19, 2021. The daughter of John (Jack) and Evelyn Weldon, Jackie was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on April 29, 1948. She became a mother in 1974 to her daughter Caroline and in 1984 she married Carl Dean White Sr., inheriting three more children, Shannon, Dean and Kim. Jackie had seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jacquie lived all her life in the South. She worked as a police officer and detective for six years, and later became an administrator for the Gwinnett County Juvenile Court, a position she held for sixteen years. Once retired, Jackie was able to focus her time on her true passion—writing. An award-winning author of eleven books in the genres of travel, gardening, biography, fiction, and true crime, Jackie also wrote numerous articles which appeared in local and regional magazines.

Jacquie loved music and spent time writing songs, singing, and playing guitar. She also enjoyed genealogical research, was an avid herb gardener, and designed and crafted her own line of kiln-fired silver jewelry.

“Jackie White was an amazing person and a brilliant writer of true crime. She was also good at novels and biographies but true crime was her true forte. It is hard to imagine what wonderful books she could have created had her life been just a little longer. But as they say, always leave them wanting more—and she did.”
—Jackie K Cooper, author of Memory’s Mist

“I met Jackie White when we both taught a workshop on St. Simon’s Island in 2009. There was that spark of friendship and respect for the other’s work that formed a bond. Her wit, kindness, and straightforward honesty will stay with me along with her powerful storytelling. I’ll miss you my friend.”
—Ann Hite, award-winning author of Roll the Stone Away and the Black Mountain series

“Jaclyn Weldon White was a crown jewel in the Mercer University Press family treasure chest. A very fine writer, a determined researcher, and an award-winning author, for me, Jackie was my dearest friend. I will miss her terribly.”
—Milam McGraw Propst, award-winning author of A Flower Blooms on Charlotte Street

“Jackie was a dear friend, held in the utmost regard and respected. I loved her direct candor, humor, and stories as we traveled together to attend book signings or speaking engagements. She leaves a grand literary legacy for future generations to enjoy.”
—Katie Hart Smith, author and columnist

“I first was introduced to Jackie White through her haunting book Whisper to the Black Candle. Jackie wrote unforgettable tales, in an eerie mix that was part Edgar Allen Poe and part Flannery O’Connor. That the stories she wrote were all true testifies to her skill as a researcher and is a testament of that adage ‘truth is stranger than fiction.’ More importantly Jackie was a loving human being who always was an encouragement to others. I miss her already.”
—Karen Spears Zacharias, journalist and award-winning author of Mother of Rain
William Wright is author or editor of over twenty nationally published books, with several forthcoming. Wright was named writer-in-residence at the University of Tennessee in 2016. Later, he worked as a lecturer of Poetry and visiting assistant professor of Creative Writing at Emory University from 2017–2020. Wright has won numerous prizes for his literary and editorial work.

Grass Chapels offers readers a sampling of William Wright’s poetry from eight previous collections, along with a section of new poems written in the last several years. The poems in this collection are grounded in the beauty and energy of the physical world, particularly wilderness—and specifically Southern landscapes.

Wright’s poetry is often gothic in tenor, and these meticulously wrought pieces investigate themes as varied as the limits of language, the importance and amorphous nature of memory, the miracle and mystery of consciousness, and the cyclical and embattled state of both human beings and the natural world from which they spring. Some of Wright’s poems are lyrical explorations; some are narratives about characters that have sprung from Wright’s imagination—though these characters are almost always inspired by Wright’s childhood experiences and, in the case of several longer narratives, his dreams. Wright’s works are informed by his knowledge of the hard sciences and his belief in the power of the human imagination, creating varied works that integrate geology, botany, biology, spacetime, speculative visions of the future, and an understanding of the past. Just as often, Wright works with motifs such as race relations, family, kindness, and religiosity. The combination of intellectual and emotional power in these works make Wright’s voice uniquely striking, sometimes surreal, and always fascinating.

Brimming with imaginative power, Wright’s Grass Chapels offers readers a chance to witness the maturation of a poet who novelist and poet Robert Morgan has called one “of the most exciting talents in contemporary poetry.”

“William Wright writes visionary poems in the old sense, conjuring images from the deep subconscious.” —Jesse Graves

Grass Chapels
New & Selected Poems
William Wright
preface by Jesse Graves

AUGUST 2021 | POETRY
6 x 9 | 192 pp. | Paperback, $20.00t | 978-0-88146-799-4 | P629
The experiences of one emerging poet as he learns the mysteries and designs of poetry

The essays collected in Said-Songs range from the personal to the scholarly and explore the hybrid territory in between, where a creative writer considers literary craft and how it influences the generative imagination. Jesse Graves examines the writings of the people and about the places that have most shaped his own poetry, including several studies on his “hometown literary hero,” the Knoxville-born winner of the Pulitzer Prize, James Agee. In the volume’s opening essay, “Lyric: A Personal History,” readers encounter an emerging poet deeply immersed in the history of lyric and narrative poems and gain a view into how these literary traditions shape the writing and revising of his first poetry collection, the award-winning Tennessee Landscape with Blighted Pine.

Appalachia and its writers hold the central focus of this collection, but Graves cultivates a space in which poets with voices and styles as diverse as John Ashbery, Federico García Lorca, and Adam Zagajewski receive fresh critical attention. These represent the writers, or the connections between writers, that Graves could not stop thinking about and felt compelled to try to understand through the steady concentration of analysis.

Every writer’s journey is also the journey of a reader and Graves invites us to join his ongoing exploration of books, music, and the literary imagination. The essays and interviews gathered in Said-Songs trace the evolution of a poet’s sensibility from the early days of a rural eastern Tennessee childhood to the maturing voice of the writer of whom Ron Rash has said, “These poems have the music, wisdom, and singular voice of a talent fully realized, and make abundantly clear that Jesse Graves is one of America’s finest young poets.”
Loran Smith has spent most of his professional life at the University of Georgia as former assistant sports information director, business manager, and executive director of the Georgia Bulldog Clubs, and as a member of the Athletic Association development office. An inductee and past chairman of the State of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, he currently serves as a fundraiser and historian for University of Georgia Athletics. Smith holds a Journalism degree from UGA and is a writer and author or co-author of eighteen books. He maintains daily and weekly radio shows that air statewide.

Most Georgians know Loran Smith from Saturday afternoons and Georgia Bulldog football. Larry Munson would oftentimes say after a play, “Whaddaya got, Loran?” His colorful responses and chemistry with Munson made listening to the game an absolute joy.

But, for decades Loran Smith has also either written or spoken about the things that interest us. Finally, in this book, Smith gathers his best columns and moments covering topics in four areas: Georgia, sports, travel, and the Greatest Generation.

Smith’s career began early enough to interview Ty Cobb, the Georgia Peach and one of the greatest baseball players ever to play the game (and one of the most divisive), and it has continued until this day. Whether he is writing on the Georgia Bulldogs or walking along the sideline, or if he is talking about quail hunting in South Georgia, Smith writes with a down-home flavor but with keen intelligence and empathy.

His subjects range from small town living to international travel having visited five continents, from local sports to national sporting events, from fly fishing to hunting, visiting presidential libraries, museums, and birthplaces.
John Lane attended Wofford College, The Breadloaf School of English, and Bennington College. Among his many awards his selected poems, *Abandoned Quarry*, won the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) Poetry Book Award, his nonfiction book *Coyote Settles the South* was named a finalist and a Nature Book of Uncommon Merit by the John Burroughs Society, and his novel *Fate Moreland's Widow* was named Independent Publisher Silver Medalist. One of the founders of the Hub City Writers Project, Lane lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

On a placid Blue Ridge mountain lake on Labor Day Weekend in 1935, three locals sightseeing in an overloaded boat drown, and the cotton mill scion who owns the lake is indicted for their murders.

Decades later Ben Crocker—witness to and reluctant participant in the aftermath of this long-forgotten tragedy—is drawn once more into the morally ambiguous world of mill fortunes and foothills justice.

Now in paperback, John Lane’s award-winning first novel *Fate Moreland’s Widow* has been singled out by reviewers and critics as a noteworthy exploration of the cotton mill culture of the South. Coupled with Lane’s second novel, *Whose Woods These Are*, a fictional outline begins to take shape in readers’ minds of mythical Morgan County, South Carolina.

“John Lane deftly captures the hardscrabble plight of the southern mill worker and the ambitious greed of the southern mill owner in *Fate Moreland’s Widow*. But he does an even better job of capturing the quandary of Ben Crocker, the man precariously stuck in the middle, right there in that liminal state. You too will find yourself in a liminal state as you’re caught between the book’s opening and final pages if you read it through in one sitting as I did. Rest assured, it’s a place you won’t mind staying for a while.”

—Wiley Cash, author of *The Last Ballad*
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Krishnan Venkatesh lives in the mountains of New Mexico and has taught at St. John’s College, Santa Fe, for over thirty years. He is the author of Do You Know Who You Are? (2019), a reading of the earliest Buddhist Discourses, and is currently writing a book on Confucius.

Frodo’s Wound
Why The Lord of the Rings Is a Great Book
Krishnan Venkatesh

Taking a fresh look at Tolkien’s iconic fantasy series, one writer soon discovers buried riches in the text

Why do lovers of J.R.R. Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings trilogy return to it again and again through their lives? Why does each rereading seem more nourishing?

Frodo’s Wound is a collection of essays that approaches these questions from various angles. It argues that while epic conflict and heroic warriors may provide the initial allure to the book, what lingers and deepens with each reading is its emotional complexity, its knowledge of loss and grief, and its yearning for something only dimly understood.

Uniquely, it is a study of Tolkien that barely mentions Christianity and assumes no broad knowledge of the mythological world of Middle-earth. Instead, the book offers a series of close readings that reveal Tolkien’s subtlety and sensitivity—and does not shy away from probing the significance of his occasional clumsiness.

Frodo’s Wound shows why Tolkien is a great writer, and why The Lord of the Rings is really a book for older adults—indeed, for anyone who has ever lost their way.
Dante’s Comedy becomes the most accurate depiction of himself—not so much as he was, but as he would have us read him.

Dante’s Golden Legend examines how the Divine Comedy absorbs and reimagines Dante’s early attempts at life-writing (the Convivio and the Vita nuova), as well as how Dante appropriates and revises various biographical and hagiographical models, using them as vehicles for his own auto-hagiographical project.

The Comedy, Watt contends, presents not only Dante’s encyclopedic vision of sacred history but also his own purpose and place within that history. In the Comedy, just as Dante critiques the lives of others, both saints and sinners, he interprets his own life, and concludes that his is, indeed, the life of a saint, charged with a sacred mission.

While there have been numerous analyses of specific autobiographical aspects of the Comedy, they are fragmentary at best. Dante’s Golden Legend, in contrast, considers how these moments, together with the prophecies woven through the poem, create an overarching narrative structure that reveals Dante’s own hagiographical significance, addressing a surprising void in the criticism.

Furthermore, as much as Dante’s auto-hagiographical stance reflects the medieval preoccupation with the relationship of the here and now to the afterlife, his autobiographical impulse equally anticipates the Petrarchan obsession with self and the subsequent humanist examination of the value of the secular.

Accordingly, this study provides a helpful backdrop against which to consider the cultural collision of the sacred and the secular that characterizes much of the European Renaissance project. For these reasons, the book will appeal not only to Dante specialists, but also to scholars of Medieval and Early Modern Studies alike.
A historian at the City University of New York, Arthur Scherr has published four books and dozens of articles contributing to a deeper understanding of the politics, culture, and diplomacy of the Early Republic, especially Thomas Jefferson and his times. His work has undermined much of the accepted wisdom on Jefferson.

Examining the evolution of Jefferson’s views on the “moral sense” in confronting human enslavement within disparate societies

At a time when most studies of Thomas Jefferson concentrate on his relationship with Sally Hemings, Rightful Liberty merges the personal, intellectual, and political in Jefferson. Jefferson’s moral and political thought are more complex and changing than they appear at first glance, consisting of “two Jeffersons,” and evolving from a natural law, “universal” Enlightenment ethos to a more “cultural relativist” perspective, which he applied in his judgment of the Haitian and French revolutions. Their outcomes were not so different, each revealing his hope that the people’s capacity for moral and political progress would increase as they became more exposed to liberal and democratic concepts. 

In addition to expounding this original thesis, Rightful Liberty explores themes and events overlooked by other Jefferson experts, such as his response to the English abolitionist Thomas Branagan; the formative influence of Montesquieu on the young Jefferson’s opposition to slavery; a comparison of his attitudes to slavery and abolition with those of his young friend Edward Coles; his relationships with Black slaves and freedmen other than those of the well-known Hemings family; and a more nuanced perspective on his view of the Missouri Compromises of 1820 and 1821 and slavery’s expansion than is found elsewhere.

At a time when speculations about Jefferson’s personal and sexual life, often based on little evidence, prevail in monographs and the media, this volume examines him from a more wide-ranging perspective, discerning his moral, political, and religious thought in relation to his actions, particularly respecting human enslavement.
Reckless Misfortune
The Century We Inherited from the First World War
Christopher Blake

How a war of unfathomable magnitude shaped the lives of subsequent generations across the globe

The First World War, or the Great War as known at the time, was fought over a century ago. Its pursuit by the European powers in 1914 was utterly reckless and its ending was of great consequential misfortune for humanity. Despite its enormity and global reach, four generations later it is neglected today in the United States. That is not the case in Europe and the Commonwealth nations, which extensively commemorated its centennial between 2014 and 2018 with elaborate and moving ceremonies and memorials.

The European response has understood how the First World War shaped the future, giving rise to new ideologies, technologies, and geo-political forces that fundamentally influenced the past century. Indeed, the First World War ended so badly that it spawned a more catastrophic global conflict in the Second World War just twenty years later and cemented the ideological rifts across the planet that haunt us today. The reckless decision to wage a global conflict in 1914 by our great-grandparent generation impacted our lives and ways of perceiving the world across the century, even though that perception is now a clouded one in the United States. That is ironic, since the twentieth century was indeed “America’s Century” in large part because of the First World War.

Our world remains illuminated and darkened by the consequences of the Great War. The global human family inherited a century crafted from the tragedy of global conflict from four generations ago. The present generation will be able to exercise more informed and impactful choices for the future only if it is aware of the world it inherited from the First World War and the misfortunes it bequeathed.
Growing up in rural South Georgia, G. Wayne Clough was among the first in his family to attend college. Graduating from Georgia Tech he pursued an academic career, eventually becoming the first alumnus of Tech to be named its president. During his tenure Tech served as the 1996 Olympic Village and became recognized as one of the nation’s top ten public universities.

In 1994 Georgia Tech was a good regional technological university, but the outgoing president left under a cloud of problems with financial systems, federal audits, deferred maintenance, threats to accreditation, and the looming commitment to serve as the Olympic Village for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. As the first alumnus of Georgia Tech to serve as president, G. Wayne Clough was determined to find the means to solve these problems and save the reputation of the university. Believing Georgia Tech had enormous untapped potential, Clough set out to use his experience at four comprehensive universities to change the course of the university for the future.

It would come down to a set of key decisions, gaining support for them, and executing with persistence. First, focus on the students, particularly the undergraduates, and their wellness and success. Second, take a campus not known for esthetics or sustainability—and surrounded by dilapidated neighborhoods—and make it into one to be admired. Third, embark on an ambitious building effort to provide facilities to compete with the best in emerging cross-disciplinary research areas. Fourth, expand Georgia Tech’s global reach through research partnerships and study abroad programs for students. Fifth, energize the business school and the sciences and humanities programs by lifting them from service roles to equal status with the engineering programs. Sixth, build a state, regional, and national policy presence. Lastly, support programs allowing financially disadvantaged students to attend Georgia Tech and earn their degrees without incurring debt.

When it was all said and done, Georgia Tech would be ranked among the top ten public universities in the country and among the top thirty in the world.
Charlotte Atlee White Rowe was the first woman officially appointed as a missionary by any denomination or mission agency. The scandal of her 1815 appointment required her to prevail over gender bias, survive attempts to revoke her appointment, and surmount the challenge of insufficient funding.

After marrying Joshua Rowe, a widowed missionary in Calcutta in 1816, she remained in India to serve with the British Baptists. There she overcame local prejudice against educating girls while starting schools, teaching in Hindi, and writing a Hindi spelling and grammar book as teaching aids. She confronted new scandal arising when her confidential correspondence was repurposed in America for anti-missionary propaganda.

Her developing missiology critiqued the role of money in mission and the system of language acquisition for new missionaries. Following her husband’s death in 1823, she continued to work alone while adapting her approach to the local culture. Eventually forced to seek financial aid in London, she found that official appointment by British Baptists would cause as much scandal in England as it had earlier in America. Her decade of work in India was now over.

Charlotte White Rowe’s consistent omission from early mission accounts led to her subsequent absence in histories of mission and gender studies. Based on sources in England, India, and America, her reclaimed story corrects numerous inaccuracies that appear in the few earlier references to her. Hers was a key element in the century-long process through which single and married women finally gained equal missionary appointment with men.
The James N. Griffith Endowed Series in Baptist Studies

This series on Baptist life and thought explores and investigates Baptist history, offers analyses of Baptist theologies, provides studies in hymnody, and examines the role of Baptists in societies and cultures around the world. The series also includes classics of Baptist literature, letters, diaries, and other writings.

—C. Douglas Weaver, series editor


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Ryan Andrew Newson is assistant professor of Theology and Ethics at Campbell University. He is author of several books, including Inhabiting the World and Radical Friendship.
Exceptionally Common Courage
Fear and Trembling and the Puzzle of Kierkegaard’s Authorship
Kevin Hoffman

A detailed interpretation of Kierkegaard’s text that doesn’t allow secondary material to interrupt the primary train of thought.

Exceptionally Common Courage provides an extended, close reading of Fear and Trembling, Kierkegaard’s well-known, pseudonymous book about Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac. It then fits this (in)famous work into the broader and puzzling corpus that includes both other pseudonymous works and signed discourses by this same mercurial author. Though not the first to tackle Kierkegaard from the direction of either a single work or the whole authorship, this two-in-one book relates whole and part to whole and part in a way that reads like a genuine musical counterpoint.

The scholarly debates inevitably generated by any treatment of Fear and Trembling are here addressed in ways that arise from a detailed interpretation of the text itself without letting secondary material interrupt the primary train of thought. Along the way, Kierkegaard’s ideas are brought into conversation with a much broader than usual cannon of interlocutors, including such figures as Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and James Baldwin, R.H. Tawney and Wendell Berry. And by the end, the complex movement of the entire authorship becomes audible above the various isolated and doctrinaire notes typically highlighted in comparable studies.

The recurring melody is about existential courage, about the risk of emotionally investing in earthly goods against the ambiguous inevitability of their loss. Woven throughout Kierkegaard’s so-called esthetic and religious writings, this common task of facing threats to the integral meaning of human experience stands out in arresting color. As the chapters unfold, this understanding of faith as a form of courage provides not just direction, but a topographical score for what is originally a highly indirect and elusive textual arrangement.

Kevin Hoffman is chair and professor of Philosophy and Religion at Methodist University. He holds a BA in Philosophy and Theology from Valparaiso University and a PhD in Philosophy from Fordham University. Hoffman is the author of The Divine Madness of Romantic Ideals: A Reader’s Guide for Kierkegaard’s Stages on Life’s Way.
Ronald H. Stone taught the social ethics of Paul Tillich as the John Witherspoon Professor of Christian Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Hearing Tillich preach and teach at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University inspired walks and talks with his mentor, Reinhold Niebuhr about Tillich. Stone is a past president of the North American Paul Tillich Society. During his career, he has written or edited two dozen books on religion and society.

**The Ethics of Paul Tillich**

Ronald H. Stone

**In-depth inquiry into Tillich’s courageous social action correlated with his own philosophical-theological ethic**

**This first book-length study of Paul Tillich’s ethics is drawn from research in the Harvard Archives of Tillich and fifty years of teaching Tillich’s social-political thought.**

Ronald H. Stone, a past president of the North American Paul Tillich Society, dialogued about Tillich’s social ethics with Communists in East Berlin, Buddhists in Bhutan, Hindus in Madurai, Jews in Jerusalem, and Muslims in Damascus. In this his fourth work on Tillich’s philosophy the ethic is examined from the early ontological to socialist ethics to his own final principled-situationalist ethic in late life.

Unique to this study is the in-depth inquiry into Tillich’s courageous social action correlated with his own philosophical-theological ethic. The book moves from an early socialist rally in Berlin, through the wars, dialogue with John Foster Dulles about post-war planning, debates about nuclear deterrence, to Buddhist Christian dialogue. The author’s own preference for the late ethic of the philosopher informs the inquiries into the earlier radical Tillich.

The conclusion provides a synthesis of the vast sources of Tillich’s ethics and presents twelve themes summarizing sources and future resources for ethics from his life’s work. Tillich’s ethic is a model for how much Christian theology needs to rediscover its ethic and social relevance.
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Tillich is also a master of confrontation. His thought challenges political structures, racial and gender inequalities, and social injustice. He is an acute observer of social change and struggles courageously with moral quandaries. He inspires action for today and hope for tomorrow.

Each essay explores another facet of Tillich’s influence in education, religion, popular culture, science, health, social reform, and political action. They are chosen to be “snapshots” of his ongoing influence, accessible to both undergraduate and graduate students, and relevant to corporate and non-profit leaders alike.

Reading this book will open your eyes to discern Tillich’s hidden presence in academic curricula, contemporary research, political speeches and social policies, entertainment and internet, books and podcasts, and social media.

Tillich can be your intellectual companion in whatever endeavor you choose to pursue.

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