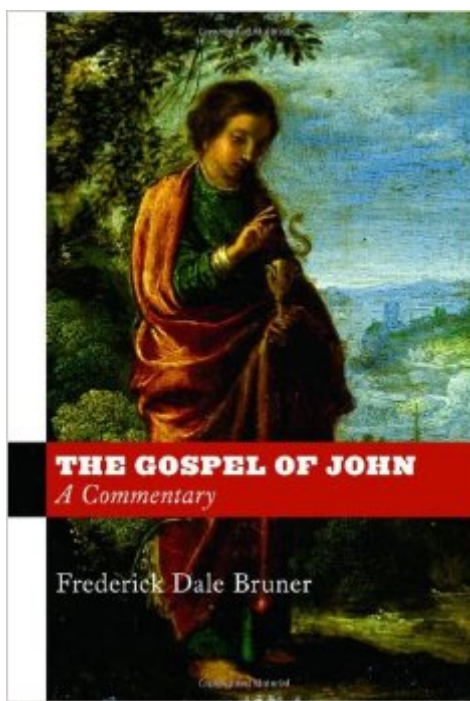


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The Gospel Of John: A Commentary



Synopsis

The author of a much-loved two volume Matthew commentary (1990) that he greatly revised and expanded fourteen years later, Frederick Dale Bruner now offers *The Gospel of John: A Commentary* -- more rich fruit of his lifetime of study and teaching. Rather than relying primarily on recent scholarship, Bruner honors and draws from the church's major John commentators throughout history, including Augustine, Chrysostom, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Bultmann, Barrett, and many more. Alongside this "historical interpretation" is Bruner's own contemporary interpretation, which incorporates a lucid translation of the text, references to recent scholarship, and his pastoral application of the Gospel to present-day experience. Like Bruner's other work, this commentary is rich in biblical insights, broadly historical, and deeply theological. Here is what Eugene Peterson said about Bruner's earlier work on Matthew: "This is the kind of commentary I most want -- a theological wrestling with Scripture. Frederick Dale Bruner grapples with the text not only as a technical exegete (although he does that very well) but as a church theologian, caring passionately about what these words tell us about God and ourselves. His Matthew commentary is in the grand traditions of Augustine, Calvin, and Luther -- expansive and leisurely, loving the text, the people in it, and the Christians who read it." The same could well be said about the present John commentary, which promises to be another invaluable resource for pastors, teachers, and laypeople alike.

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Customer Reviews

If you're familiar with Bruner's amazing commentary on Matthew (The Christbook and the Churchbook) you will not be disappointed with Bruner's new commentary on The Gospel of John. I get the feeling that he is a brilliant, learned man who prays and meditates over the text before writing. It just shows in every sentence. Not a deeply learned man spouting off his depth of reading and studying but someone who knows the Lord. The tone of the book is warm: as I read the commentary I feel like Bruner is a gifted teacher talking to me. The book is not difficult to read but it's very deep. I find myself stopping and letting a sentence or thought sink in before I can go on. I'm reading Bruner's comments on John chapter 6 and he says, in overview, "Altogether, the Bread Sermon [Jesus' sermon in John 6] gives us the most comprehensive picture of the entire Christian faith, particularly her Life-sustaining Worship Service of Word and sacrament ... Divine worship is, in Daily fact, the constantly reinvigorating source of the Church's human services." (pp. 379-80) I needed to hear that -- why go to church? -- because gathering together in Word and communion we are "constantly reinvigorated." Why put so much time in daily study, meditation of the Word, and prayer? Because it's a "constantly reinvigorating source" of Life to me. I saved up to buy this book. There are a few commentaries on my shelves that I saved for and ... I don't really refer to them much. But I find myself reading and reading and eager to pick up Bruner's commentary of John and read it some more. It truly is an amazing book with insights, godly insights, on every page. His viewpoint I would say is Evangelical and Reformed (and that without apology!). If you are a Believer, a Disciple of Jesus, you will not be disappointed with the purchase of this book. The Lord has given gifted Teachers to the church (Eph 4:11) and Frederick Dale Bruner is one of them.

Having used Dale Bruner's commentary on Matthew for a couple of years I purchased this commentary on John with great anticipation. I have not been disappointed. As with his commentary on Matthew, Bruner has produced a commentary that provokes and stimulates your own thinking and insights. These are great commentaries for preachers and for those who wish to grapple in depth with both the meaning and application of the text. It is a delight to read commentaries by someone who obviously loves the book that he is writing about, and this shows itself in the depth of insight that results. I do not think you can ever understand anything unless you love it, and that seems to me to be a distinctive feature in Bruner's work. He has also so obviously wrestled at length with how the text should be worked out in the life of a disciple today, which makes his commentaries challenging reading. I have worked with many commentaries on both Matthew and John but I rate Bruner's far above all these. You will not agree with everything he writes but even when you disagree you will find the exercise has been very helpful. I recommend this unreservedly.

This is perhaps the best commentary I've come across. I don't do reviews on , but felt it was necessary to help convince every student of scripture to purchase this. It's less a stiff commentary and more a pastor/theologian/father figure breaking down the truths of John's Gospel. 5 stars. I'd give it 6 if I could

Brunner has grasped the inner heart of John's gospel with a depth of spiritual discernment that is rare among commentators. He essentially bypasses the complex critical debates and invests his time and (considerable) energy exegeting and expositing the gospel. The result is a rich and accessible "teaching text" that is easily worth the price and the time necessary to do justice to its massive size. In this commentary, Brunner develops further an interpretive approach that he introduced to us in his two-volume commentary on Matthew. That is, he brings to the reader the perspectives and words of the most significant interpreters of John since the later Fathers of the Church, especially Augustine. In some cases he quotes them in order to correct them. Whether or not he fully agrees with any of them, his inclusion of their views brings great richness of perspective on the gospel texts. Brunner's work is unfailingly responsible and illuminating. I recommend it.

This is a wonderful resource for pastors, Sunday school teachers, biblical scholars, or anyone who just wants to hear and understand the Gospel of John at a deeper level. Dr. Bruner's book provides well-balanced reviews of both past and present scholarship and interpretation of the Gospel of John. He also offers insights on translation, historical, and theological issues. I've found this to be a marvelous one-stop resource for study of this Gospel. Thank you to Dr. Bruner for developing this great resource! It's been worth the 20 year wait!

I have read many of the popular modern John commentaries--Brown, Carson, Keener, O'Day, Burge, Barrett, Lincoln, Boice, Borchert, Bruce, Michaels, Pink, Morris, Smith, and Schnackenburg to name a few--and this one by Bruner is truly fresh, a beautiful mix of keen exegesis and practical, spiritual insights. It is now one of my favorites.

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