

RESILIENT FAITH IN A TURBULENT WORLD



Unfinished

RESILIENT FAITH IN A TURBULENT WORLD

July 21, 2007



July 21, 2007 - 11 million copies in the first 24 hours



"The deepest questions do not necessarily deserve quick answers. In fact, the quick answer very well may cheapen the sacredness of a holy question... Deep questions deserve deep responses, which require lots of time, energy, and toil. Sometimes, deep Christian formation is possible only when we embrace the unanswerable.

To try to solve a question that has been wrestled with for thousands of years with a short tweet, YouTube clip, or pithy bumper sticker is the most dangerous and flippant of responses."

(from *Slow Theology*)

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

John 21:25

²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Acts 28:30-31

³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.
³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Luke 15:31-32

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

"There is so much undone within us that has yet to be written, fleshed out, and articulated. These incomplete endings remind us of that. They remind us that God is never done, and we are continually being refashioned as a result of God's ongoing work."

(from *Slow Theology*)

“The goal of the Christian life is not exhaustive theological answers. No, the goal is that we would know God himself and toil to that end—‘until Christ is formed’ in each and every one of us (Gal. 4:19).”

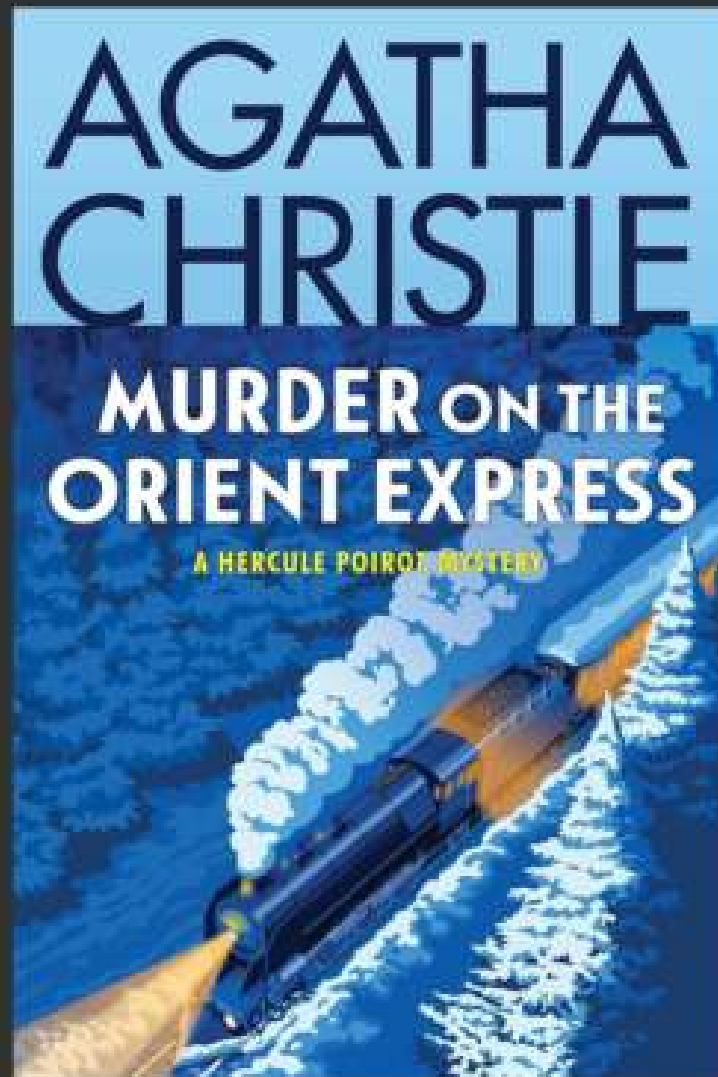
(from *Slow Theology*)

Ephesians 3:17-19

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy
people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep
is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that
surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the
measure of all the fullness of God.

“The concept of theological mystery is not intended to enable a laziness by which we neglect to seek God with all of our being. Too often, sadly, the word “mystery” can be used as an excuse not to struggle and toil to understand. The task of loving God with all of our mind must mean that we spend our life’s efforts to come to the edge of our own understanding. This pursuit must never end.”

(from *Slow Theology*)



“It is important that we distinguish between a secret and a mystery. A secret is something that someone is keeping from us. It cannot be known because it is being withheld. A mystery, on the other hand, has been given, but it is just too majestic to be fully comprehended or understood.”

(from *Slow Theology*)

RESILIENT FAITH IN A TURBULENT WORLD



"To say that we shouldn't do theology because it's all a mystery is like saying we shouldn't do surgery because we will all die anyway."

(from *Slow Theology*)

John 14:26

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Proverbs 9:9

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

"Christ has come to teach his people Himself."

(George Fox)

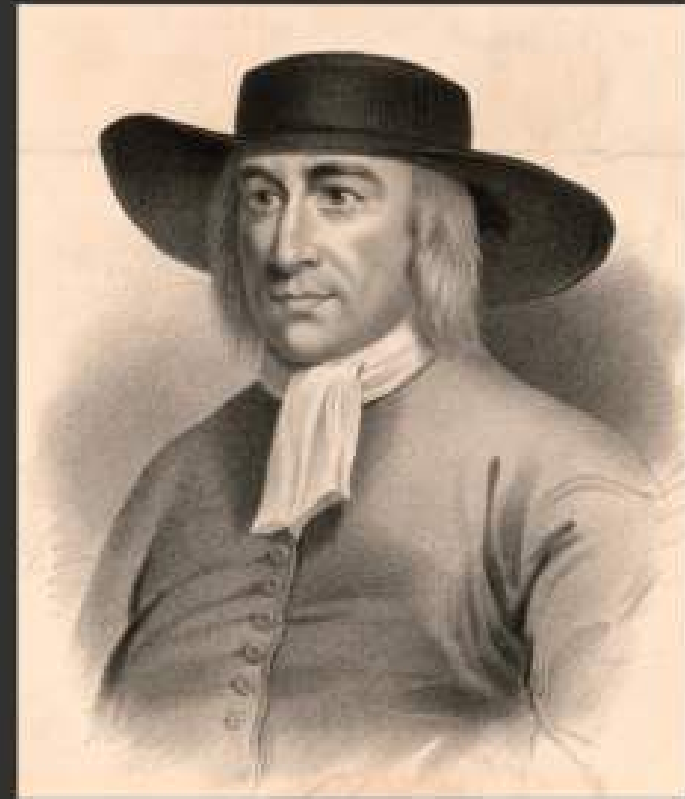


"Christ has come to teach his people Himself."

(George Fox)

"Christlikeness entails the work of making space in our life for God to be who he is. If Christ comes to us... then our task is the work of hosting him."

(from *Slow Theology*)



Closing Reflections

What remains unfinished within you? What ways of understanding God, or yourself, are still under construction?

Closing Reflections

Ask the Spirit to teach you what it would look like for you to live with “unhindered boldness” in your day-to-day life?

Closing Reflections

How comfortable are you with the fact that our knowledge of the deep mysteries of God will never be complete? Does that bring you to frustration, awe, or something else?

Closing Reflections

Invite the Spirit to soften your heart to be more teachable—to be open to whatever new things that Jesus wants to teach you.

RESILIENT FAITH IN A TURBULENT WORLD



Unfinished