

“Michael Reeves invites the weary to come drink at the fountain that never runs dry. This book is comfort, balm, and rest to bruised and worn-out souls. I heartily recommend that you come and drink deeply of Christ.”

Keith Getty, singer and hymnwriter

“This is a small book about a huge Christ—huge in majesty, yes, but just as huge in mercy, delighting to love and care for believers, his own precious body. Every time I read Mike Reeves, I am brought back to the real Christ, the biblical Christ, the irresistible Christ. Well worth reading slowly and distributing abundantly!”

Dane Ortlund, Senior Pastor of
Naperville Presbyterian Church,
Naperville, Illinois, and author,
Gentle and Lowly and *Surprised by Jesus*

Union

Come, You Weary

*Enjoy Christ's
Comfort*

Michael Reeves

Come, You Weary: Enjoy Christ's Comfort

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For Rudy and Lavonne

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Ephesians 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful
in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from
God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every
spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as
he chose us in him before the foundation of the
world, that we should be holy and blameless be-
fore him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption
to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according
to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glo-
rious grace, with which he has blessed us in the
Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his
blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according
to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon
us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us

the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of

his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.²² **And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

1

Come and Drink Deeply

“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.”

Isaiah 55:1

Do you feel depleted and fed up right now? Weary in doing good? As if being a Christian is an effort, just too hard to be worth it?

Does the idea of building Christ’s church and the thought of mission feel like a burden to you? Do you warm to the reassuring promise from Scripture: “I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18), but in reality, in yourself, you’re tired, maybe even spent?

Of course, you want Christ to build his church. But all you're feeling is weakness and coldness. The building of the church is a worthy goal, but frankly, given where you are right now, you feel it's a task you could do without, a job for someone else.

What can make the weary Christian come alive again? What can lift us out of our sense of drudgery, curing our cold and flattened hearts?

The reality is that we will only be as full as the well we drink from.

What follows is an invitation to everyone who thirsts. To you, today—wherever you are and whatever you are feeling. Come to the waters. Come, without money and without price. Don't let your emptiness become a constant state, but recognise it as a thirst, and drink deeply from this fountain.

Drink deeply as you contemplate the sight, the vision, that transforms from glory to glory.

2

Fresh Vision

“Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!”

Isaiah 45:22

Let's cut to the chase. If you are fed up, weary, or depleted, or even all three, then one thing can transform you, and one thing only: the source of life itself.

At this spring can be found life for all, not just for the strong and the fit. What you badly need is a fresh sight of the glory of Christ. A fresh vision of the light that overcomes all darkness. The fountain of life itself.

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth,” Christ says. “Look to me.” “Face me.” For,

beholding him, the glory of the Lord, we are transformed. We are glorified, healed, awakened, brightened, vivified.

“Turn to me.” That’s it! If you are feeling spiritually low right now, then know for sure that you cannot heal yourself. Not one of us can breathe life into ourselves, however hard we try. Our spiritual sloth is a lack, a void that we cannot fill. Hard work, coffee, talent, excellent church programmes only go so far. They are quick fixes and temporary. They merely mask the problem that we face when we’re empty. What we need instead is to experience the life that is found only in Christ.

We need a fresh vision: the enlightening sight of the glory that confers vitality. And that is exactly what Paul gives us in these words describing God’s exaltation of Christ:

He put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22–23)

This glorious reality—the wellspring of the chapters that follow—offers a sweet resting place

for our bruised and weary souls. But before we press in to enjoy this comfort, please pause to read the fuller context of these words, found in the first chapter of Ephesians (see pages 9–11).

In verses 22–23, Paul lays before us what the Epistle to the Hebrews calls “a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (6:19). Here we have a glimpse, by faith, of Jesus in his glory “behind the curtain.” This very sight is one that those who are redeemed are enjoying in heaven right now. They see it, and they erupt in worship, crying, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12)

Let’s turn our gaze in the same direction.

“And he put all things under his feet”—aren’t those initial words quite striking? But aren’t they also strange? They are strange because we cannot help but wonder, “Weren’t all things *always* under his feet?”

Yes indeed, for the Son is Lord by nature. He is the Word, the arm of the Lord, and “by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created

through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Col. 1:16–17).

He is the logic and lord of all reality. And not only is he the Word through whom the cosmos was brought into being, but he is the Word through whom *the church* was brought into being. He is the source of life itself, preceding all.

So then, in this context, how does the Father “put all things under [Christ’s] feet”? Philippians 2:6–9 throws more light on this:

Though he was in the form of God, [Christ Jesus] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. *Therefore* God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. (emphasis added)

Here we see something that is absolutely crucial to our sight of Christ. The One who is Lord by

nature becomes flesh so that in human flesh he can then be made Lord by being exalted. He takes the humanity that was ruined by the fall (Genesis 3), and he recovers Adam's dominion. He defeats the power of sin and triumphs over our every enemy, leading captivity captive (Eph. 4:8).

Yes, every rule and authority, every power and dominion, every name that is named—sin, death, hell—all have been subjugated to this last Adam, the man Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:45; Eph. 1:21). So, that is the sense in which, as Peter put it at Pentecost, “God has *made him* both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:36; emphasis added).

Of course, in Ephesus, the great name to be named was that of the goddess Artemis. “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians,” roared the mob in Acts 19 (v. 28). But where is Artemis now? Nowhere to be seen! She's merely a minor historical curiosity. And so too it will be with every single idol, every human and spiritual power that raises itself against God.

We may forget this, but we can be sure that the devils don't. This was why they would shriek when they encountered Jesus. Like Dagon, toppled

before the ark (1 Sam. 5:1–5), all fall under the feet of this victorious Man. And all heaven watches as this Man rises from humiliation and death, and the angels cry,

“Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.”
(Ps. 24:9)

The Father then says to him,

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies
a footstool.”
The LORD sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.
Rule in the midst of your enemies!”
(Ps. 110:1–2)

But why is this so significant, and what difference will it all make in the lives of fatigued and jaded believers today?

Reflect or Discuss

Chapter 1: Come and Drink Deeply

1. Does it help you to be real about your state of mind, acknowledging any weariness, weakness, or coldness you are feeling and bringing it out into the open?
2. Do you warm to the prospect of a solution that doesn't require self-effort? One that comes from beyond yourself?

Chapter 2: Fresh Vision

1. What is the one thing that can transform the weary, depleted, and fed up?
2. Can you think of a time when you were "awakened," "brightened," or "vivified" by a fresh sight of Christ? How did that inspire or motivate you in your Christian life?
3. As you read this chapter, did you start to glimpse "the enlightening sight of the glory that confers vitality"?

Chapter 3: Unexpected Standing

1. Why is it significant that it is a man who sits on the throne at the right hand of God?
2. What does Christ's recovering of Adam's dominion mean, and how does it change things for us irrevocably?
3. Why would the eternal Son need exalting?

Chapter 4: Sympathetic Friend and Brother

1. How do we know that "Christ in heaven is moved by our struggles" even more deeply than a close friend?
2. Think about the "comfort" in the Heidelberg Catechism that Christ "shall come again to judge the living and the dead." How can this truth from 2 Timothy 4:1 become your resting place?
3. How is Jesus "both Lion and Lamb"? Why is this significant for those who place their trust in him?

Chapter 5: Exalted Head Over All Things

1. We see in Ephesians 1:22 that Christ "will enjoy nothing without his spouse, the church." How does this bring comfort to weary saints today?

2. What will it mean for us as believers in the future (see Rom. 16:20)?

Chapter 6: Mountain-Top Gospel Perspective

1. Using Ephesians 1 and John 17, align your thinking with how Christ views the church.
2. How does this compare with the way that the world around you portrays the church, or even how the church often sees itself?
3. Why should we never be downcast and discouraged by our toil and trouble in this life? And what does it look like to leave our concerns “in the hands of Christ” rather than attempting to bear them alone?

Chapter 7: Inseparable Union

1. What are the implications of our inseparable union with Christ—for our lives and for our worship?
2. What does it mean that Jesus Christ has a double headship?
3. Who is Christ’s beloved? How does this affect how we treat her?

Chapter 8: Heavenly Bridegroom

1. What can we learn about Christ from the parallels with the first man, Adam?
2. What difference does it make to know that the church brings joy to Christ?

Chapter 9: Divine Goodness, Spread and Shared

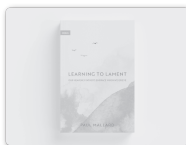
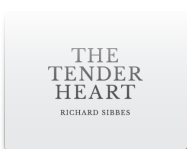
1. Why did God in Christ go out to create and redeem?
2. How does the invitation to drink at “a beautiful, overflowing fountain of life and goodness” enlarge your approach to God in prayer?

Chapter 10: Glory That Fills All Things

1. How does Christ come to “fill all things”?
2. “Christ will be ‘glorified in his saints.’ He will irradiate them with his glory. He will shine forth in them as the fullness of his glory, and in them he will be glorified in all the earth.” Reflect on these words from 2 Thessalonians 1:10. How do they give you a greater perspective on your life / situation / concerns today?



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delight in Christ with
trusted teachers.

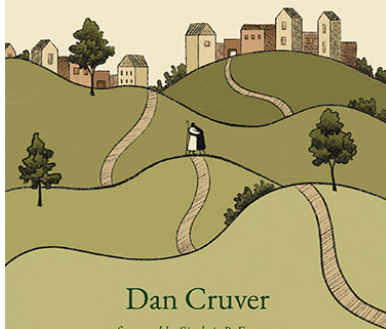


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Dan Cruver

foreword by Sinclair B. Ferguson