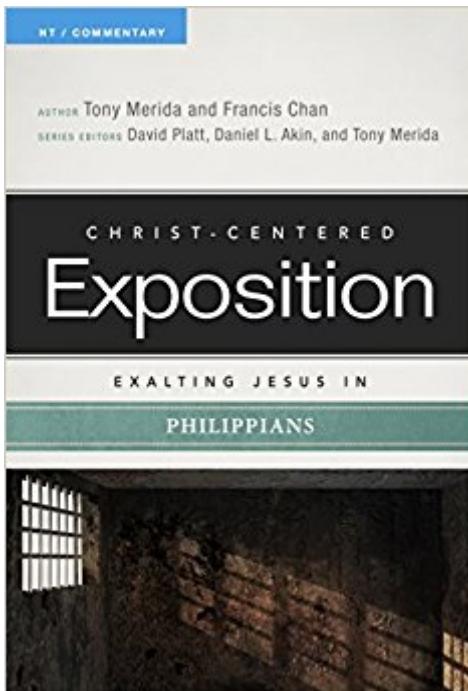


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# Exalting Jesus In Philippians (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)



## Synopsis

Edited by David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida, this new commentary series, projected to be 48 volumes, takes a Christ-centered approach to expositing each book of the Bible. Rather than a verse-by-verse approach, the authors have crafted chapters that explain and apply key passages in their assigned Bible books. Readers will learn to see Christ in all aspects of Scripture, and they will be encouraged by the devotional nature of each exposition. Projected contributors to the series include notable authors such as Russell D. Moore, Al Mohler, Matt Chandler, Mark Dever, and others. ^

## Book Information

Series: Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Holman Reference (February 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805497587

ISBN-13: 978-0805497588

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars^ See all reviews^ (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #112,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Meditations > New Testament #253 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > New Testament #773 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament

## Customer Reviews

The Christ-Centered Exposition is a fantastic new series from Holman Reference. The series is edited by David Platt, Daniel Akin, and Tony Merida. Their stated goal is ^ to present an easy reading, practical and friendly commentary^ and ^ to exalt Jesus from every book of the Bible.^ They also lay out four goals for the series. They are: 1) This series seeks to display exegetical accuracy. The desire is to handle God's Word faithfully, even while every volume may not be verse-by-verse commentary. 2) The series has busy pastors in view by presenting its material in a readable, pastoral style rather than academic. 3) A desire to be known for the "inclusion of helpful illustrations and theological driven applications. 4) To exalt Christ in every book of the Bible. They carefully state that, "we are not commanding wild allegory or fanciful typology. We must be

constrained to the meaning intended by the divine Author Himself, the Holy Spirit of God. However, we also believe that the Bible has a Messianic focus, and the authors in this series will exalt Christ from all of their texts."Exalting Jesus in Philippians was co-authored by Dr. Tony Merida (lead pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, NC and associate professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) and Francis Chan (church planter in California and well-known author). Merida and Chan accomplishes the four stated goals. I appreciate the handling of the text while not being verse-by-verse. Also, to show how all of Scripture points to Christ is very much appreciated. As with any commentary, one should approach the biblical text independently and only refer to commentaries after first struggling with the text. I do not normally complete entire sets of commentary series. I typically try to obtain the best on each book regardless of the series. But this set will be completed and will find a special place on my bookshelves and will be referred to many times over the coming years.

**Disclosure of Material Connection:** I received this book free from Broadman & Holman as part of their B&H/LifeWay Blogger Team. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Exalting Jesus in Philippians is a new commentary on Philippians written by Tony Merida and Francis Chan. It is one of the latest editions to the Christ-Centered Exposition series of commentaries edited by Merida, David Platt, and Daniel Akin. Like the other commentaries in this series, Exalting Jesus in Philippians is easy to read and full of practical applications. One of the strengths of this commentary is that it is written in such a way that a pastor can use it to glean pastoral applications from Philippians while the average Christian can also use it in their personal study. This is great for "boots on the ground" Christian living and application of scripture. In fact, I would argue that this is the most important style of commentary that a pastor or lay person could read. The downside to this of course is that Exalting Jesus in Philippians lacks the academic rigor that many pastors and academic-minded students will want. That is not to say that this commentary lacks an intellectual foundation. It doesn't. In fact, one of the things the authors did very well was to not allow their profound understanding of the textual nuances become the focus of the commentary. Their interpretation was clearly under-girded by a rich foundation in Biblical studies, but rather than touting their academic knowledge of language and context, they simply communicated their knowledge in a way that any believer will be able to grasp the fundamental message of Philippians. If I have any complaints at all about Exalting Jesus in

Philippians, it is the distracting way that the authors intermingled their personal narratives into the applications. To be sure, the illustrations from their personal lives were valuable, but they had a distracting habit of parenthetically inserting the name of which author was telling the story. For example, in the opening sentences to the commentary on Philippians 2:5-11 the author writes, "Last week, I (Tony) went into a store to grab a bottle of water . . ." I'm sure this is simply a personal preference, but to be honest I'm not too concerned with which of the authors is telling the story. I found that it distracted from the "Christ-Centered" nature of the commentary by making it personality centered. Again, this wasn't terrible but I did find it distracting and after a while it began to be mildly annoying. I understand that many will appreciate this approach. After all, it lends a sort of personal nature to the commentary. However, I believe that could have been accomplished while not becoming distracting. I would have preferred the authors to simply use the illustration and not worry about which one was being credited for the life event. Overall Exalting Jesus in Philippians is a good well rounded commentary that upholds the doctrines of the Reformation while not overly focusing on the doctrine as the main point. The authors did a wonderful job making Philippians relevant and easy to understand. I appreciate the work being done in this series and in this edition in particular. Christians will certainly benefit from this commentary for a long time. Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Holman Reference, BH Publishing Group in exchange for an online review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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