



SEEING AND SAVORING JESUS CHRIST

BY JOHN PIPER

(CROSSWAY, 2004/125 PAGES)

DUSTIN SMETONA

Few men have had such a profound impact on us as John Piper. We have read his books. We have sat underneath his preaching and teaching. We have listened to his interviews and podcasts. We have taken his counsel.

While Piper continues to author new books, I am writing to persuade you to pick up one of his old books. Published in 2001 and republished in 2004, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ* is arguably his most Christ-centered work on the central thesis that has driven his prolific ministry: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” This book focuses its full attention on the Son of God.

Page after page is suffused with the thoroughly biblical, soaring language we’d expect from Piper, as he describes the unique glories of Jesus Christ. Yet each chapter is relatively short, making it accessible for all readers.

Piper moves us from Christology to doxology with ease. His description of the power of Christ, for example, is deeply moving: “Fatalities, fevers, fish, food, fig trees. Anywhere you turn, Christ is the absolute master over all material substance” (46).

If we have eyes to see, we will behold Christ’s glory everywhere we look. There is nothing as satisfying as that glory, which is why our gracious God so eagerly shares it with us.

We need to believe this now more than ever. The Christian life is hard enough when there isn’t an invisible plague stalking the globe. It’s safe to assume there are weary and burdened pastors and church members reading this. Where can we find fresh reserves of strength?

Passion for Jesus Christ is the power to persevere. Who better to stoke the fires of this passion than John Piper as he directs our gaze down at our Bibles so that they can be lifted to our matchless Redeemer? Behold once again the all-satisfying glory of the Savior, and watch as your passion for that glory grows. This book increased my passion for Christ and my strength to persevere.

Piper includes a prayer at the end of each chapter. Let's make his prayer our own:

O Father of glory, this is the cry of our hearts—to be changed from one degree of glory to another, until, in the resurrection, at the last trumpet, we are completely conformed to the image of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Until then, we long to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord, especially the knowledge of his glory. We want to see it as clearly as we see the sun, and to savor it as deeply as our most desired pleasure ... Forgive the wandering of our affections and the undue attention we give to lesser things. Have mercy on us for Christ's sake, and fulfill in us your great design to display the glory of your grace. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

*Passion for
Jesus Christ is
the power to
persevere.*

Amen indeed. May we see and savor Jesus Christ for the glory of his name.

DUSTIN SMETONA

Dustin Smetona serves as an elder at [Sovereign Grace Church of Orange](#) (Orange, CA).