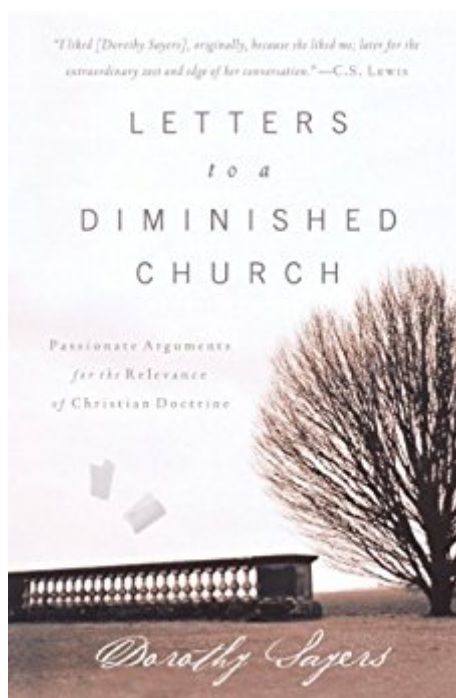


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Letters To A Diminished Church: Passionate Arguments For The Relevance Of Christian Doctrine



Synopsis

What must a person believe to be a Christian? Dorothy Sayers lays out age-old doctrines without prettying-up or watering-down. She brings them vividly to life by showing how the Bible, history, literature, and modern science fit together to make religion not only possible but necessary in our time. So whether you are reading the great works of Western literature, thinking about your place in God's universe, or simply dealing with the thousand-and-one problems of daily living, this powerful book has words of both challenge and comfort for you. Excerpt: Somehow or other, and with the best intentions, we have shown the world the typical Christian in the likeness of a crashing and rather ill-natured bore--and this in the Name of One who assuredly never bored a soul in those thirty-three years during which He passed through this world like a flame.Â Â Let us, in Heaven's name, drag out the Divine Drama from under the dreadful accumulation of slipshod thinking and trashy sentiment heaped upon it, and set it on an open stage to startle the world into some sort of vigorous reaction.

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Customer Reviews

Readers of C.S. Lewis are sometimes surprised to learn that his popular book, *Mere Christianity*, was adapted from BBC wartime radio "broadcast talks." Dorothy L. Sayers, known for her Lord Peter Wimsey detective novels, also penned dozens of pamphlets, essays and broadsides, many adapted from her popular talks. Her subject is similar to fellow Anglican Lewis: the role of the Church in wartime, but her approach is somewhat different than Lewis'. In "Creed or Chaos" and "The Dogma is the Drama" she argues for the excitement of doctrine, oxymoronic as that may seem, but she does so in scintillating prose: "We have effectively pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified him 'meek and mild' and recommended him as a household pet for pale curates and pious old ladies." In other essays she probes the nature of creativity, drawing on her own experience as an author and playwright to illuminate her views. This collection does not exhaust Sayers' essays, but collects seven from her 1947 book, *Creed or Chaos*, and other works including *Unpopular Opinions*, and *Begin Here*. This collection also seems hastily edited, with numerous typos. The book cover reads, "Includes discussion questions," which seem to have been inadvertently omitted. Nevertheless, reading Dorothy L. Sayers is an unforgettable experience, and this volume provides a good introduction to a fascinating and provocative thinker and writer. Essays include: 1. The Greatest Drama Ever Staged; 2. What Do We Believe?; 3. The Dogma is the Drama; 4. The Image of God; 5. Creative Mind; 6. Creed or Chaos; 7. Strong Meat; 8. The Other Six Deadly Sins; 9. Christian Morality; 10. The Triumph of Easter; 11. Why Work?; 12. Toward a Christian Esthetic; 13. The Faust Legend and the Idea of the Devil; 14. A Vote of Thanks to Cyrus; 15. The Writing and Reading of Allegory; 16. Problem Picture.

I read the book because I am a huge fan of C. S. Lewis, and I know that he and Dorothy were friends. Some essays in this book were absolute gold, such as "The Dogma is the Drama," but the majority of them I didn't care to read at all, such as "Toward a Christian Esthetic." The book still had some great insights and is worth reading.

I really enjoy Dorothy's work! This book can be a bit ponderous and definitely sounds like when it was written, not modern speech, but is well worth the reading. She comes up with some wonderful observations and quips, which are as relevant today, if not more so, than when she penned them. If she were around today, I'd give her a big "Testify!" And a "You go girl!"

I'm not sure how I have long missed out on these essays by Sayers, but for anyone who genuinely appreciates the Inklings, especially C.S. Lewis, this is an especially excellent addition to your library.

This collection of Dorothy Sayers' writings and speeches on the role and vitality of Christianity in 20th Century Britain and Western Europe is a must read for anyone who likes good writing. Ms Sayers defends and explains the case for a traditional view of Christianity with wit and intelligence and flair, even if some of her arguments are too academic and other worldly, see especially her discussion of the importance of everyone elevating work almost to a spiritual exercise, where pay is a distant concern. For most people that will never be true. This is a quibble. The essays are wonderful, even if the editing of the book is below standard.

This was definitely a good read with a lot of suppositions about why certain church's may not be growing.. I think it's a must read for any future church leaders and pastors...

Dorothy Sayers writes to a stodgy church in the midst of an uninterested world. "Christ was many things," she said, "but never boring." She offers suggestions for revitalizing the message we are relaying to the world in hopes that the church itself will catch fire and be revived in order to bring about revival. Intriguing and stretching read.

Dorothy L. Sayers explains the Christian faith by examining the documents by which the Church professes Her faith, the Creeds. Miss Sayers is masterful and straightforward. Now, the text needs to be re-edited due to a number of typos. I have already alerted the publisher to this need and after two months have had no response. Please buy the book, start a reading group, and read this book now. It is impertinent to agree or disagree with a doctrine or philosophy of which one is basically clueless. Agree or disagree only when you have the facts and can do so from knowledge.

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