

25th January 2022

Rector's personal letter #89 25/01/2022 – 'Deeper'

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Book Review: Deeper – Dane Ortlund (price £12.50)

I thought that "Gentle and Lowly" by Dane Ortlund was going to be my favourite book of all time, with its wonderful focus on the tenderness and compassion of the Lord Jesus. However, I'm now in a quandary because I've come across a book which is challenging for first place... It's entitled "Deeper" and it also happens to be authored by Dane Ortlund.

The thesis of the book is that growth in the Christian life occurs not through new knowledge, experiences or disciplines but through going deeper with Jesus. He challenges us by stating "Let me suggest that you consider the possibility that your current mental idea of Jesus is the tip of the iceberg. That there are wondrous depths to him, realities about him, still awaiting your discovery." And he encourages us and expands our minds by saying "The love of God is what we feed on our whole lives long, wading ever more deeply into this endless ocean."

Ortlund is especially helpful not only in pointing out the compassion and tenderness of our Lord Jesus but also in drawing alongside the reader with a similar compassion for us. He speaks openly about how pain and tears are often the very means the Lord uses to enable us to grow to spiritual maturity.

He sums everything up at the end of nine chapters. "I do not have nine things to say – I have one thing to say. Look to Christ. You will grow in Christ as you direct your gaze to Christ... If you look to him, everything else is footnotes." At the outset he explains that this book is "for the frustrated. The exhausted. Those on the brink. Those on the verge of giving up..." That could be you... and this could be just the book to encourage you.

Please get hold of this book via Peter Cheesman in our Bookshop [here](#). Explore it further with Andrea Trevenna and Jamie Read at **Toolbox** at 6.30pm Sunday 20th February... and keep looking to Christ.

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay