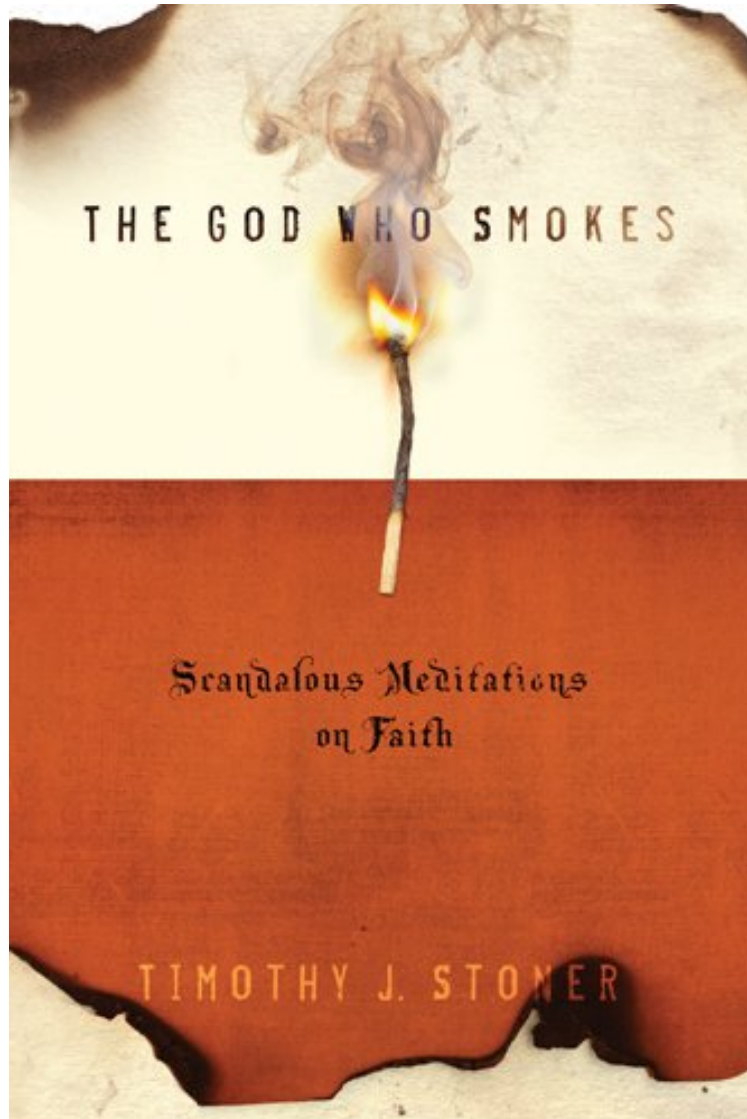


[Library ebook] The God Who Smokes: Scandalous Meditations on Faith

The God Who Smokes: Scandalous Meditations on Faith

Timothy Stoner

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Timothy Stoner : The God Who Smokes: Scandalous Meditations on Faith before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The God Who Smokes: Scandalous Meditations on Faith:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Get ready to worship!By D. VanDykeWow. What a great book! A friend passed this along to me because he knew I was deeply concerned about the teachings of Rob Bell, Brian McLaren and the like. I was hoping for a cogent, compelling, biblical debunking of the emergent movement. What I got was so much more. Stoner has managed to write a book that first and foremost introduces you to the sheer glory of God. With powerful, poetic, prophetic language he helps you to see the terrifying, infinitely loving, worship-worthy

reality of the God who has revealed himself in Scripture. This is not only the perfect prescription for the man-centered errors of the emergent church, it was unexpectedly sweet medicine for the subtle cynicism of my own heart. I found myself not only agreeing but worshiping. While Stoner is clearly sympathetic to many of the questions and concerns of the emergent church, he shows that the tragedy of our day, Emergent and Evangelical alike, is that our God and our gospel is simply too small. With compelling, colorful, poetic language he calls us back to a truly God-glorifying, gospel-saturated worldview and lifestyle. This is great writing. It feels like you are sitting on the back porch having an immensely enjoyable conversation with a really smart, funny, godly man. His story of getting caught by his strict missionary parents in a dusty Chilean movie theatre made me laugh out loud. His description of Jesus quieting the waters ("Calm down! Now!") made me see my Lord with new eyes as one who insisted on walking this earth "as if he owned it". This is a book for everyone simply because we all need to be challenged by the reality of God as he is - a God who smokes.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Weird Title but a Great Book! By T. Seagraves

NavPress sent me this book about six months ago to read and review and I have had a tough time trying to figure out what to say about it. Not because it has nothing to say, but because it has so much to say that I don't know how to review it in just a few words. I must say that since receiving this book I have devoured it. Yes, this book does have a funny title by a guy named Stoner, but you will realize quickly that his play on words is serious. This is a book about how out of control God is, out of our control, that is. He is passionate, compelling and dangerous, Yes, I did say dangerous. This book reminds us that we're in the middle of a battle, and while God is good, He is not safe. Stoner does a great job of exposing the Emergent Church movement and reminding us that when it comes to God's standards, there is to be no compromise. He looks at what Rob Bell has to say in his book *Velvet Elvis* and compares it to what the Bible says, and I think his conclusions will upset many Bell followers, but you can't argue with Scripture. So, do we as a church need to engage the culture? Yes. But, not at the expense of God's standards. All I can say is that you should read this book. The fact that it is written by a lay-person and not a "theologian" was also very refreshing. This is one of those books that can change the way you think about a lot of things if you will let it.

I do have one criticism for the author. He makes a brief mention of Mark Driscoll from Mars Hill Church in Seattle. It sounds like from his footnote on page 281 that he thinks Driscoll and Bell are part of the same church, just in different cities. Make no mistake about it, the only similarity between Driscoll and Bell is the name of their churches. That is where it ends. Mr. Stoner, if you see this, please note these guys are in no way connected.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from NavPress Publishers as part of their Blogger Review program. 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."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Attention Catching Title for a Captivating Book By David Schlottman

Timothy J. Stoner is a conundrum for me. Having a some similarity in backgrounds, I found it easy in some respects to relate to his thoughts about how we worship and follow Christ. However, I would characterize this author as anything but typical. I found myself often curious at how he would surprise me by his responses or assessments. I think that is part of the appeal of his writing. You have a difficult time putting him in a box; which is how he describes God. Stoner holds to reformed theology and believes strongly in a sovereign God. He is also a strong advocate of social justice, particularly when it concerns orphans around the world. I think you would have a difficult time pinning a particular label politically on him, but you definitely understand his theological positions as he writes throughout the book. There were two chapters in particular which impacted me the most: Chapter 11 - *Dancing in the Dark* and Chapter 13 - *David's Dance*. The first one deals with realizing the God-giving gifts and potential that lies at the core of our being. The latter discusses through Stoner's own personal experiences, how the love of Christ in a believer goes beyond sin and uncomfortable lifestyle choices and to the heart of relationships - particularly difficult ones. While this book is characterized as a response to questions surrounding the Emergent Church, I came away from reading it feeling like Stoner ruffled some of my feathers and caused me to think about some issues in my own life in a deeper way. I highly recommend this book as a very good read, particularly if you appreciate having someone lightly jar your thoughts and opinions.

A church divided? Emergent theology is raising some of the most provocative and divisive questions in the church today. For some, these ideas embody the true spirit of the gospel, trading tired religion for authenticity and relevance. Others dismiss it as a heresy that compromises the gospel in the name of tolerance and dilutes the truth to attract a jaded generation. Is there any room for middle ground? Timothy Stoner thinks so. Join him as he provides an honest response to the postmodern cry for authentic spirituality. Filled with humorous insights and challenging ideas, *The God Who Smokes* imagines a twenty-first-century church where hope hangs with holiness, passion sits next to purity, and compassion can relate to character. Timothy celebrates the good within Emergent while providing a balanced and thoughtful critique. Throughout, you'll discover not only the issues that can divide but also the burning passion that can unite us all.

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