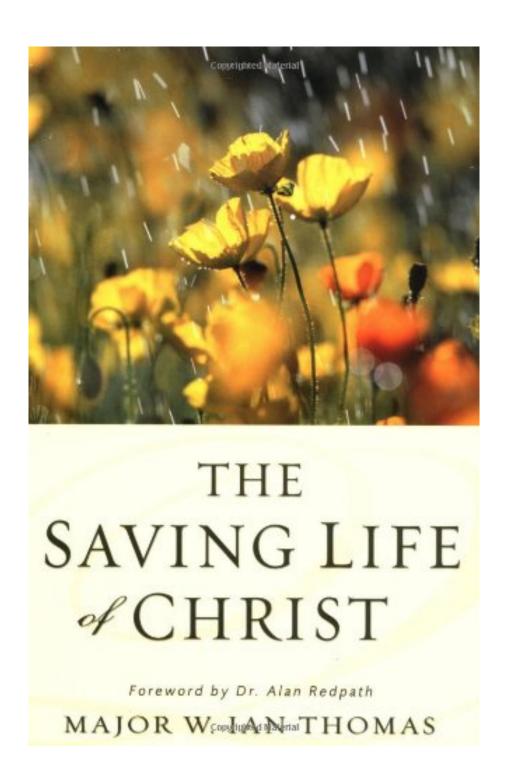


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BOOK REVIEW: THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST

By Modern Puritan

Major W. Ian Thomas' book The Saving Life of Christ contains a wealth of insight for living a victorious Christian life. Thomas is right on target with the doctrine of justification, but he is weak in the area of sanctification. He seems to hold a passive view of a Christian's faith as he states, "I sit back in the rest of faith." This is contrary to the teachings of 1 Cor 15.58, Phil 2.12, and Jas 2.14-26. Furthermore, Thomas holds to the concept of a carnal Christian. He states, "If you are a carnal Christian, it means that you have been redeemed by faith ... but you live ... under the subtle influence of a defeated foe, the flesh."p.37. This theory contradicts the teaching of Rom 8.1-9. A Christian does carnal things (1 John 1.8, 10), but the bondage to a carnal way of life has been broken by God's power (1 John 3.9).

Although Thomas gets a lot of mileage out of the false doctrine of the carnal Christian, he offers practical theology relating to the Christian life. Thomas also sites a few well-developed concepts from Biblical characters, including King Saul, Moses, Jacob, and Esau. Although Jacob was a scoundrel, God worked in his life and, in time, transformed him into Israel, the prince of God. These edifying examples make this book well worth reading, but because the other theology noted in the book I can only give it 3 stars.

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