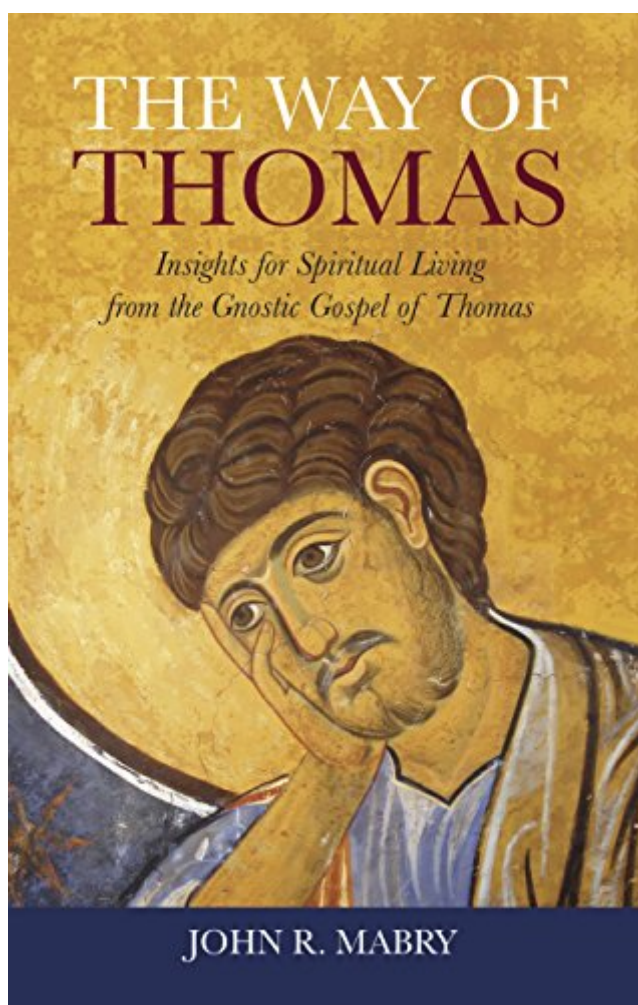


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The Way Of Thomas: Insights For Spiritual Living From The Gnostic Gospel Of Thomas



Synopsis

Want spiritual transformation, but turned off by dogmatic religion? Discover the original, mystical teachings of Jesus. Are you looking for a life-giving spirituality, but feel disillusioned by organized religion? Does "the church" seem more like the problem than the solution? Are you attracted to Jesus, but not so much to the tradition built up around him? You are not alone—the earliest and most reliable collection of Jesus' teachings, The Gospel of Thomas, says much the same thing. Yet it also contains the seeds of a profound mysticism that can transform our view of the universe and ourselves. Seminary professor Dr. John R. Mabry has been studying and teaching the lost Gospel of Thomas for 20 years and has discovered the key that unlocks the secret of Jesus' earliest and most mystical teachings, revealing a Jesus who is more like a Zen master than a savior, and whose teachings present something very much like a native Jewish school of Buddhism. The Way of Thomas offers a crystal clear, easy-to-understand new version of the Gospel of Thomas. Dr. Mabry, an expert in the mysticism of the world's religions, then unpacks the core teachings of the Gospel in ways that can shift not only how we understand ourselves, but how we view reality itself. At the end of every chapter, Dr. Mabry provides step-by-step exercises for how to achieve the shifts in perception that lead to transformation and illumination. In this book, you will discover: There is only one thing in the universe, and you are that thing—how to see what is right in front of you, so that what is hidden will be revealed—what "the kingdom" means, and how you can live in it right now—truth does not come from outside ourselves, but from within—how to escape "the system" and to be truly free. The Way of Thomas is packed with profound insights and practical advice for spiritual practice. If you like books that change the way you see the world and invite you into deep mindfulness, you will love The Way of Thomas. Give yourself the gift of this book today and start walking The Way of Thomas!

Book Information

File Size: 3031 KB

Print Length: 196 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Apocryphile Press; 2 edition (December 19, 2015)

Publication Date: December 19, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B019LVU9MW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #53,648 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3

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Customer Reviews

Easy to read, very informative, and a book I want in my library of books on spiritualism.

greatly inspiring

Insightful

The author has a Zen and mysticism focus to his analysis which seems a little "new age" for my taste.

An easy to read, informative insight into what we were always taught. This will turn things around and is well worth reading. I was sent a free copy just to read for myself, but felt I had to review to help others find the book.

This book brought me to tears. I took notes and now read my notes every day, sometime twice a day. This book will always be close to my person. Thank you Mr. Mabry for your intuitive and insightful words. The path is now much clearer

This is a wonderful book. In *The Way of Thomas*, John Mabry has advanced and broadened the

thinking regarding the Gospel of Thomas. Discovered in 1945, and the subject of much biblical scholarship, this authentic collection of the sayings of Jesus, has excited and puzzled its readers for half a century. In this, his latest book, Mabry gives us the result of his years of discovery and meditation on the gospel held sacred by the Jewish Christians. After briefly telling the story of the Thomas School of Jewish Christians and the strange discovery of the gospel, this book presents nine "insights" found in Mabry's study of these 114 sayings. The reader is guided through a discovery process which takes us to a radically new understanding of what Jesus might have been about all those 2000 years ago. We know Jesus came to tell us to love one another, and to heal, and to exist in an accepting community. We also know, if we've thought about it much, that there seems to be so much more to this mysterious person. The Way of Thomas shows us another level of this mystery. According to Mabry, Jesus was trying to tell his followers that divinity is all around and all through every one of us. We live in a God-infused world and we are separated from this knowing by our very human needs and desires. As Insight One states, "there is only one thing in the universe, and you are that thing." At the end of each segment there are exercises to draw the reader further into his/her own understanding of that insight. In the same way that the members of the Thomas school thought the sayings to be salvific, I found that reading the book and contemplating the exercises re-engaged my own sense of the mystery of God. You can expect to find a very unitive-consciousness treatment of these sayings augmented by complementary wisdom from a variety of faith traditions. The Way of Thomas is written in a clear compelling style. I highly recommend it.

While it may be highly controversial to many, the path revealed by John Mabry of the influence of Thomas's Christianity on the Western world, is the way out of the maze of what has been for many individuals (though not all) the debilitating repression of personal religious freedom and thought which has been brought on by a fundamentalist interpretation of the life and words of Jesus. Mabry's book is the leading edge of at least the next hundred years of exploration of a new look and a new way of understanding and benefitting from the life that Jesus chose to lead. For example, Mabry emphasizes the compatibility of Thomas's Christianity with all other major world religions, as opposed to the fundamental interpretation that pits it against all other world religions. Mabry's book reveals the steady, relentless centuries-in-developing shift from a hierarchical-only access to God, to that of the individual finding the God experience within - a message Jesus and all other major religions have been saying all along. "The Way of Thomas" further opens up the prospect of unlimited ways to redefine the role of "church" in our society, offering mental, emotional and

physical outlets for personal growth and exploration toward a more vital and alive life of human spirituality and religious experience. But Mabry doesn't just talk about it - he practices it in his North Grace Community Church in Berkeley, California. (More information is available on this from Google.) But I must emphasize that Thomas's Christianity is not for everyone. Paul's and John's fundamental Christianity is a powerful force which has brought meaning to many for centuries and will continue to do so. It has inspired the most creative expressions appearing throughout the history of music, art, literature, even science, and most recently in humanitarian aid to distressed nations. But for a growing number of people, Fundamentalism no longer speaks to their needs, and Mabry's Thomas does. I highly recommend this book to those who are seeking. Robert Rock

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