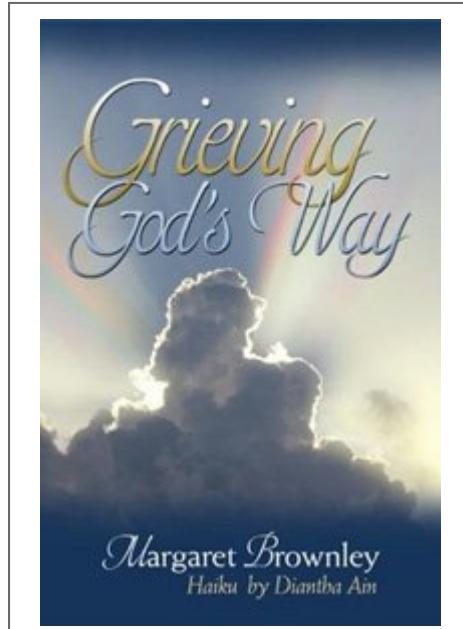


Book Reviews: Grieving God's Way

August 3, 2012

[*Grieving God's Way*](#) by Margaret Brownley (Thomas Nelson)



Grief—we all experience it. From losing a child to losing a job, grief comes in a variety of forms and intensity. But grieving is a process too difficult to do alone.

Margaret Brownley's recent book *Grieving God's Way* contains 90 days of thought-provoking and soul-stirring short devotionals. Each devotional concludes with a haiku, written by Diantha Ain, delivering insight for the day.

Brownley has written more than 20 novels, but her greatest challenge came when she picked up her pen after losing her son to a lengthy illness. In her grief, she learned numbing pain, ignoring pain and waiting pain out does not heal. Only by allowing God to heal can the grief process result in

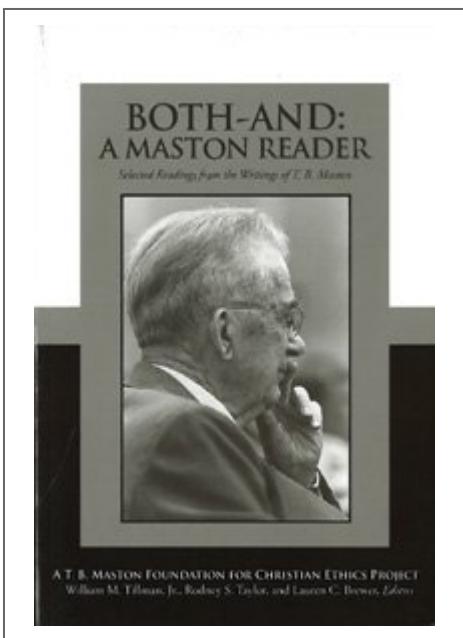
wholeness.

For those who have lost—for those who grieve—the wisdom and insight penned on each page will refresh your heart and force you to examine the grieving process while allowing God to heal. For those who have not lost, the practical advice and spiritual insight create a read edifying for anyone who desires to see the hurt find healing.

Andrea Hitefield, student

Dallas Theological Seminary

Both-And: A Maston Reader edited by William M. Tillman Jr., Rodney S. Taylor & Lauren C. Brewer (T.B. Maston Foundation)



T.B. Maston liked to speak of the "abidingly relevant" nature of what the Bible taught about ethics. Many of the students whose lives he shaped during his 40 years teaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary would apply that same phrase to the lessons they learned from their professor of Christian ethics.

Now, thanks to the diligent work of the T.B. Maston Foundation for

Christian Ethics (www.tbmaston.org), readers in a new generation can learn for themselves that the term also could be applied to Maston's writings about Scripture and Christian living. Maston never would have claimed the mantle of "prophet" for himself, but it's hard not to think in those terms when considering someone whose first article about race relations was published in 1927 and whose first book on the subject appeared in 1946.

The editors of *Both-And: A Maston Reader* offer a wide-ranging representative sample of Maston's writings, all deeply rooted and grounded in Scripture. Some are excerpts from his books; others are examples of the many articles and columns he wrote for the Baptist Standard and other Baptist state newspapers and periodicals.

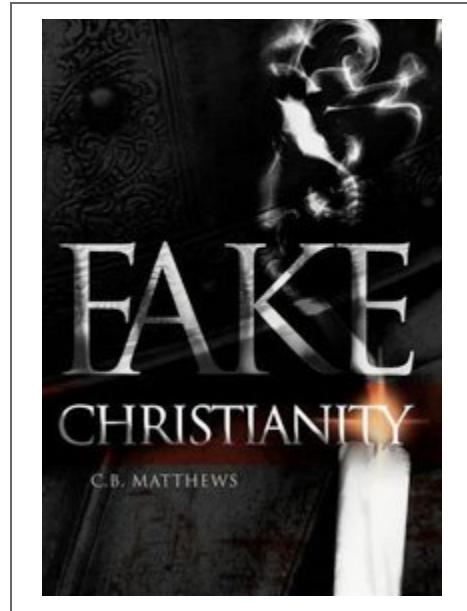
While the endnotes reveal the depth of his scholarship, his writing is unfailingly accessible to a lay audience. Maston evaluated his work by a simple standard: "Is this written so that my mother could read and understand it?" It was, and we still benefit from it.

Ken Camp, managing editor

Baptist Standard

Plano

[*Fake Christianity*](#) by C.B. Matthews (WestBow Press)



C.B. Matthews writes with the passion and zeal of a seasoned youth minister to give us his first book, *Fake Christianity*. Matthews shares his personal struggle in responding to God's invitation to write a book, and readers will thrill at the way God spoke to him with clarity through the process.

Matthews' passion for Christian youth and adults is that they be real in faith and have an active lifestyle. He deals with critical subjects such as lies, beliefs, feelings/emotions and spiritual warfare. Matthews takes the Bible as the guide for Christians and makes no apology in holding its standards as the guide for what he calls "Real Christians." He is frank, bold and makes no compromises. He states in the preface, "This is just one man listening to God and writing what the Lord has laid on his heart."

I found *Fake Christianity* to be a real and relevant message from the heart of one who was touched by God at Beach Reach on South Padre Island and has given his life to his Lord, seeking to reach out to Christians of all ages.

I highly commend *Fake Christianity* because it comes from one who tells it like it is in our day.

Leo Smith, retired executive director

Texas Baptist Men

Alvin