



## Pastor Mike's Bookshelf

### **The Spirituality of the Cross: The Way of the First Evangelicals**

*By Gene Edward Veith, Jr.*

In our culture today, spirituality is in, and religion is out. More and more people identify themselves as “spiritual but not religious,” seeking to define their own self-made spirituality outside the established religious traditions. This is a spirituality that looks within for truth, picks and chooses from sources outside of oneself, and is essentially not accountable to anyone or anything else, except personal conscience and feelings.

But how well does such a spirituality address the life as we know, with its blessings and challenges and tragedies? How well does such a spirituality account for our own failures to live up to our own standards, let alone others, as well as the darkness that lurks within? What answer does a self-made spirituality have for the inevitability of the grave?

Gene Edward Veith describes in this book his own spiritual journey through multiple approaches to spirituality before finding his home in Lutheran spirituality. What is Lutheran spirituality? He describes it as a “spirituality of the cross.” Christ and His cross

are at the center. We look not within but to Him as He speaks to us in His Word and comes to us in His sacraments.

This brief book provides an excellent overview of Lutheran spirituality, and how to think and live spiritual growth from an authentically Christ-centered perspective. I have recommended this book to quite a few people over the years and have discussed its contents with individuals and in classes. Highly recommended for anyone looking for a spirituality centered in Jesus and His Word.

There is a copy of this book, along with previously recommended books on the Church Library cart in the Narthex, available for checking out. Previous recommendations can be found here: [\*\*Pastor Mike's Bookshelf\*\*](#).