

Pastor Mike's Bookshelf

Tim Keller on the Christian Life: The Transforming Power of the Gospel

Matt Smethurst

You may have noticed over the years that I frequently quote Tim Keller, the late pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan and author of many books. He had a gift for pulling together the best scholarship and insights on topics relevant to living the Christian life, but then synthesizing these insights and filtering them through the Gospel. The result was analysis and application with Christ and His Gospel at the center but delivered and applied with a pastoral heart shining through. I benefited enormously, both personally and ministerially, from Tim Keller's work.

In light of that, I recommend any book of which he is the author. But where to begin? Which book?

Matt Smethurst has done the church a great service in putting together this summary of Keller's insights and approach. He presents Keller's input on many topics, including seeing Christ in all of scripture, the centrality of grace, how the gospel transforms relationships (especially marriage), serving God through our work, having compassion for all, as well as how suffering drives us into God's heart. But through it all, it is a presentation on how the gospel transforms and shapes the lives of those who believe in Christ.

I recommend this book for anyone who would like a sample of Keller's insightful, Christ-centered approach to the Christian life. But I also recommend it as a very helpful encouragement to keep Christ and the gospel central in all that we do. I have placed a copy of this book on the church library cart in the church entryway.

Previous recommendations can be found here: <https://church.stjohnsnapa.org/resources/pastor-mikes-bookshelf>

