

McGrath, Alister E. *The Mystery of the Cross*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Academic Books, 1988.

Alister McGrath has attempted in this book to demonstrate that the cross is the only relevance the church has in our modern culture. To try and make the church more “relevant” to the world we live in is actually to lose any relevance we might have because the cross of Christ gets pitched out. So, the cross is and must be the center of authentic Christianity. One cannot escape the cross and it does counteract the wisdom of the world. In this sense, Christians are counter-cultural. All of the above is discussed in the first section of the book “The Centrality of the Cross.” In the second half, “The Relevance of the Cross,” the author tackles how to interpret the cross, the pain of the cross, the preaching of the cross as well as how the individual believer and the church as a whole should live under the cross. Many parts of the book have an apologetic tone where he deals with pagan mind sets about God and theology that have sprung from the Enlightenment period. So, it is a helpful resource as we think about evangelizing and how we should live our lives.

Level: Medium

Theological Stance: Church of England (Anglican)

Rating: 7

Recommend? Yes