

N. T. Wright

Quotes

Jesus, Christian, People, Mean, Thinking, Believe, Church, Justice, Heaven, World, Easter, Way, Heart, Writing, Worship, Giving, Two, Prayer, Healing, Art

Our culture is so fixated on dying and going to heaven when the whole Scripture is about heaven coming to earth.

~N. T. Wright

People often get upset when you teach them what is in the Bible rather than what they presume is in the Bible.

~N. T. Wright

The closer you get to the truth, the clearer becomes the beauty, and the more you will find worship welling up within you. That's why theology and worship belong together.

~N. T. Wright

You become like what you worship

~N. T. Wright

The cross is the surest, truest and deepest window on the very heart and character of the living and loving God.

~N. T. Wright

Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God's new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet.

~N. T. Wright

When we begin to glimpse the reality of God, the natural reaction is to worship him. Not to have that reaction is a fairly sure sign that we haven't yet really understood who he is or what he's done.

~N. T. Wright

The rule of love, I say again, is not an optional extra. It is the very essence of what we [Christians] are about

~N. T. Wright

Hope, for the Christian, is not wishful thinking or mere blind optimism. It

is a mode of knowing, a mode within which new things are possible, options are not shut down, new creation can happen.

~N. T. Wright

The Bible is there to enable God's people to be equipped to do God's work in God's world, not to give them an excuse to sit back smugly, knowing they possess all God's truth.

~N. T. Wright

True worship is open to God, adoring God, waiting for God, trusting God even in the dark.

~N. T. Wright

Logic cannot comprehend love; so much the worse for logic.

~N. T. Wright

It's partly that I'm an extrovert and that I like being with people. If you shut me up in a library with nothing else around for weeks on end, I'd go mad! I have to sort of go out.

~N. T. Wright

You become like what you worship. When you gaze in awe, admiration, and wonder at something or someone, you begin to take on something of the character of the object of your worship.

~N. T. Wright

Tolerance is a cheap, low-grade parody of love. Tolerance is not a great virtue to aspire to. Love is much tougher and harder.

~N. T. Wright

The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it.

~N. T. Wright

The cross is the place where, and the means by which, God loved us to the uttermost.

~N. T. Wright

Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present.

~N. T. Wright

When Jesus wanted to explain to his disciples what his death was all about, he didn't give them a theory, he gave them a meal.

~N. T. Wright

Arguments about God are like pointing a flashlight toward the sky to see if the sun is shining.

~N. T. Wright

Heaven is important, but its not the end of the world.

~N. T. Wright

You can't reconcile being pro-life on abortion and pro-death on the death penalty.

~N. T. Wright

Someone who is determinedly trying to show God how good he or she is is likely to become an insufferable prig.

~N. T. Wright

Death is the ultimate weapon of the tyrant; resurrection does not make a covenant with death, it overthrows it.

~N. T. Wright

Christian living means dying with Christ and rising again. That, as we saw, is part of the meaning of baptism, the starting point of the Christian pilgrimage.

~N. T. Wright

Wherever St. Paul went, there was a riot. Wherever I go, they serve tea.

~N. T. Wright

Learning to live as a Christian is learning to live as a renewed human being, anticipating the eventual new creation in and with a world which is still longing and groaning for that final redemption.

~N. T. Wright

It's not great faith you need; it is faith in a great God.

~N. T. Wright

Worship is love on its knees before the beloved; just as mission is love on its feet to serve the beloved

~N. T. Wright

Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project.

~N. T. Wright

Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance.

~N. T. Wright

Deism, historically, produces atheism. First you make God a landlord, then an absent landlord, then he becomes simply absent.

~N. T. Wright

Christ's resurrection doesn't mean escaping from the world; it means mission to the world based on Jesus's lordship over the world.

~N. T. Wright

If you have never felt or known the sheer power and strength of God's

love, take another look at Jesus dying on the cross.

~N. T. Wright

God has committed himself, ever since creation, to working through his creatures--in particular, through his image-bearing human beings--but they have all let Him down.

~N. T. Wright

To get overprotective about particular readings of the Bible is always in danger of idolatry.

~N. T. Wright

If you're a Christian you're just a shadow of your future self.

~N. T. Wright

When Jesus's followers asked him to teach them to pray, he didn't tell them to divide into focus groups and look deep within their own hearts.

~N. T. Wright

Certainly Paul shares the view of the Old Testament prophets that God will one day flood the world with justice and joy - and that this has begun to be fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus.

~N. T. Wright

Traditions tell us where we have come from. Scripture itself is a better guide as to where we should now be going.

~N. T. Wright

All history involves selection, and it is always human beings who do the selecting.

~N. T. Wright

God is the Creator God, he doesn't want to say, "Okay, creation was very good, but I'm scrapping it." He wants to say, "Creation is so good

that I'm going to rescue it."

~N. T. Wright

True worship doesn't keep looking at its watch.

~N. T. Wright

Of course there are people who think of 'heaven' as a kind of pie-in-the-sky dream of an afterlife to make the thought of dying less awful. No doubt that's a problem as old as the human race.

~N. T. Wright

Love is not just tolerance. It's not just distant appreciation. It's a warm sense of, 'I am enjoying the fact that you are you.'

~N. T. Wright

It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone, though one is justified by faith alone, the faith which justifies is never in fact alone.

~N. T. Wright

Scripture is, at its heart, the great story that we sing in order not just to learn it with our heads but to become part of it through and through, the story that in turn becomes part of us.

~N. T. Wright

To open the Bible is to open a window toward Jerusalem, as Daniel did (6:10), no matter where our exile may have taken us.

~N. T. Wright

think about the way God rules. He doesn't do it by sending in the tanks. He does it by calling servants.

~N. T. Wright

I really don't care too much what the different later Christian traditions

say. My aim is to be faithful to Scripture.

~N. T. Wright

Within orthodoxy, there is always a danger of faith collapsing into fear.

~N. T. Wright

Justice never means "treating everybody the same way", but "treating people appropriately".

~N. T. Wright

I have met many Roman Catholic theologians who will emphasize as much as any good Protestant preacher that everything comes from the love and grace of God.

~N. T. Wright

Heard in full sound, the Gospels tell about the establishment of a theocracy, and portray what theocracy looks like with Jesus as king.

~N. T. Wright

All Christian language about the future is a set of signposts pointing into a mist.

~N. T. Wright

Jesus of Nazareth ushers in not simply a new religious possibility, not simply a new ethic or a new way of salvation, but a new creation.

~N. T. Wright

Worship is humble and glad, worship forgets itself in remembering God; worship celebrates the truth as God's truth, not its own.

~N. T. Wright

Looking back to the earlier centuries of the church, most of the great teachers were also bishops and vice versa. It's only fairly recently that the church has had this great divide.

~N. T. Wright

By all means write new songs. Each generation must do that. But to neglect the church's original hymnbook is, to put it bluntly, crazy

~N. T. Wright

Jesus, to be sure, often spent long times alone in prayer. But he was also deeply at home where there was a party, a kingdom party, a celebration of the fact that God was at last taking charge.

~N. T. Wright

The kingdom that Jesus preached and lived was all about a glorious, uproarious, absurd generosity.

~N. T. Wright

Without God's Spirit, there is nothing we can do that will count for God's kingdom. Without God's Spirit, the church simply can't be the church.

~N. T. Wright

The Holy Spirit in enabling the already-justified believers to live with moral energy and will so that they really do please God again and again.

~N. T. Wright

Right answers to difficult questions are better than wrong answers to difficult questions.

~N. T. Wright

Swords don't glorify the creator-God. Love does. Self-giving love, best of all.

~N. T. Wright

The Bible is the book of my life. It's the book I live with, the book I live by, the book I want to die by.

~N. T. Wright

The call of the gospel is for the church to implement the victory of God in the world through suffering love.

~N. T. Wright

At the heart of Christian ethic is humility; at the heart of its parodies, pride. Different roads with different destinations, and the destinations color the character of those who travel by them.

~N. T. Wright

All human governments are intended by God to do justice and mercy - to look after, in particular, the needs of the poor and disadvantaged.

~N. T. Wright

If you ask people in England where does Tom Wright sit on the theological spectrum, they say, "Well he's an evangelical of course," as though, come on, get used to it.

~N. T. Wright

Often people see doctrines as a checklist. Here are the following nineteen truths which you've got to believe to be a good sound Christian.

~N. T. Wright

Rest you well, beloved Jesus, Caesar's Lord and Israel's King,
In the brooding of the Spirit, in the darkness of the spring

~N. T. Wright

If you don't have properly constituted civic authorities you will encourage vigilantism and solo efforts at retributive justice - which is anarchy, and God doesn't want his world to be anarchic.

~N. T. Wright

It seems to me that since the Middle Ages (it's not a Reformation thing), all that stuff about Jews and Gentiles coming together in Christ was just screened out.

~N. T. Wright

Indian leaders are saying, "You don't understand our caste system. It's really a lovely thing. People are very happy about it and so on." I don't think that's quite fair.

~N. T. Wright

I have never been to India and I am not a specialist on Indian culture, and I would not wish to be heard to be taking swipes at a culture which I've never experienced and where I've never lived.

~N. T. Wright

It's very easy for a church just to slide along from week to week, taking it for granted that we do our services like this and that, and we celebrate the sacraments like this and that.

~N. T. Wright

I am an advocate of one form of the New Perspective. But there are as many new perspectives as there are people writing about it.

~N. T. Wright

[Albert] Schweitzer thus carved out his own path through the first half of this century, a lonely and learned giant amidst the hordes of noisy and shallow theological pygmies.

~N. T. Wright

I knew that I had to be a preacher. I had to be a minister, which was a puzzle to me because my dad was a businessman. It was a family company and I assumed that I would take it on from him.

~N. T. Wright

When you're writing theology, you have to say everything all the time, otherwise people think you've deliberately missed something out.

~N. T. Wright

Fortunately, Paul is much more interesting than most of his interpreters, myself included.

~N. T. Wright

My aim has been to expound Scripture and to expound Scripture in such a way that I do not set one Scripture over against another.

~N. T. Wright

I'm a people person. I like being with people. So I like being a teacher, and so on.

~N. T. Wright

The gospel is not itself about you are this sort of a person and this can happen to you. That's the result of the gospel rather than the gospel itself.

~N. T. Wright

Whenever you see, in an official lectionary, the command to omit two or three verses, you can normally be sure that they contain words of judgment. Unless, of course, they are about sex.

~N. T. Wright

Almost all the early Christian Fathers were opposed to the death penalty, even though it was of course standard practice across the ancient world.

~N. T. Wright

Death is a monster; death is horrible.

~N. T. Wright

The phrase "spiritual journey" is one that I've only become familiar with comparatively recently. We wouldn't have put it like that when I was a kid.

~N. T. Wright

I think future generations will say the late 20th century and the early 21st century was a time of great convulsions and upheavals.

~N. T. Wright

Genesis 1...was designed to reflect God, both to reflect God back to God in worship and to reflect God into the rest of creation in stewardship.

~N. T. Wright

What many people today assume Christianity to be is basically Plutarch plus Jesus.

~N. T. Wright

Easter is about Jesus: the Jesus who announced God's saving, sovereign kingdom.

~N. T. Wright

We have to train ourselves to use words accurately. And there's so much loose Christian talk, for which I've no doubt been as guilty as any.

~N. T. Wright

But if Christians don't get Jesus right, what chance is there that other people will bother much with him?

~N. T. Wright

I didn't write much until I turned 40. Up until then I felt constrained by a sense of the discipline of New Testament studies and a sense of the ruling elite in theology and biblical studies.

~N. T. Wright

I feel about John's gospel like I feel about my wife; I love her very much, but I wouldn't claim to understand her.

~N. T. Wright

Resurrection means bodily life after 'life after death,' or, if you prefer, bodily life after the state of 'death'

~N. T. Wright

Part of Christian belief is to find out what's true about Jesus and let that challenge our culture.

~N. T. Wright

The power of the gospel lies[...] in the powerful announcement that God is God, that Jesus is Lord, that the powers of evil have been defeated, that God's new world has begun.

~N. T. Wright

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