
Indispensable; A "Must-Have"

This resource encourages a deeper understanding of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ by harmonizing the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John so as to assemble as many details as possible into a chronologically meaningful sequence.

My Personal Review:
This tool has been a tremendous help to me as I study the individual gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. It helps one to understand the chronology of the events as well as a more full account of the events themselves - not, of course, discounting the value of reading the individual gospels within their own stated/implied purpose for writing. The more-literal translation of the New American Standard Bible (NASB) was a suitable choice for this sort of study (alternate translation notes are included under the text). The order of the text is preserved as much as possible. The editors also include paragraphs at the bottom of the page to briefly address problems of chronology, interpretation, harmonization or history. The outline for the harmony is one of the best features of the book as one can see at-a-glance the relationship of events to one another as well as understanding which Gospel writers chose to include particular events. This outline, by the way, is the same helpful harmony contained in the Macarthur Study Bible.

The essays in the back of the book are worth the price of the book in themselves.
Essay 1 - Is Harmony of the Gospels Legitimate?
Essay 2 - A History of Harmonies
Essay 3 - Source Criticism
Essay 4 - Form Criticism
Essay 5 - Redaction Criticism
Essay 6 - Criticism of the Gospel of John
I would like to comment on Essays 3-5. The authors provide brief but helpful overviews of each of these higher level criticisms - giving a balanced but critical review of their worth. Every Christian should possess at least an introductory-level of understanding of these perspectives. You see their conclusions reflected in everyday media outlets and public life.

Source Criticism involves conjecture how gospels writers were supposedly dependent on posited source documents (e.g. Two Source Theory including hypothesis of the source Q). Form Criticism involves trying to examine units of gospel tradition in the oral period, before they were edited into the first written sources proposed by source critics. Redaction Criticism involves focusing on the theology of the Gospel writers to analyze their intent with respect to the early Christian community. All of these areas are steeped in 19th Century rationalism and skepticism about the historical reliability and the supernatural origin and nature of the Gospels. Thomas and Gundry provide brief but compelling arguments (maybe one would say "criticisms") against each of these areas of thought.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price: