

Captured by Grace | Dr. David Jeremiah

Reviewed by Max Frazier in the November 2008 Philogian

The winter season will soon be upon us. And you know what that means? Yes, it is time to throw another log onto the fire; then pour yourself a cup of piping hot tea or hot chocolate dotted with a few marshmallows. Finally, as you seat yourself comfortably in your favorite rocking chair, you grab a book from the shelf. And, as your body enjoys the warmth of the fire and the beverage, your mind will enjoy the challenges offered by your reading selection.

Captured by Grace

One book that I highly recommend for your winter reading is titled Captured by Grace: No One is Beyond the Reach of a Loving God (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2006). It was written by Dr. David Jeremiah, pastor, television teacher, and author of dozens of books about the Christian life. Over the years many books have been written on the subject of God's grace. You might remember that several years ago I reviewed Phil Yancey's classic work What's So Amazing About Grace? Well, this book stands just as tall as Yancey's.

Dr. Jeremiah capitalized on the recent interest in the life of John Newton and the influence he had upon William Wilberforce, the young member of Parliament who dedicated his life in fighting for the abolition of slavery. As you might remember, Newton himself had been captain of a slaving vessel for many years. Newton is best remembered for his famous hymn, "Amazing Grace." And Dr. Jeremiah uses the words of that hymn as the loom upon which he weaves the remarkable story of God's grace.

Such grace can come only from God. It is the gift unsought, unmerited, unlimited. For no matter what we have done, no matter the depth of our transgression, the darkness of our hearts – grace overrules them all. God pursues us relentlessly, He will not give us up, and once He has captured us, He won't let us go (p. 21). Dr. Jeremiah explores the depths of portions of the Epistles of Paul to help us to understand both the mystery and the magnitude of God's grace. It is a grace that captivates us and then changes us. Grace is the father of the Prodigal embracing a son who bore the stench of the world and welcoming him home. Grace is the bright light bringing a strong-willed Pharisee to his knees on a road to Damascus. It is grace assuring our hearts that "all things work together for good to those who love God" even when our minds would cause us to question that truth.

Friends, if you are looking for a book that you could study with a neighborhood group, or as an Adult Bible Fellowship for a few weeks, I would highly recommend this one to you. You will then sing "Amazing Grace" with a spirit you have not previously known.