



The Evil That Men Do: Faith, Injustice and the Church

Marcus Paul

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At a time when barbarous acts of terrorism are being committed globally and society ponders whether the perpetrators are legitimate religious adherents, Marcus Paul makes an unflinching and counter-cultural examination of some of the worst periods in the Church's history.

Were the crusades entirely inexcusable religious wars? Was the Inquisition the bloody and sadistic "Black Legend" of popular imagination? How can we understand the goodness of God after two brutalising world wars?

In a refreshingly frank treatment of the Church's past failings, this book fills a gap in our understanding of what it is to be Christian in the twenty-first century. "In an age where it is fashionable to 'bash' the church at every opportunity, it is rare to read such a clear defence of its history and ideas. Marcus Paul provides a compelling and fresh look at the impact of the Christian Church down the ages and educates us as to how best to navigate our way through the current fog of cultural hostility."-- The Revd Richard Cunningham (from the Foreword) Director of UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship) What people are saying...

The Evil that Men Do is a considered and thoughtful book which seeks to examine the way we look through twenty-first-century eyes at the "darker" events in Church history. In doing so, the author helps us re-examine some of our own prejudices and whilst not denying or minimalizing those things that clearly have been at times truly evil he provides a more balanced viewpoint. He seeks to engage with some of the historians, chroniclers, poets, philosophers, novelists and others who were living during those events which today are placed under a negative spotlight. In doing so we are challenged to look at the story of the Christian Church afresh and to see the Spirit of God moving through human history and through the people of God as they have sought to live, witness and share with others the love of God which they have experienced through Jesus Christ.-- The Rt Revd Peter Hancock Bishop of Bath & Wells

"A fascinating and frank re-evaluation of the impact of the Christian faith on society, for good and ill, from the first century until the twenty-first."-- The Revd Canon Dr Michael Green Hon. Fellow, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford

"It is always vital to check our assumptions about historical judgements--not least in the twenty-first-century west. Marcus Paul invites us to correct our memory and to look afresh at assumptions about religion in general, and Christianity in particular. Read it and be challenged."-- The Rt Revd Nick Baines Bishop of Leeds

The Evil That Men Do: Faith, Injustice and the Church Details

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Author : Marcus Paul

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From Reader Review The Evil That Men Do: Faith, Injustice and the Church for online ebook

Grace Hutson says

What a fantastic, thought provoking book, I highly recommend it!

Oli Burtchaell says

Extremely insightful and thought provoking. A fantastic read!

Nick Benson says

One of the things I enjoyed about this book was the number of hares it started that demand to be followed up. The starting point is the quotation from Julius Caesar, 'The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interrèd with their bones.' The thesis is that what is true for the individual can be true of an institution and that the reputation of the Church, indeed of Christianity, has suffered because whilst there is public eagerness to pounce on any scandal, mean mindedness or cruelty (and the author recognises any truthful history of the church must acknowledge these) there is an equal resistance to recognising the much greater weight of good that needs to be set against the all too human failures.

Marcus Paul proves his point by going to some of the places often pointed to as typical of Christian failure and double standards (eg monastic wealth and corruption, inquisition, irrelevance during the industrial revolution, Victorian hypocrisy, the damage done by missionaries) and by examining the actual contemporary impact of the Church finds himself able to tell a much more hopeful story.

In fact he goes a long way to showing that Shakespeare is only partially right - the good that has come from the actions of Wesley, Howard, Fry, Studdart Kennedy, Livingstone and the many others may be forgotten but it's far from in the grave - we benefit from it still.

Susan says

A challenging and brilliant book! What a good idea. This book will likely get you thinking and rethinking. A perfect mixture of good sense, reason, history and passion. I would recommend it to anyone.

Michael Cavaghan-Pack says

This is a lucid and accessible account of the history of the evil and injustices perpetrated by the Church over the centuries. Its great virtue is that it is balanced and therefore credible. It is not a litany of horrors designed simply to discredit Christianity but a careful consideration that sets what is discreditable in its historical context. It also recognises that over the years the Church far from being a destructive force has been a force for much good, and that a great deal of what we cherish and value comes out of the Christian tradition. All

this is carefully argued and presented. Those who hold a contrary view cannot simply ignore the claims made here. They need to address them and answer them. For those who are interested in the social impact of the Church over the centuries, this is a very good and challenging read indeed.

Sean Crowley says

An excellent read into fascinating history that I did not know about

John says

If you want an intellectual read that teaches you a lot and yet turns pages itself, buy this book. It's informative, insightful and partial - which I think a lot of people will like as you could write a thousand pages on this. A definite one for the bookshelf and Marcus' style is flowing, engaging and persuasive. Saw this book highly reviewed / recommended in a magazine I get and I can safely say it did not disappoint. It gives you a historical overview which is an added bonus.

Naomi Van Beek says

What a fantastically educational read! I was looking to find out more about the history of the church and I couldn't have chosen a better book to do so. Superb detail, very thoroughly researched and cross referenced, insightful and thought provoking. An unbiased account that I would highly recommend to anyone.

Miles Quick says

An excellent and refreshing antidote to cynicism which will be approachable and appealing to a wide range of readers. A remarkable achievement.

Abbi Graham says

An incredibly well-researched and fascinating read!
