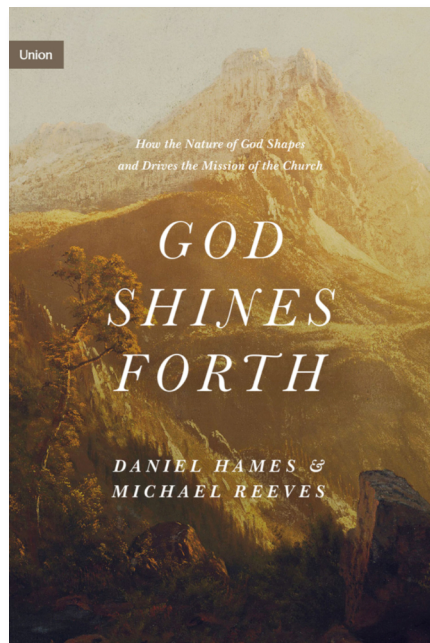


REVIEW: *God Shines Forth: How the Nature of God Shapes and Drives the Mission of the Church* by Michael Reeves and Daniel Hames

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Reeves, Michael and Hames, Daniel. *God Shines Forth: How the Nature of God Shapes and Drives the Mission of the Church*. Wheaton: Crossway. 2022. 176 pp, ISBN: 978-1-4335-7514-3. \$22.99 Hardback.



In their excellent book, *God Shines Forth*, Daniel Hames and Michael Reeves invite the reader into a journey of discovery, asking where we may find the wellspring, motivation, and foundation for mission and evangelism—and ultimately, its core message. Rather than finding its roots in a program, piety, or any other measure we might devise, authentic mission finds its wellspring in the nature and character of God in Jesus Christ. They write: “If someone were to ask us, ‘What is God like?’ the answer must be ‘Jesus Christ’” (37). Through Jesus Christ, God’s mission moves outward: “God, in having glory, *radiates*; in having a Word, *speaks*; in having a Son, *loves*. It is his very nature to shine, communicate, and give himself in relationship. This is the beating heart of mission” (37). It is the glory

of God in Christ, implanted in the heart of the believer, which shines forth: “We are made to shine out the glory of God that we have seen in Christ, which God has shone into our hearts” (97).

Evangelism that finds its life in Jesus Christ must also hold up Jesus as its core message: “Evangelism is . . . the good news of Christ” (110). And the evangelist must hold out “*Christ* as the gift and as the treasure of heaven” (113). For in “the cross of Christ, God shines forth. His love and life are a streaming fountain of mercy, gladness and treasure” (55). What is offered out to the world through the church’s mission sometimes sees Jesus as a means to “transformed lives, healed hurts and renewed communities . . . rather than the center of them all” (113). Throughout the book, the

authors implore the Christian to refocus their understanding of mission on the nature and character of God as revealed in Jesus.

Mission centered on God’s work in Jesus Christ should also continually transform the heart and mind of the evangelist: “The foundation of all our mission is our knowledge and enjoyment of God” (127). When we enjoy God’s presence, are inspired by God’s goodness, and delight in *God*, we bring a message the world of joy from a life transformed. When we struggle, we must “come for our hearts refreshment to Jesus . . . those who would be happy missionaries must know and delight in God” (127-128).

God Shines Forth is a call for renewal. It calls for spiritual renewal and refreshing in the hearts and minds of believers to find their delight in God and in finding delight in God, to joyfully share this message with the world. It calls for a renewal of God-centered mission, where mission’s motivation, message, and foundation is found in Jesus Christ, where the goodness and love of God radiates forth to a lost and dying world.

Eric Robinson