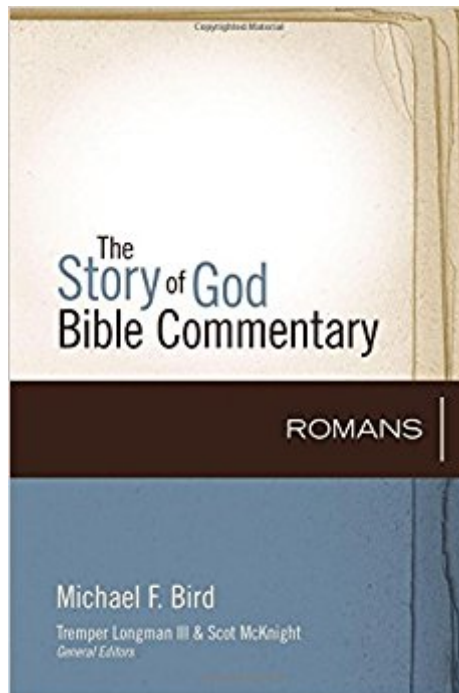




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Romans (The Story Of God Bible Commentary)



Synopsis

A new commentary for today's world, The Story of God Bible Commentary explains and illuminates each passage of Scripture in light of the Bible's grand story. The first commentary series to do so, SGBC offers a clear and compelling exposition of biblical texts, guiding everyday readers in how to creatively and faithfully live out the Bible in their own contexts. Its story-centric approach is ideal for pastors, students, Sunday school teachers, and laypeople alike. Three easy-to-use sections designed to help readers live out God's story: **LISTEN to the Story:** Includes the complete NIV text with references to other texts at work in each passage, encouraging the reader to hear it within the Bible's grand story **EXPLAIN the Story:** Explores and illuminates each text as embedded in its canonical and historical setting **LIVE the Story:** Reflects on how each text can be lived today and includes contemporary stories and illustrations to aid preachers, teachers, and students **Praise for SGBC:** "The easy-to-use format and practical guidance brings God's grand story to modern-day life so anyone can understand how it applies today." —Andy Stanley "Opens up the biblical story in ways that move us to act." —Darrell L. Bock "It makes the text sing and helps us hear the story afresh." —John Ortberg "This commentary breaks new ground." —Craig L. Blomberg

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael F. Bird (PhD, University of Queensland) is lecturer in theology at Ridley Melbourne College

of Mission and Ministry in Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of *Jesus and the Origins of the Gentile Mission*; *The Saving Righteousness of God: Studies on Paul, Justification, and the New Perspective*; *Evangelical Theology*; *Bourgeois Babes, Bossy Wives, and Bobby Haircuts: A moderate Case for Gender Equality in Ministry* and editor of *The Apostle Paul: Four Views*.¹ He is also a co-blogger of the New Testament blog "Euangelion." Scot McKnight (PhD, Nottingham) is the Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. He is the author of more than fifty books, including the award-winning *The Jesus Creed*² as well as *The King Jesus Gospel*,³ *A Fellowship of Differents*, *One Life*, *The Blue Parakeet*,⁴ and *Kingdom Conspiracy*.⁵

There are many excellent commentaries on Romans, and I am sure many Christians have their personal favorites. I like this commentary, I do not agree with all of his conclusions in the book, but the author honestly examines various views [including most recent ones] on the topics raised in the Book of Romans. The format of the book is easy for many lay readers who might be afraid to tackle scholastic books. While this commentary is scholarly, it is not dry. It is interesting and it is profitable.¹ The Commentary is EASY to READ. It is formatted in three parts: [a] LISTEN to the Story [that covers NIV text, cross reference, and brief introduction of the text], [b] EXPLAIN the Story [this is where the author explains and interprets the text by interacting with the original language, background, and various views on the subject, and then he gives his own conclusion], and [c] LIVE the Story [this is application of the text, the author includes helpful practical suggestions who we can relate to the passage by using numerous illustrations from church history and modern stories].² The Commentary is WELL-VERSED. This book is over 500 pages. While not exhaustive, it does cover broad range of subjects and scholastic views. His footnotes are helpful, his readership is vast. He engages with Church Fathers, Reformers, and modern scholars (both conservative and liberal) to show that he does not have narrow grasp of the text, but regards all major views presented. You will be exposed to the views you might not have in the past.³ The Commentary is GENTLE in TONE. When the author discusses other views that he does not agree with, while he is firm, but he does not attack or demean, but cordial. I like this attitude in the book. You feel comfortable reading the book, without feeling attacked or mocked. Whether you are Reformed, Dispensational, or Arminian, you will appreciate this commentary to illumine the Book of Romans. Recommended!

The Story of God Bible Commentary is an exciting and practical commentary series that seeks to

explain the biblical text in light of the grand story of the biblical narrative. The editors and contributors for this series are top-tier scholars with seasoned insight and experience into the world of biblical interpretation and proclamation—making this series an attractive addition to the minister’s library. Most recently, *Romans* by Michael F. Bird, adds a much anticipated and sizable volume to this growing series. Bird opens the volume with a brief introduction. Attention is directed towards the standard introductory material, but it is curated in such a way as to position it within the overall theme of the series. As the commentary proper opens the reader is guided passage-by-passage through three major sections: (1) **LISTEN to the Story** includes the NIV translation with additional references to encourage the reader to hear the story within its broader biblical context, (2) **EXPLAIN the Story** explores and illuminates each passage within its canonical and historical setting, and (3) **LIVE the Story** reflects how each passage can be lived today and includes contemporary stories and illustration to aid teachers, preachers, and beyond. Despite the possibility of some foreseen theological and interpretive disagreements, I think the reader will find the commentary itself to be extremely useful. Bird is well-informed in regards to the contemporary theological conversations that surround the Book of Romans, and his writing style is fresh and engaging. I found the “Live the Story” section to be helpful, but it was a bit inconsistent in this respect—meaning some passages are better than others. Where I found Bird to really shine was the “Explain the Story” section. Bird is consistently helpful here, and his clever illustrations and humorous wit keep the reader engaged throughout. Theologically, I found Bird to be significantly more sensitive to the issues surrounding the New Perspective on Paul than myself, and I presume the same will be true for other readers as well. Still, his interaction was well worth reading. The reader will sense an unusual acquaintance with Bird while reading his commentary, and I found that his conversational tone really bolstered his intentions therein. Commentaries on the Book of Romans are almost more plentiful than the sand of the sea. Do we really need to add another commentary to the already mountainous pile? Is there anything worth unearthing that hasn’t already seen the sun? These are good and appropriate questions to ask. But a sufficient answer isn’t as easy as it may seem. The *Story of God Bible Commentary: Romans* by Michael F. Bird is a unique contribution that offers a unified presentation of one of the most important Pauline epistles within the grand scope of the biblical narrative. Bird is well-informed and easy to read, and any lack of distinctive interpretive contribution is made up for in his keen ability to keep sight of the whole amid the details. Moreover, Bird does well in distilling the technical jargon that plagues much of the preexisting mountain of Romans material into a practical package that almost anyone can enjoy and understand. Do you

need another commentary on Romans? I don't know. But you certainly need this one!! I received a review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

I recently discovered the commentary series, and have found that each has been a thoroughly enjoyable read (which is very hard to say about a commentary series). The Story of God Commentary seeks to maintain the narrative structure of the Scriptures while providing commentary that is useful for both scholar and layperson alike. Each commentary has the text (NIV) with commentary and application sections. This commentary is not overly complicated, and as such will appeal to someone who has both experience with the text of the book of Romans and someone who is fairly new to this field of study. I have found this commentary to be something that you could not only use in a scholarly setting, but also something that you could actually sit down and read. The application of sections of the commentary provide an excellent way to make the passage relevant for everyday life as well. The weaknesses of the commentary (like others) is that in appealing to the layperson it does shy away from a more rich theological exposition of the text (this does not mean that the book is not written well and in a scholarly manner), but rather that the book chooses its audience and shoots for a middle ground. I've worked my way through a few of these commentaries, and can certainly see myself adding the entire set to my collection for use in teaching courses on the Scriptures. This commentary is accessible, practical, and helpful. I think you will like it.

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