



Lit!: A Christian Guide to Reading Books

By Tony Reinke

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Whether reading is your addiction or your phobia, this book is for you. A practical guide built on the gospel, *Lit!* models the skills needed to build a balanced reading diet of Scripture, theology, and devotional books, but without overlooking important how-to books, great stories, and books meant to be enjoyed for pleasure. Literature scholar Leland Ryken calls it "a triumph of scholarship," but mostly it's a non-pretentious book about reading from an average reader who wants to share important convictions and skills you can use for the rest of your luminously literate life.

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Editorial Review

Review

“I read many books, but seldom do I enjoy one more than I did Tony Reinke’s *Lit!*. Many of my greatest childhood adventures, and much of my growth after I was converted as a teenager, came through reading imagination-expanding and life-changing books. Tony’s writing is thoughtful, perceptive, concise, and God-honoring. He upholds biblical authority, and offers helpful guidance, while allowing for a range of tastes. *Lit!* rings true to my own lifetime of reading experience. As a reader and writer of both nonfiction and fiction, I appreciate the breadth of Tony’s treatment, which includes a variety of genres. For book lovers, this is a treasure and delight. For those who aren’t book lovers, it makes a great case for becoming one.”

—**Randy Alcorn**, Founder and Director, Eternal Perspective Ministries; author, *Heaven, The Treasure Principle*, and *The Ishbane Conspiracy*

“There is so much to commend about this book that it is hard to know where to start. The most obvious virtue of the book is its scope. On the subject of reading, Reinke covers every possible topic. Each topic, in turn, is broken into all of its important subpoints. With a lesser writer, this could produce a tedious book, but the opposite is true of this book. Reinke says just enough, but not too much. The effect is like seeing a prism turned in the light. There is never a dull moment in this book. Once I sensed that Reinke was going to cover all the important topics, and with unfailing good sense and Christian insight, I could hardly put the book down. What will Reinke say about THAT topic? I found myself asking. But to add yet another twist, Reinke has read so widely in scholarly and religious sources that I do not hesitate to call the book a triumph of scholarship. Reinke writes with an infectious and winsome enthusiasm. It is hard to imagine a reader of this book who would not catch the spark for reading after encountering Reinke’s excitement about reading and his carefully reasoned defense of it.”

—**Leland Ryken**, Emeritus Professor of English, Wheaton College

“If you don’t read books as both a discipline and a delight, then you should; and if you need help here, as in truth all of us do, more or less, then this is the book for you. Don’t miss it!”

—**J. I. Packer**, Board of Governors’ Professor of Theology, Regent College

“Christians are people of the Book, and books are a very important part of Christian culture and Christian life. One of the most important gifts God has given us is the ability to read and to communicate from one mind to another by means of the printed page. Throughout the history of the Christian church, books have become some of the most cherished friends, teachers, and companions along the way. But reading is a matter of spiritual discipline, not just a matter of literacy. Tony Reinke helps us to understand how to grow through disciplined reading, not only as readers but also as Christians.”

—**R. Albert Mohler Jr.**, President and Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“How to read, what to read, who to read, when to read, and why you should read—Tony Reinke answers all these questions and more in this very good and (surprisingly) brief book on reading. As he shows how reading can bring glory to God and growth to the church, Reinke encourages Christians to take up the discipline of reading widely and wisely.”

—**Trevin Wax**, Managing Editor, *The Gospel Project*; author, *Gospel-Centered Teaching*, *Counterfeit Gospels*, and *Holy Subversion*

“This is the perfect book for someone who doesn’t like to read, or who likes to read but isn’t sure it’s a good use of their time, or who loves to read a little too much and needs to proceed with discernment. Tony Reinke has made a wise, theological, and edifying case for why words matter. I’ll mention *Lit!* every time someone asks me why in the world Christians should read fiction—a question that never fails to shock me. Now, instead of snapping, ‘Are you serious?’ and spouting opinions, I’ll just smile and slip them a copy of this book.”

—**Andrew Peterson**, singer/songwriter; author, *The Wingfeather Saga* series

“You might wonder why you need to read about reading. Some of you have piles and piles of books on your shelves, or on your nightstand, but have no idea how to choose what to read, and when. Some of you are being altered in ways you don’t even recognize by digital technology such that you can’t see how you’re too distracted to summon the deep attention needed to read. This engagingly written book will make you think, but it will also provide practical, winsome advice on how to become the right kind of reader for the glory of God.”

—**Russell D. Moore**, president, The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; author, *Onward*

“Tony Reinke does not just read, but he reads well, and these are two very different things. If you are not much of a reader, consider *Lit!* a part of your education. Tony will teach you to read, to read widely, and to read well. If you are already an avid reader, consider *Lit!* an investment that will instruct you in how to read better.”

—**Tim Challies**, blogger, Challies.com

“If you read one book a week for the next 50 years you’ll read about 2,600 books. Not a lot when you think of all the books you *could* read. So should you include this book in your list? Yes. Because *Lit!* will help you read the right books in the right way. Tony Reinke sets our reading in a biblical framework and provides practical tips to make the most of books. I warmly commend it.”

—**Tim Chester**, pastor, Grace Church, Boroughbridge; Curriculum Director, Acts 29-Oak Hill Academy; author, *You Can Change*, *A Meal With Jesus*, and *Good News to the Poor*

“Since God decided ideas are best expressed in words, and that The Idea—the revelation of his Son as Lord and Savior—is to be learned through his timeless and matchless Word, Christians must dare not to lose sight of the primacy of books amidst the torrent of fast-moving, visual images of our culture. Tony Reinke argues from Scripture and life experience that ‘reading is a way to preserve and cultivate the sustained linear concentration we need for life.’ As an educator, I couldn’t agree more! Sustained reading must remain the heartbeat of any worthy educational program that seeks to produce Christian thinkers, leaders, and apologists. Homeschooling parents who are trying to craft reading lists as they raise Christian children will find gracious and principled guidance here. Moreover, Tony offers great ideas for parents to foster a love for reading, beginning with their own example.”

—**Marcia Somerville**, president, Lampstand Press; author, the *Tapestry of Grace* homeschool curriculum

“With a discerning eye, Reinke captures the importance of the gospel story for our habits of reading, thus providing a worldview for reading. He challenges us to beware of how the carved images of the Internet can draw us away from the grace of reading for comprehension and simple delight. Yet he equally gives a proper place to secular literature among all types of works that those who love Christ should appreciate. This is the sort of book that I have longed to place into the hands of believers in order to help churches recapture a love for literature and literacy—both biblical and extra-biblical. Practical and enjoyable, *Lit!* is an outstanding and valuable gift to the church.”

—**Eric C. Redmond**, Assistant Professor of Bible, Moody Bible Institute; Pastor of Adult Ministries, Calvary Memorial Church, Oak Park, Illinois

From the Back Cover

I love to read.

I hate to read.

I don't have time to read.

I only read Christian books.

I'm not good at reading.

There's too much to read.

Chances are, you've thought or said one of these exact phrases before because reading is important and in many ways unavoidable. Learn how to read, what to read, when to read, and why you should read with this helpful guide from accomplished reader Tony Reinke. Offered here is a theology for reading and practical suggestions for reading widely, reading well, and for making it all worthwhile.

About the Author

TONY REINKE is a former journalist now serving as a theological researcher and writer. Tony, his wife, and their three kids, live in Minneapolis.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Wild:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book called Lit!: A Christian Guide to Reading Books? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have additional opinion?

Joshua Shaw:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information these days can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even restricted. What people must be consider while those information which is inside the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Lit!: A Christian Guide to Reading Books as the daily resource information.

Linda Monge:

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Brian Register:

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