

Sunday Bible Study Group: *Insight Hour*

We will commence our Bible studies for 2012 on Sunday 12th February. I have taken the liberty of choosing a topic for our first study. It will be a major one spanning a number of months, but I think it will be immensely interesting and spiritually profitable.

The study is called “**The Meaning of Jesus**” and this time, will be based on a book which will serve as our text. The book is ***The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*** by Marcus J. Borg and N.T. Wright (HarperCollins, 2007, 320 pp.). 20 copies from the Book Depository UK will be available for the amazing price of **\$14.93**. Couples may choose to buy only one copy, though since you need to read one chapter before each study session, there is an advantage in having one copy each. I am confident you won't regret owning and analysing this book with me through these studies.

The book's 16 chapters are alternately written by Borg and Wright. Borg represents a more liberal or radical view and Wright a more traditional, 'conservative' view. My own personal bias is towards Bishop N.T. Wright, but I know you will find both perspectives worthwhile and instructive. The chapters deal with the following topics: How do we learn about Jesus – sources and method. How do we come to know Jesus? What was the mission and message of Jesus? Why was Jesus killed? What is the crux of our faith? The transforming reality of the Resurrection – what is the truth of Easter? Jesus and God. The Divinity of Jesus. Born of a virgin? The meaning of the birth stories. The Second Coming then and now. The truth of the Gospel and Christian living.

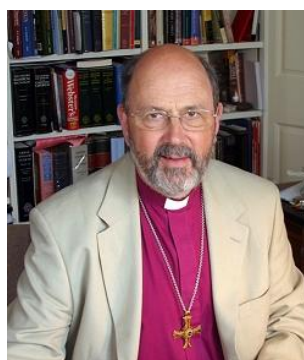
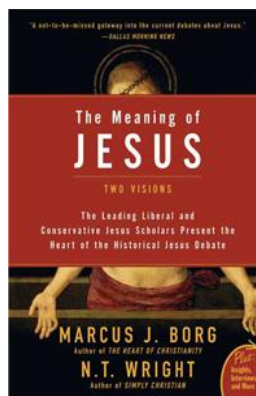
There is a huge amount of interest, most of it controversial, in the study of Jesus at present. It has in fact been going on for more than a century! This includes hundreds of books, but many are too academic or scholarly for the average Christian. This particular one strikes a good

balance between solid research and ease of understanding and sticks to the basic matters relating to Jesus – who he was and what he did.

In many ways, we could not engage in a more important and necessary study than this one. I am sure you will enjoy the material, find it personally fascinating and gain a lot from it. The studies will require some homework, i.e. the reading of one chapter before each fortnightly session, I will provide outline and study notes to help you with your reading and prepare you for our discussions. I believe you will really enjoy this topic.



Marcus Borg



N.T. Wright

Every blessing as we embark on this new study together! - **Pastor John Bracht**.

Note: Study group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, following the morning service and morning tea, between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm.