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The Life of Christ

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The Chronological Life of Christ

Mark E. Moore has gifted us with an astounding perspective of Jesus Christ in his book, *The Chronological Life of Christ*. There are many benefits of navigating through Jesus' life in chronological order which are shown throughout the text. Moore explains the Jesus we think we know, the Jesus we ought to know, and the Jesus who is. Jesus who transforms nations without being a politician; heals the sick, crippled, and *dead* without being a doctor; the Messiah of Israel and Lord of the Church.

I personally enjoyed the perspective that Moore pointed out regarding our world's influence by Jesus. In our world of suffering, pain, anguish, disunity, and sin, Jesus still shines through. I hadn't thought of the point made in the text that Jesus is the genesis for hospitals, orphanages,, innumerable acts of kindness, and just about everything pure and good in this life. If we change our perspective lens and look for Jesus in everything and everywhere I believe that we will be more positive Christians. The disciples had to stay positive, otherwise their Christ-like compassion would have been suffocated by their human pessimism and negativity of their old ways. I found these thoughts provoked by the text to be especially applicable to the current times. I believe the point that Moore illustrated is that Jesus always has been, is, and will be the answer.

The Gospel accounts and comments contained in the text are raw and truth bearing, plain and simple. Moore's description of them made me chuckle: "The Gospels, as we have them, present the historical Jesus. We don't have to play hide-and-go-seek with the sources. We don't have to psychoanalyze a hypothetical church or reconstruct a fictitious source. We don't even have to unlock some secret code or wait for archaeologists to translate a newly found gnostic manuscript. The Gospels you hold in your hand, miracles and all, tell the truth about Jesus." That's so true! If only the world would put aside their skepticism and doubt to see it that way, I believe there would be more followers of Christ. It's our mission as disciples to understand the many truths of the Gospel and spread it to all who have ears willing to hear.

One detail I particularly appreciate is Moore's organizational keys to marginal icons. Each icon has a small illustration to pair with a category which are as follows: Parables, Prayer (major teachings about/examples of), Fulfilled Prophecies, Deity of Christ (claims of/witnesses to), End-time Teachings, Healings and other Miracles, The Kingdom/Church. I found these to be incredibly useful tools that categorized the scripture throughout the text and added specific emphasis.

The Chronological Life of Christ brought me to a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ our savior. There are interesting parallels at the beginning of Jesus and John the Baptist's lives to draw with their ministries. The early years of Christ contain prophetic instances and testimonies that can only be classified as spiritually miraculous. Jesus travels throughout Israel preaching the Gospel, recruiting His Apostles, and disrupting the cultures of mankind. Moore does a phenomenal job ordering the events that occurred during Jesus' Galilean, Judean, and Perea ministries, the four gospels, and edified me on the life of Christ in its entirety.