

*BASIC
CHRISTIANITY*

JOHN STOTT

FOREWORDS BY *RICK WARREN*
AND *CHRISTOPHER J. H. WRIGHT*

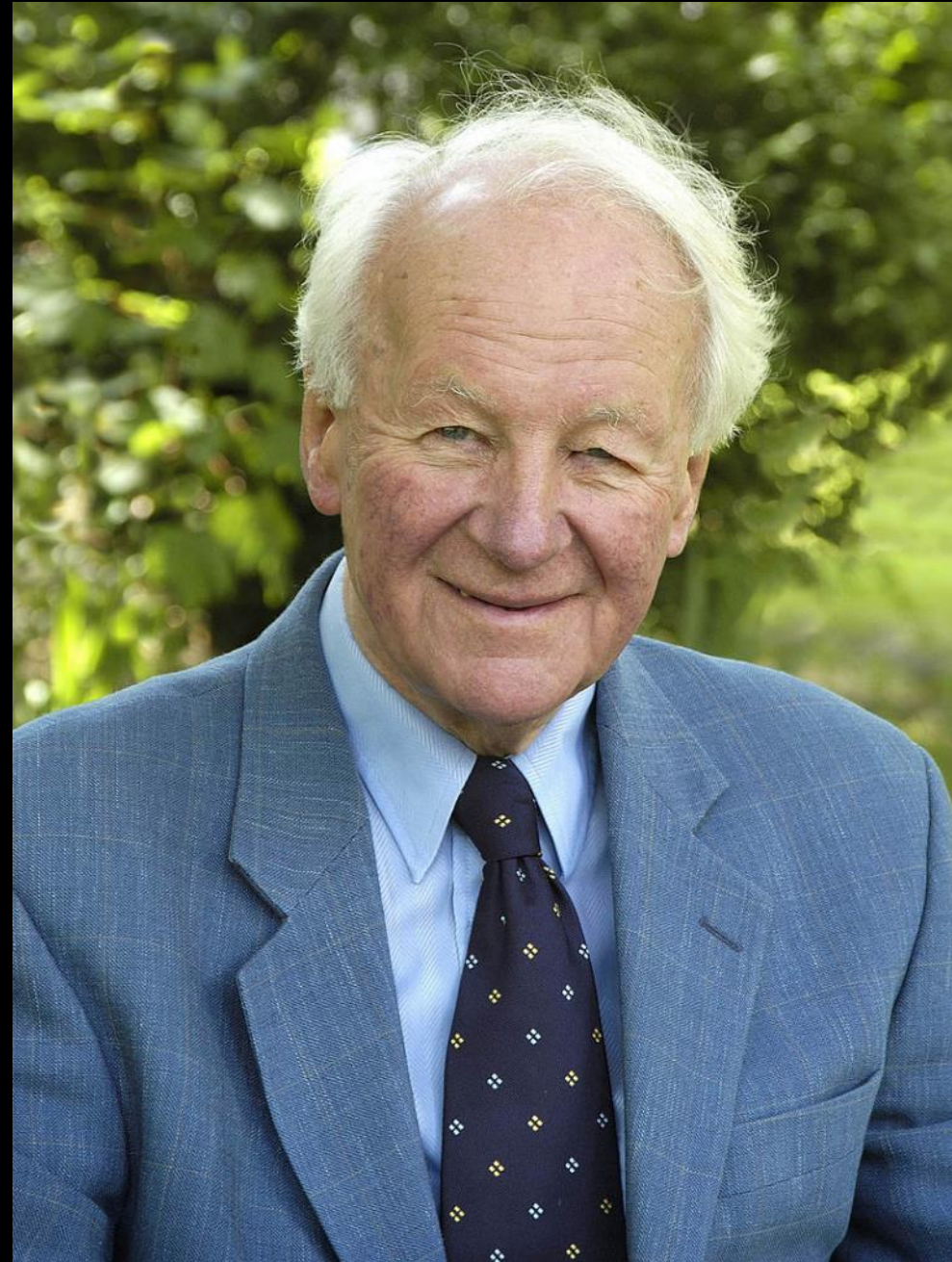


THE IVP SIGNATURE COLLECTION

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John R. W. Stott

(April 27 1921 – 27 July 2011)



Conversion

“I was aware of two things about myself, though doubtless I could not have articulated them in these terms then. First, if there was a God, I was estranged from him. I tried to find him, but he seemed to be enveloped in a fog I could not penetrate. Secondly, I was defeated. I knew the kind of person I was, and also the kind of person I longed to be. Between the ideal and the reality there was a great gulf fixed. I had high ideals but a weak will... [W]hat brought me to Christ was this sense of defeat and of estrangement, and the astonishing news that the historic Christ offered to meet the very needs of which I was conscious.”

Eric John Hewitson "Bash" Nash

(April 22, 1898- 4 April, 1982)



Conversion

“That I needed to do anything with Jesus was an entirely novel idea to me, for I had imagined that somehow he had done whatever needed to be done, and that my part was only to acquiesce. This Mr Nash, however, was quietly but powerfully insisting that everybody had to do something about Jesus, and that nobody could remain neutral. Either we copy Pilate and weakly reject him, or we accept him personally and follow him.”

Conversion

“After talking privately with Nash and taking the rest of the day to think further, that night at my bedside I made the experiment of faith, and “opened the door” to Christ. I saw no flash of lightning ...in fact I had no emotional experience at all. I just crept into bed and went to sleep. For weeks afterwards, even months, I was unsure what had happened to me. But gradually I grew, as the diary I was writing at the time makes clear, into a clearer understanding and a firmer assurance of the salvation and lordship of Jesus Christ.”

Sir Arnold Walmsley Stott

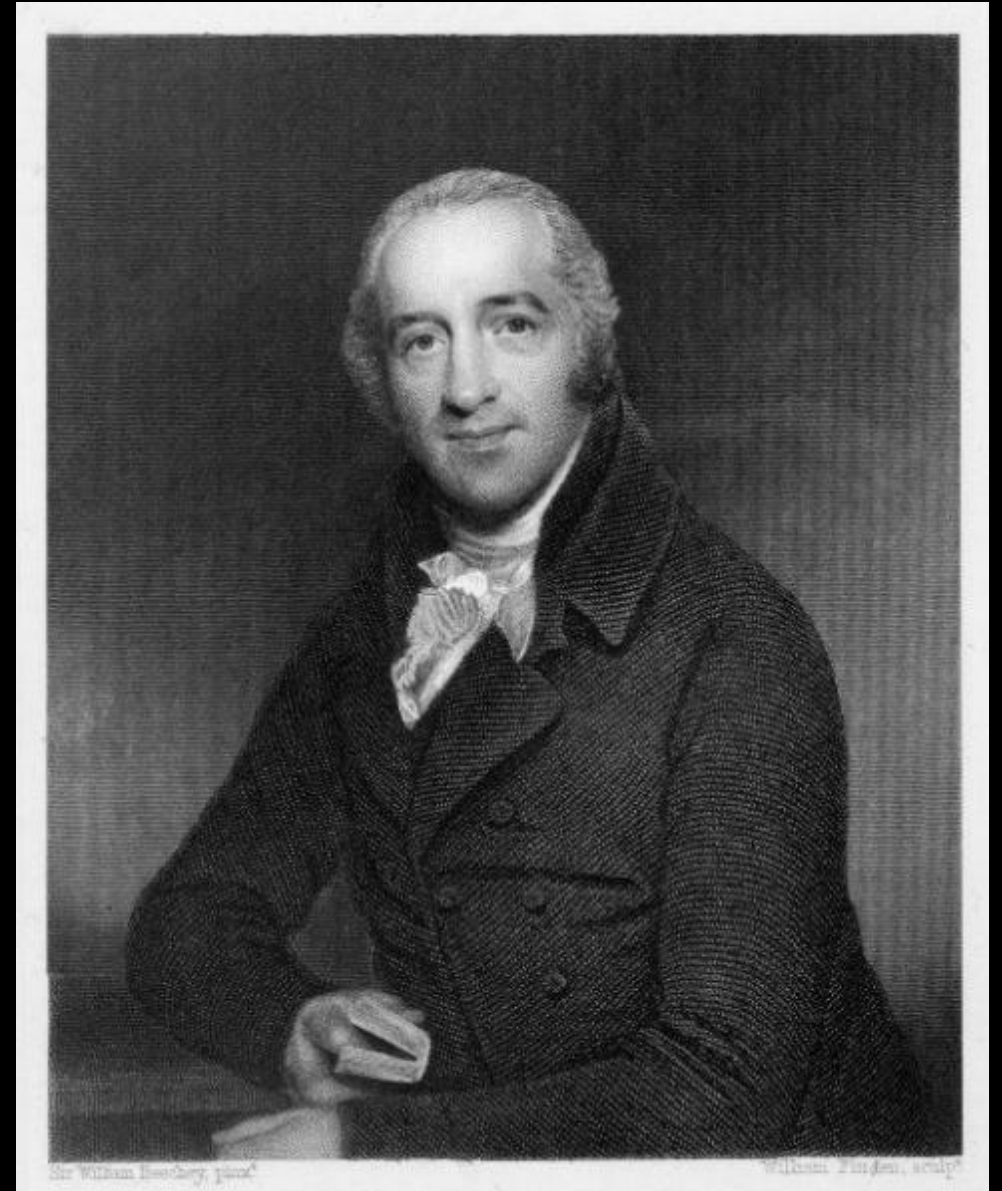


John Stott



Charles Simeon

(24 September 1759 – 13 November 1836)



All Souls, Langham Place



- The priority of prayer,
- Expository preaching,
- Regular evangelism,
- Careful follow-up of enquirers and converts,
- The systematic training of helpers and leaders.



International Evangelism:

- University Missions (1952-1975)
- Lausanne Covenant at the International Congress on World Evangelization (1974)
- Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion (EFAC)
- Langham Partnership International



- Dr. Stott has written over 50 books and has preached on six continents.
- John Stott's best-known work, *Basic Christianity*, has sold two million copies and has been translated into more than 60 languages.



RECTOR OF ALL SOULS CHURCH LANGHAM PLACE LONDON 1950-1978
BURIED HERE
ARE THE ASHES OF
**JOHN
ROBERT WALMSLEY
STOTT**
1921-2011
AND AS RECTOR EMERITUS 1975-2011

WHO RESOLVED
BOTH AS THE GROUND OF HIS SALVATION
AND AS THE SUBJECT OF HIS MINISTRY
TO KNOW NOTHING EXCEPT
JESUS CHRIST
AND HIM CRUCIFIED
1 CORINTHIANS 2:2

*The Cross of Christ and many other books
were written at his retreat, The Hookses, Dale*



TOP PHOTOGRAPHY







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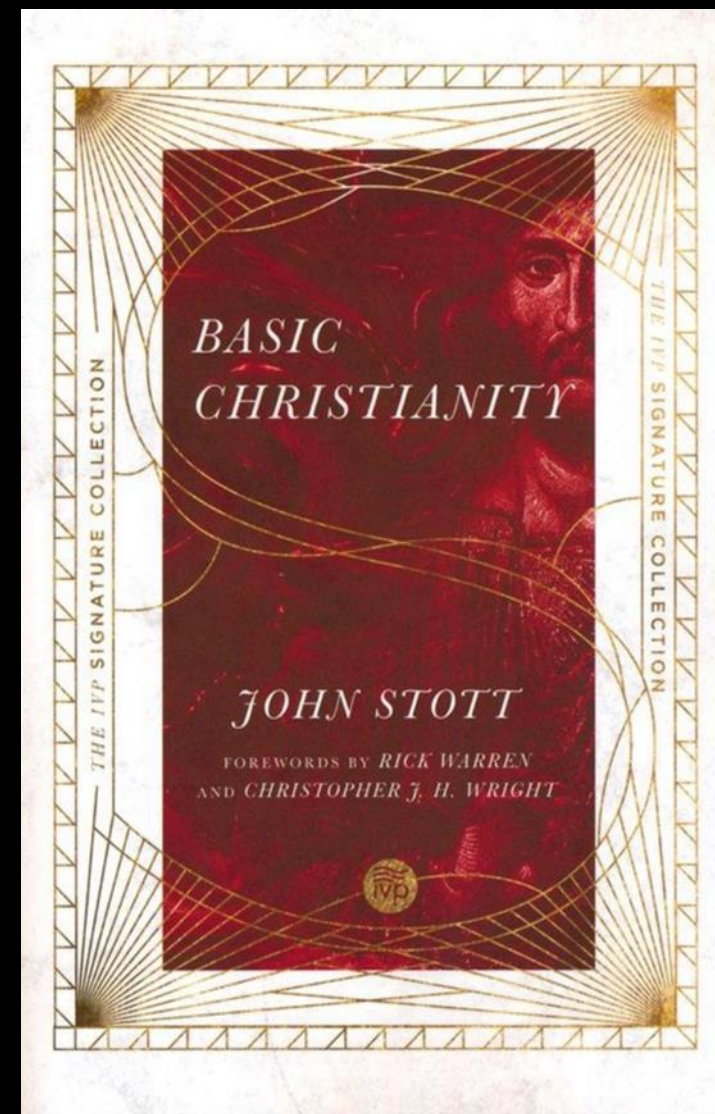
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Prelude

“Hostile to the church; friendly to Jesus Christ” (pg. 13)

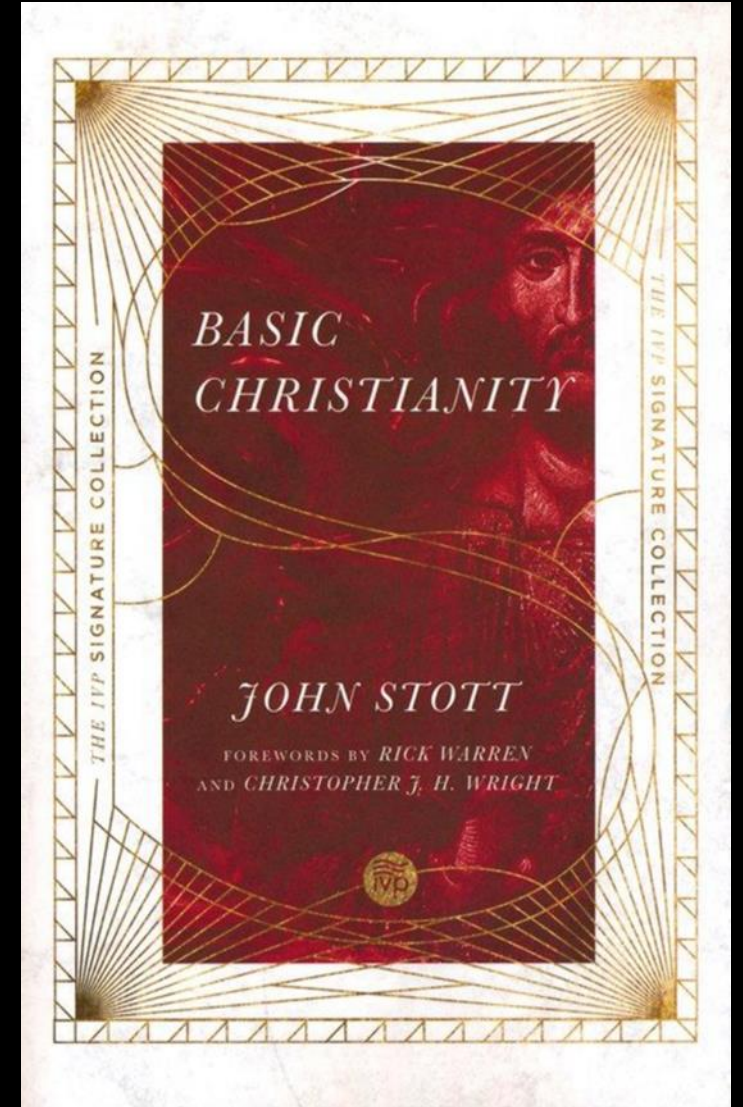
- Because of basic mistrust of institutions (esp. the church) people have no awareness of the person/work of Jesus Christ



Prelude

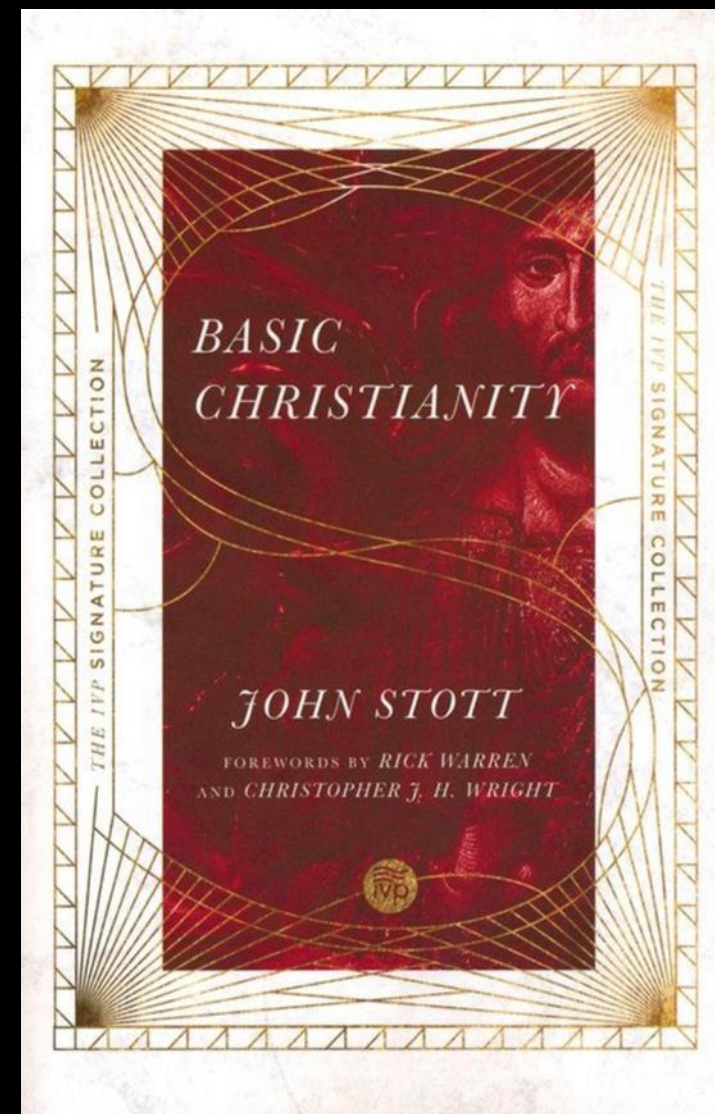
Therefore, our task is to start with Christ:

1. Who Jesus Christ is
2. What he accomplished on the Cross
3. How we are to respond



Prelude

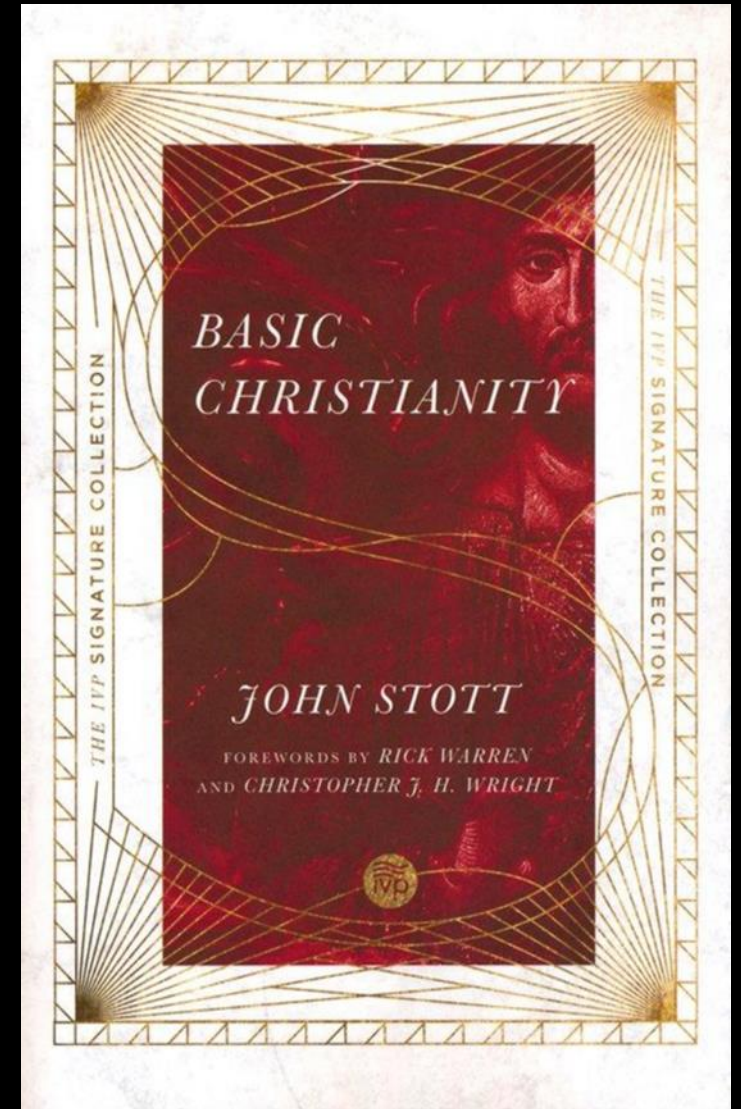
*“So is basic Christianity the belief that Jesus is the Son of God who came to be the Savior of the world? No, it is not even that. To accept that he is divine, to acknowledge our need of salvation, and to believe in the effectiveness of what he did for us are still not enough. Christianity is not just about what we **believe**; it’s also about how we **behave**” (pg. 15).*



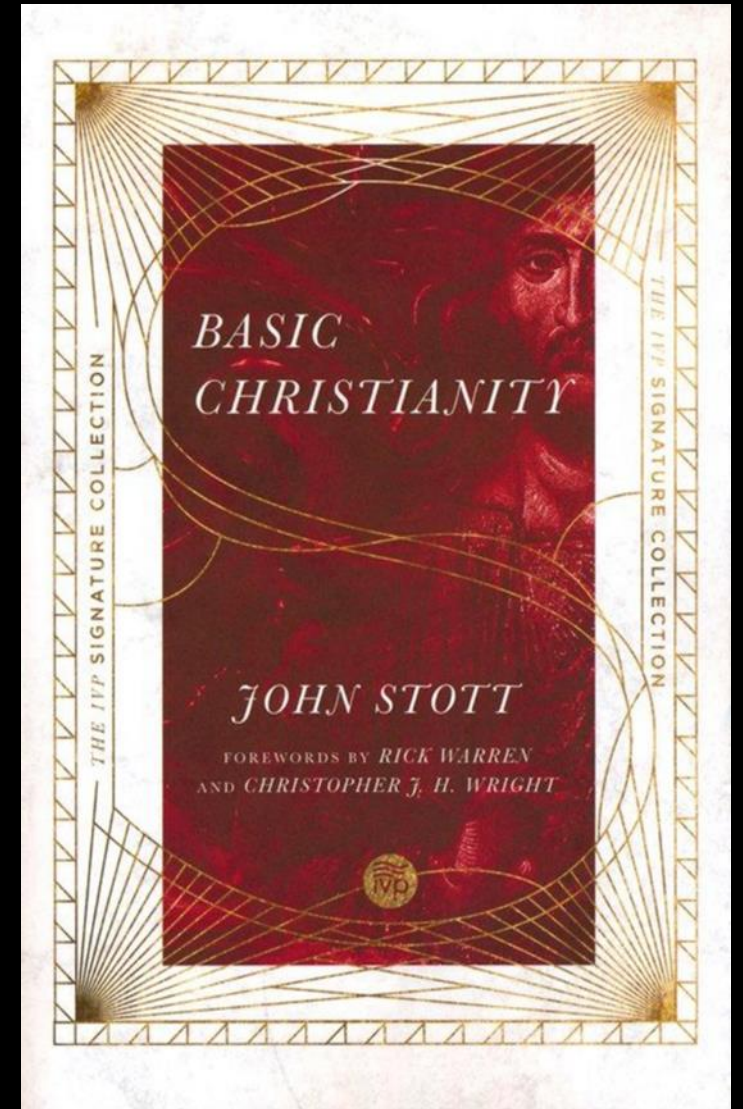
Chapter 1

The Right Approach

- *“In the beginning God”... Genesis 1:1*
- *“Before we had decided to look for God, God had been looking for us. The Bible isn’t about people trying to discover God but about God reaching out to find us” (pg. 17).*

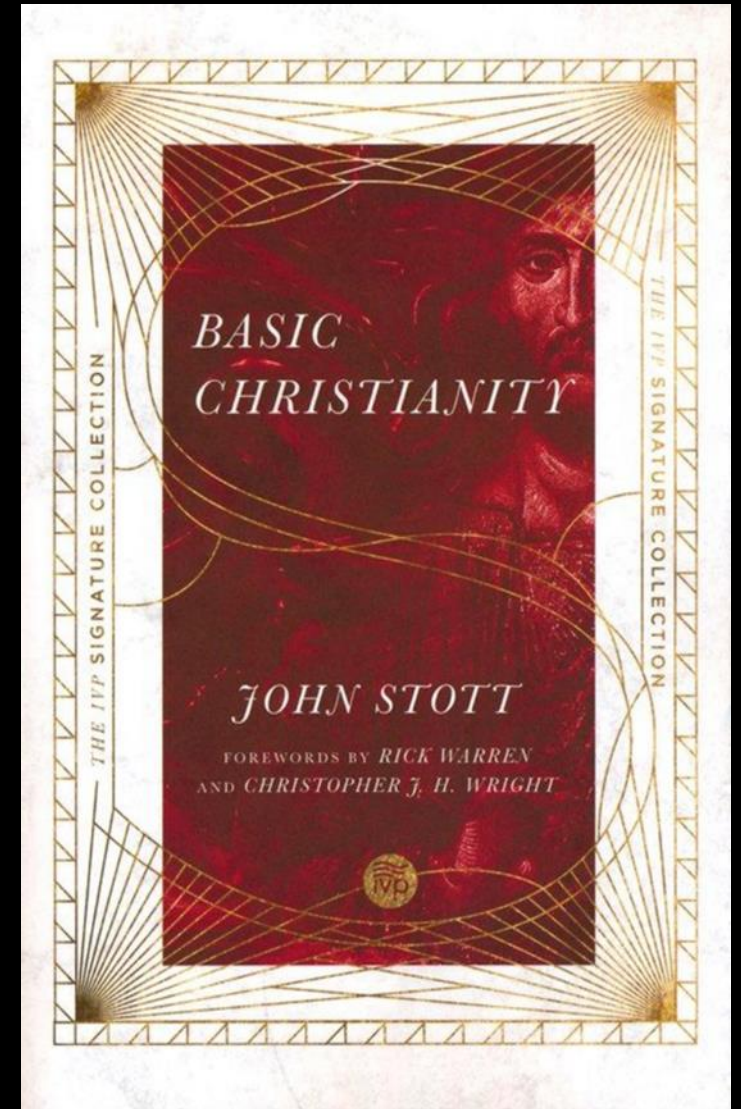


“6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”
- Romans 5: 6-10 ESV



“5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

–Romans 8:7 ESV

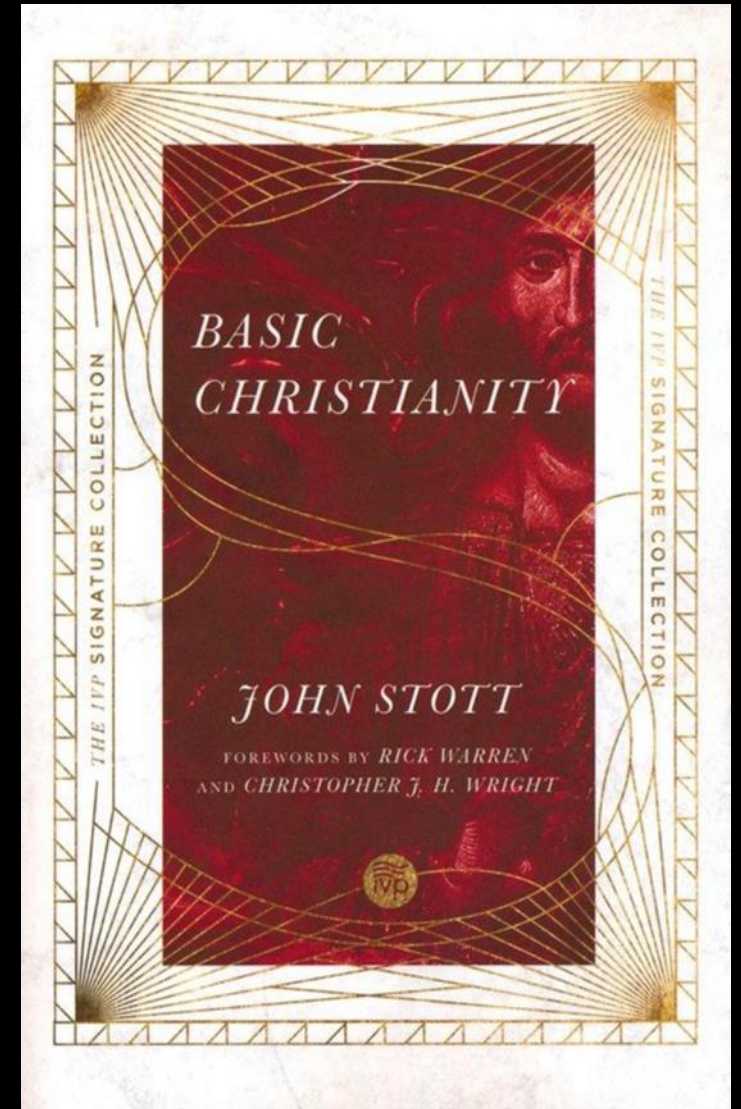


ἔχθρα

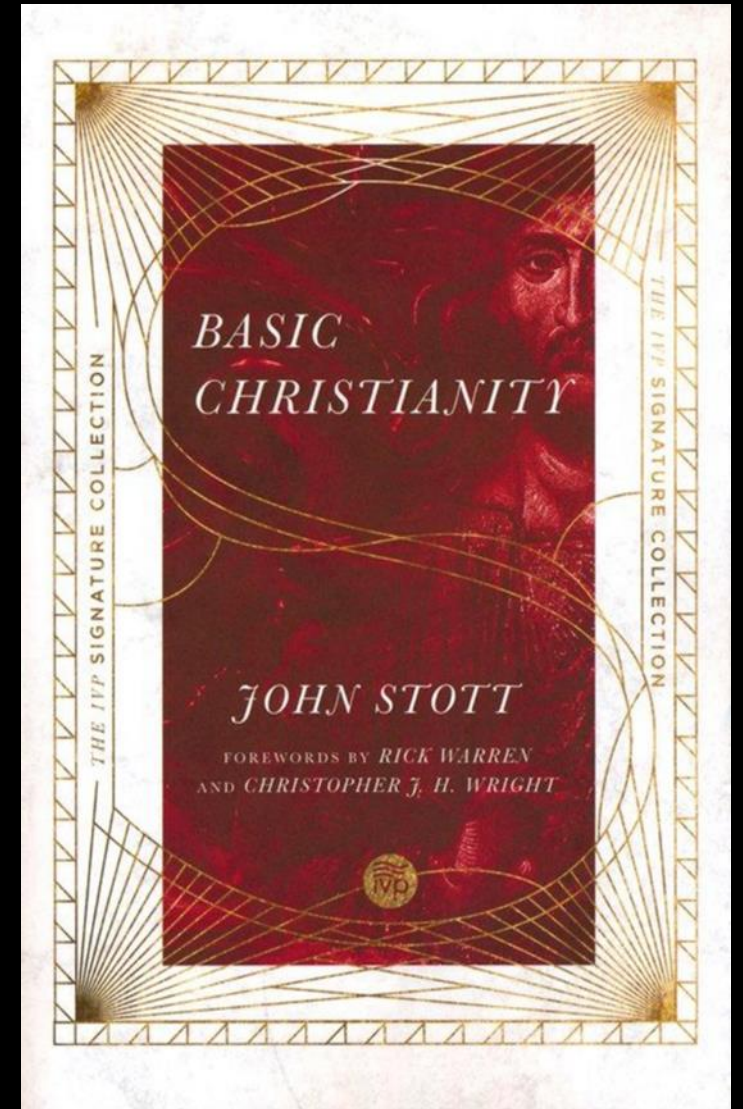
2190 exthrós – properly, an enemy; someone openly hostile (at enmity), animated by deep-seated hatred. 2190/exthros ("enemy"), implies irreconcilable hostility, proceeding out of a "personal" hatred bent on inflicting harm.

“...we are utterly disinclined, disabled, and antagonistic to all that is good and wholly inclined to all that is evil...”

-Westminster Confession of Faith 6.4

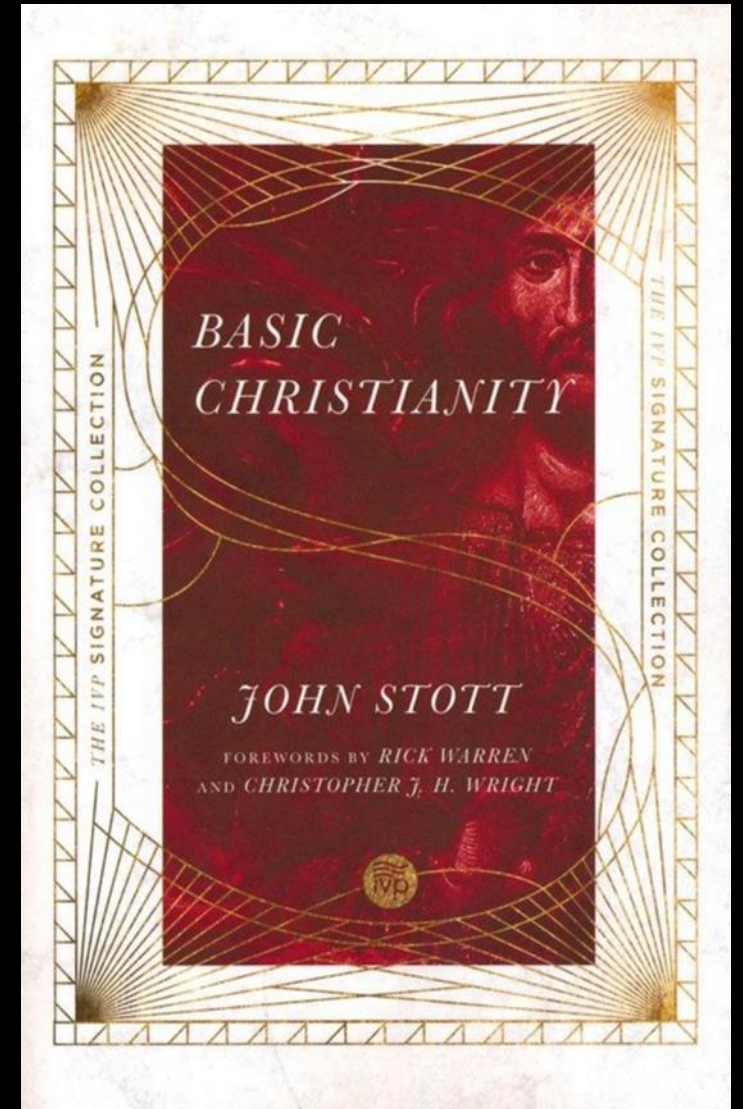


“The Bible reveals a God who, long before it even occurs to men and women turn to him, while they are still lost in darkness and sunk in sin, takes the initiative, rises from his throne, lays aside his glory, and stoops to seek until he finds them” (pg. 17).



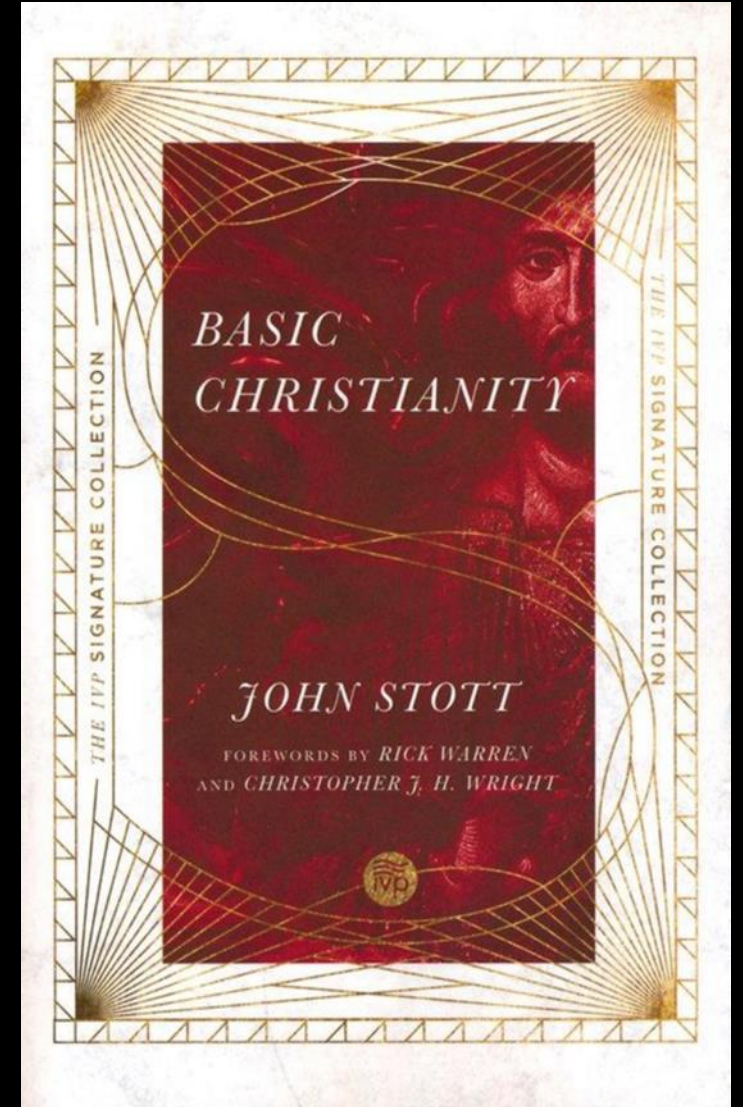
God “*takes the initiative*”:

- Creation
- Revelation “*God has spoken*”
- Salvation “*God has acted*”



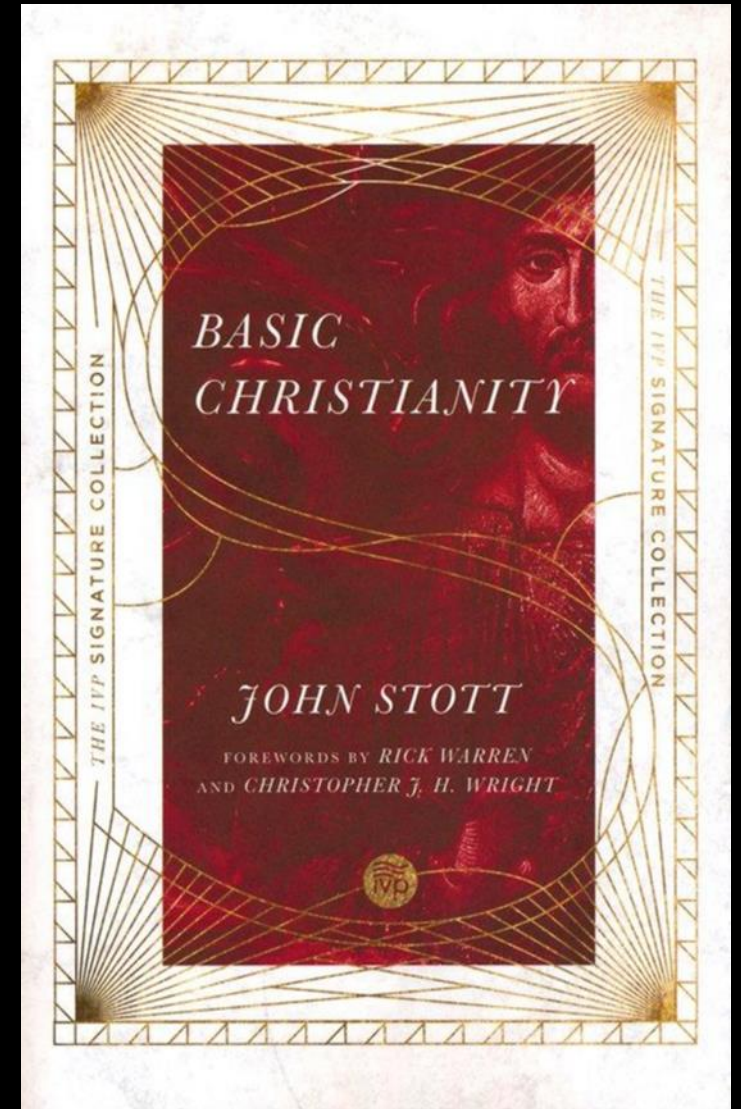
“God has Spoken”

- “General” Revelation
(Ps 19:1; Rom 1:19-20)
- “Special” Revelation
(John 1: 1, 14)



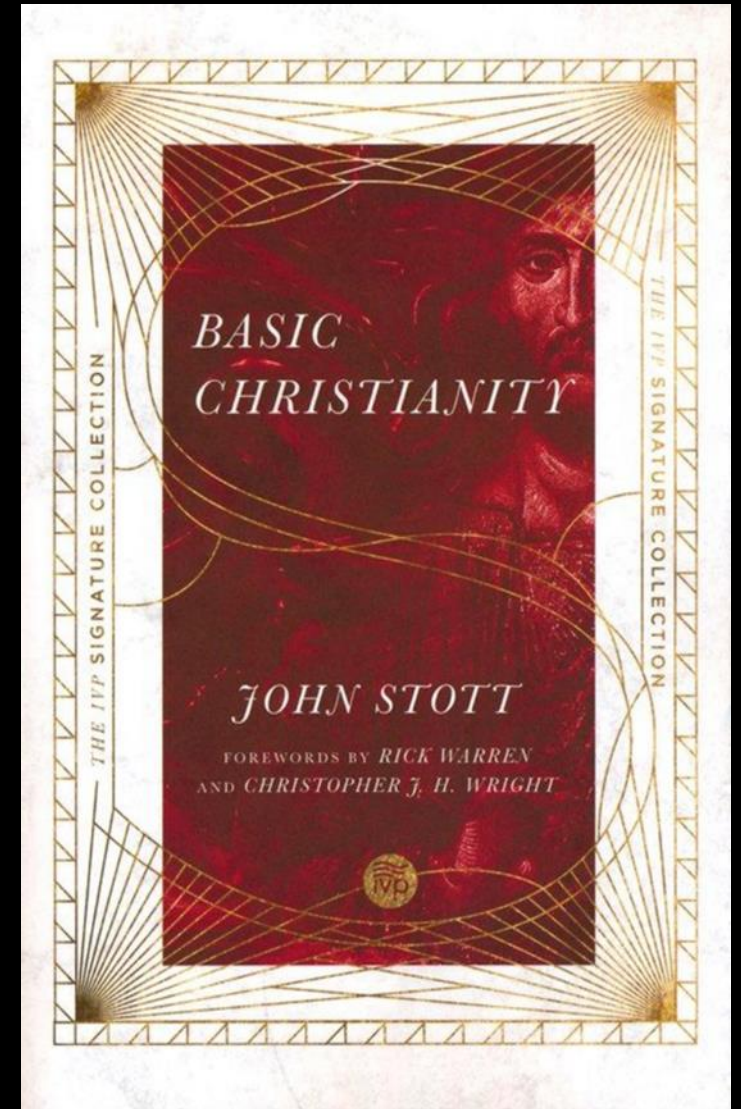
“God has Taken Action”

- *“You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” –Matt. 1:21*
- *“Here is aa trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners” –I Tim. 1:15*



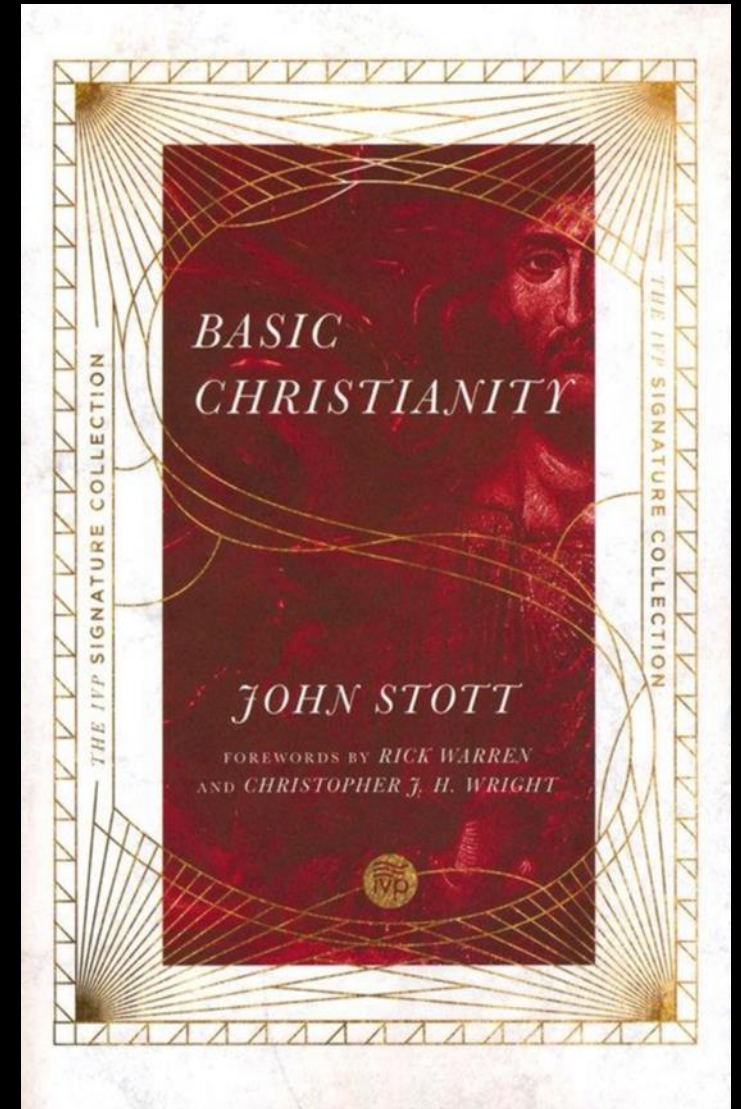
“God has Taken Action”

- *“Christianity is a religion of salvation, and the fact is that there is nothing in any of the non-Christian religions to compare with this message of a God who loved, and came after, and died for, a world of lost sinners” (pg. 22).*



“Our Response”

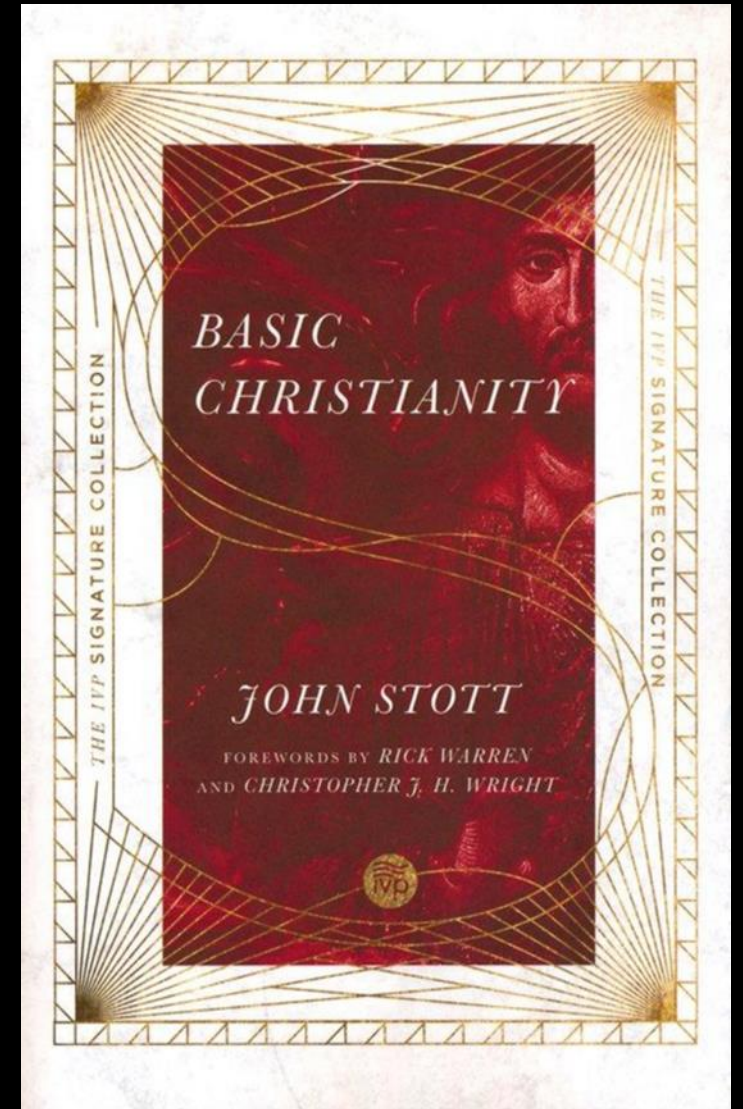
- *“What we must do will be explained in the rest of this book. At this point it is necessary to make just one point: we must seek. God has sought us. He is still seeking us. We must seek him!”*



“The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

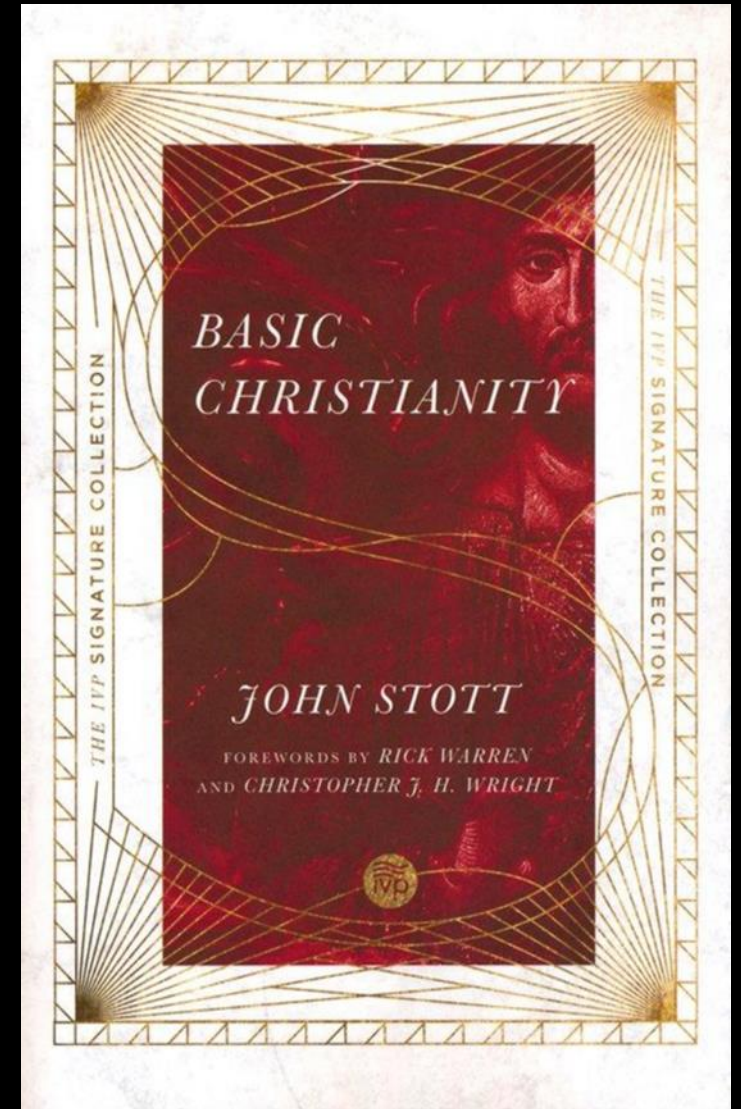
They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one”

–Psalm 14: 2-3



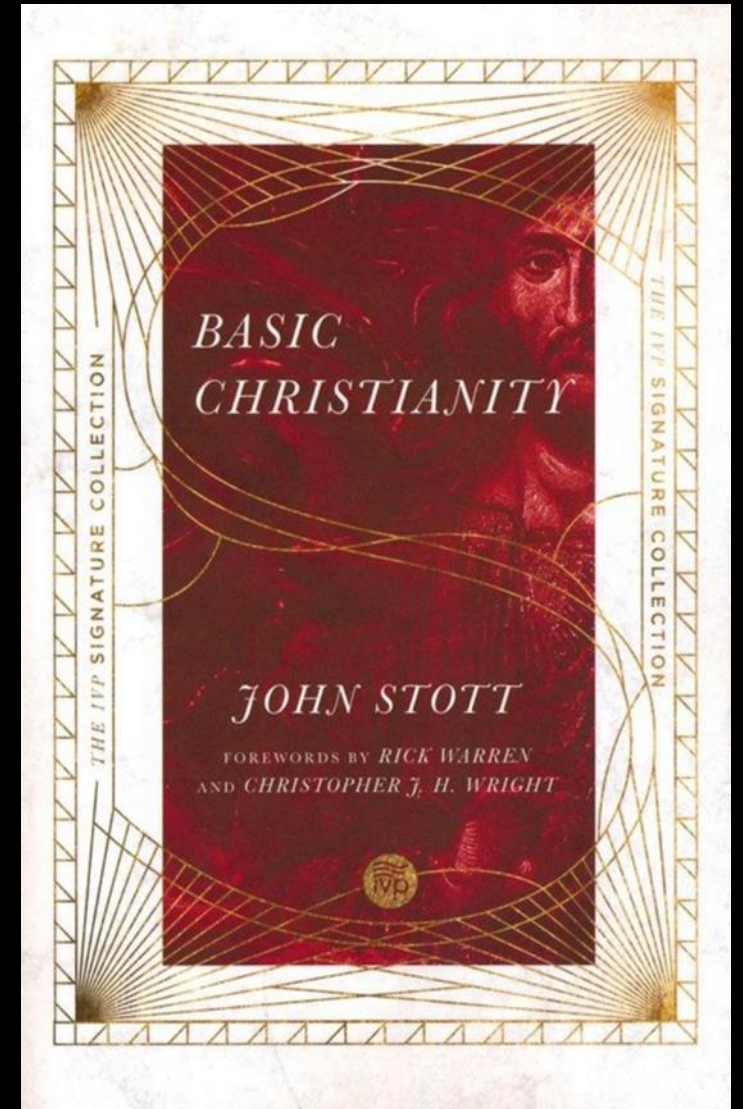
“All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by His almighty power determining them to that which is good; and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace”

–WCF 10.1



“We must seek...”

- *Seriously*
- *Humbly*
- *Obediently*



“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

-Hebrews 11:6

