

**Tom Wright, 2006, *Simply Christian*, SPCK.**

This book sets out an approach to and a vision of the reality beyond this world which is coherent and attractive. The author's background model is of intersecting realms - the Earth and the kingdom (our space and God's space), and overlapping of present and future. He explains much of the Bible and Christian experience in terms of those.

Starting with natural theology pointers - the yearning for beauty, the search for justice, the longing for relationships, the quest for spirituality he moves to talking in fresh and straightforward terms of God, his people, Jesus as revelation and rescuer, the Spirit and how we live by the Spirit. He repeatedly contrasts pantheism/panentheism, deism and mainstream Christian understanding of these matters.

Finally we come to the main human responses to all this: worship, prayer, how the Bible is properly understood and how it changes and equips us, and the living church. He finishes with a chapter on living out the new creation now. Starting with what it means to die with Christ and rise again (involving renunciation and rediscovery), he goes to justice, relationships and beauty.

The book is stunning for the fresh way it looks at familiar material, sometimes so familiar that we have grown used to very inadequate understanding of it.

The back cover blurb captures it nicely: "Not since C.S.Lewis's *Mere Christianity* has there been such a thrilling attempt to re-express the heart of the Christian faith and the transformation it offers to every area of personal and social life."

"Simply Christian is essential reading for anyone who wants to consider the real fundamentals of Christianity or is intrigued by its claims about the place of justice, beauty and love in our daily lives."

Ian Hore-Lacy 25/2/07