



# Books in Review

## THE 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ISLAM

by Ron Rhodes

Harvest House Publishers, 155 pages, \$10.99

Why are books examining the Islamic faith from a Christian perspective important and necessary? Because, as Ron Rhodes tells us, one in five persons alive today embraces the Muslim religion. In the past 20 years, the number of mosques in the United States has grown from 30 to 3,000. Millions of dollars are being invested by Middle Eastern countries to promote Islam in America. These figures sound alarming. But from the Christian's perspective, it represents a great opportunity for evangelism.

As he has in other books in his "10 Things" series, Rhodes takes the complex and makes it simple and takes the comprehensive and makes it concise. Yet, as he notes, "brevity should not be confused with superficiality" (pg. 7).

The 10 things that Rhodes wants his readers to know about Islam include the divisions of Islam, the scripture of Islam, the prophet of Islam, and the God of Islam. He also surveys the five pillars (or acts) of Islam, examines Islamic teachings on salvation and judgment, and summarizes what Muslims believe about Jesus and the Bible. In each chapter he also distinguishes and clarifies what Christians believe and provides Scripture references for these beliefs.

Rhodes covers the spiritual and the practical by advising his readers on how to dialogue with and witness to Muslims.

Rhodes proffers in his Introduction, "In the short time it takes you to read this book, you will become well-versed in the Muslim worldview, Muslim theology, Muslim ethics, and the Muslim view of Christianity." He delivers as promised. This book can prepare its readers for a growing mission field in our own neighborhoods and communities.

—MKG

## TRANSFORMED INTO HIS LIKENESS

by Armand P. Tiffe

Focus Publishing, 32 pages, \$9.95

In a day when the therapies and gimmicks of the modern pop-psychologists and "life coaches" are rampant, this book is a welcome and valuable tool. *Transformed Into His Likeness* is a thorough and precise study for personal change directed toward godliness. Scripture repeatedly stresses a two-pronged approach to such change and the book's subtitle, "A Handbook for Putting Off Sin and Putting On Righteousness," aptly describes this method.

Tiffe first outlines the "Key Biblical Principles for Personal Transformation," describing the proper mindset, the biblical process of change, and the "Put Off-Put On" dynamic. This introduction is succinct and easy to understand — even for one previously unfamiliar with the methods for biblical change.

Tiffe then lists more than 100 sins and problems with which Christians struggle. The list includes personal issues, worldly-mindedness, challenges to spiritual growth, and issues specific to husbands (and fathers), wives (and mothers), and teens and children.

The sin/problem list is divided into three columns. The left side lists the sin/problem to be put off, the middle column gives the scriptural practice to be put on, and the last column provides extensive biblical references pertinent to breaking the old and establishing the new. The final pages of the handbook contain several blank "Personal Transformation Worksheets" which helps the reader to bring together and make personal the elements necessary for biblical transformation. A sample of a completed worksheet is provided, and permission to copy blank worksheets for personal use is granted.

While the book's format is oversized (8.5 x 11), it is thin and spiral bound. These latter factors allow it to be easily used, lying open and flat for study.

The Bible calls for a change of the person, not just his actions. And by God's grace and His Word, sinners can be transformed. This is a wonderful resource not only for the individual wanting to fulfill the biblical process of change in his or her life, but also for the Christian who wants to help those who seek to change.

—MKG

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